

HISTORY OF
CUSTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA



Yours W. H. Gaston

HISTORY OF CUSTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA

A NARRATIVE OF THE PAST, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS UPON THE PIONEER
PERIOD OF THE COUNTY'S HISTORY, ITS SOCIAL, COMMERCIAL, EDU-
CATIONAL, RELIGIOUS, AND CIVIC DEVELOPMENT FROM THE
EARLY DAYS TO THE PRESENT TIME

BY

W. L. GASTON AND A. R. HUMPHREY



LINCOLN, NEBRASKA
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HISTORY OF CUSTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA

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PREFACE

Long centuries ago when the children of Israel had passed dry-shod over the river Jordan, intent upon invading and subduing the promised land, their young leader, whose reputation was then unmade, commanded that there be taken out of the river twelve stones and that they be set up in monument form in the first camping place. "And it shall come to pass," he said, "when your children shall say to you, 'What mean these stones?' ye shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord when it passed over Jordan, and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel forever."

The contents of this volume are given to the public to serve exactly the same purpose for the people of Custer county that those stones which Joshua caused to be carried from the river and set up in the land of milk and honey served for the children of Israel. We have gone to the river of forty years ago and from under the waters of the past have brought up stones with which to build a monument to another set of pioneers who at a later date invaded another promised land. We have attempted to establish a few landmarks, to erect an enduring monument and to embalm the traditions of the early pioneers for the benefit of the next succeeding generations. We claim for the work no literary merit. It has no distinguishing marks of genius to parade. We claim only that it is a simple recital of a comparatively few things which took place in this county since the exit of the Indian and the coming of the white man. In addition to this, we claim that it is a roster of heroic names that should be preserved, and contains life sketches of some of those indomitable spirits whose early achievements were the foundation stones of our present-day homes and public institutions.

There was a great demand for a volume of this kind. Only a limited number of the first settlers who actually had to do with the beginning of things were alive, and if their story was to be preserved, first-handed, the time to write it had come. Any history that laid any claim to accuracy must be written under their direction. For this reason we yielded to the pressure of the prominent citizens of the county and attempted the work. How well we have succeeded, the readers must judge. In the compilation we have encountered innumerable difficulties which have been accumulating for forty years. The records of early-day events and public transactions are few and meager. The memory of man is exceedingly treacherous. Traditions are always contradictory, but with the material at hand we have done the best we could to give an accurate account of

those early days which will never return.. We lay no claim to infallibility. There are doubtless errors and omissions. It could hardly be otherwise. When records failed us we depended upon the memory and statements of those who had best opportunity to know. When there was a conflict of statements and records, we gave preference to the records, and when there was a conflict of statements, without records, we made reconciliation by careful analysis of known conditions and turned upon the mooted question the light of probabilities in connection with general events.

We acknowledge with deep gratitude the valuable service rendered by people from all parts of the county, who contributed much valuable information and in every way assisted the compilation of this volume. The newspapers gave us free access to their files. The county officials were exceedingly courteous, and explored for us the dusty volumes of early records in the county vaults. Pioneers who had long since left the country wrote valuable contributions, and so much help has been extended that we can lay no claim to originality. We have gathered from other men's flowers and claim only the poor form into which we have woven them.

Very sincerely,

W. L. GASTON

A. R. HUMPHREY

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CHAPTER I

IN THE BEGINNING

THE FIRST OWNER — IN FAR OFF DAYS — THE PREHISTORIC TRIBES WERE HERE — THE FINDING OF POTTERY — THE INDIANS OF SIXTY YEARS AGO — NO INDIAN ATROCITIES IN CUSTER COUNTY — PROBABLE BATTLES — WELL MARKED RIFLE PITS — THE SIGNS OF BATTLE — A FORT IN CUSTER COUNTY COUNTY — NEW HELENA FRIGHTENED — AN INDIAN BATTLE — THE CLARION ARTICLE — WHO WAS THE FIRST WHITE MAN? — DID CORONADO FIND US? — PLENTY OF WILD GAME — OTHER EXPEDITIONS — GENERAL WARREN WAS HERE IN 1855 — JOHN WILMOUTH THE FIRST MAN HERE — UNCLE JOHN'S STORY

"In the beginning God made Custer county." That is a famous old Hebrew declaration, with a localism attached — a localism which does no violence to the text, nor sins against the truth. In that far off morning when creation was the order, the Great Creator seems to have inspected the product of his hand and in each case, so far as the record goes, pronounced it good. So it is taken for granted that after he made Custer county, he pronounced it good, and there is little doubt in the minds of the thirty thousand people who have their homes in this western county that he was right.

If God made it good in the beginning, he expected the ages to improve it. He seems to have blended soil and climate into splendid conditions for human life and happiness. When, after the lapse of ages, he turned loose upon its virgin prairies the sturdy, progressive young manhood and womanhood who came, red-blooded, from the homes of Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Ohio, and all the rest of the older states, it was charged and surcharged with natural resources and opportunity. They were a tribe of men and women in whose veins flowed the warm blood of energy, and whose characters massed the traits of virtue, strength, and progress. They came to subdue a soil in which opportunity lay in the surface strata, or protruded in ledges from the hillsides. They came to find, in fine assortment, the elements

of life and growth, a place where energy and thrift could subdue the unplowed sod and find the place for home and sanctuary.

THE FIRST OWNER

France was the first owner of record. It came to France by right of exploration, if not discovery. All that part of North America known as the Middle West, came without dispute or protest to the royal house of the Louises. Through the process of some barter, not vital to this story, the Louises ceded it to Spain in 1763. It was some land transaction. A vast wedge of territory, bounded on the east by the Mississippi and ranging irregularly westward until it reached the Oregon shore of the Pacific, went from French to Spanish possession. So far as the territory itself is concerned it profited little by exchange of owners. It should go unnoticed but that Custer county, then unnamed and unmarked, was in this territory, and represented then the equity of its present inhabitants. In 1802 Spain and France again became swappers, and possession went back to France. This prepared the way for the transaction of 1803, when Thomas Jefferson shied his young republic into the auction ring, from which it emerged with the Louisiana Purchase. If former transactions were big land deals, this outranked them all. The extent of land in the Louisiana Purchase was

vastly more than the original transaction of 1763. Custer county was in it, however,—it had survived the shuffles and now and for all time it is in the possession of, and is an integral part of, the United States of America.

IN FAR OFF DAYS

Imagination runs, always, back into the far off days and asks a thousand times the questions: "Who was the first human being to see that spot of earth now known as Custer county? Whose eyes first beheld its hills and valleys or swept across its plain, or were there any hills and valleys when the first human eye beheld this region? Was its land exhibiting naught but barren waste, or were its fields green robed and grassed? Did the scene present anything that is familiar to this modern day? Or was it water covered, a part of an inland sea, in which was housed the mastodonic life of some far off amphibious day? Or had the waves subsided, leaving exposed to sun and wind flats of silt, and dunes of sand?" All these questions, and a thousand others, come surging into the mind that contemplates the ancient days of the formative period. The great majority of these questions will never be answered. Neither the historian nor the geologist brings any message from that distant age.

Did the primitive inhabitants of North America ever traverse Custer county? Did the descendants of the cliff dwellers ever look for building sites along our river bluffs or canyon breaks? Did the Algonquin Indians of the far east New England ever drift as far west as central Nebraska, or did the Myas and the Aztecs graze their cattle here before they immigrated to Mexico and Yucatan? When the tribe, to which now the famous Calaveras man belonged, was delighting in a higher civilization farther west, were any of his kinsmen located in Nebraska? All these questions are hard to answer and it may be that the world will have to wait the results of the archeologists' long search.

THE PRE-HISTORIC TRIBES WERE HERE

Though no traditions came down from the

hoary centuries of the past there is abundant evidence of occupancy by a pre-historic race. Rich discoveries of broken pottery, stone implements and many other relics of a forgotten people have rewarded the Nebraska ethnologists and archeologists. Nebraska was once the home of a people who either antedate the American Indian by uncounted centuries or else were the far off ancestors from which he both descended and degenerated.

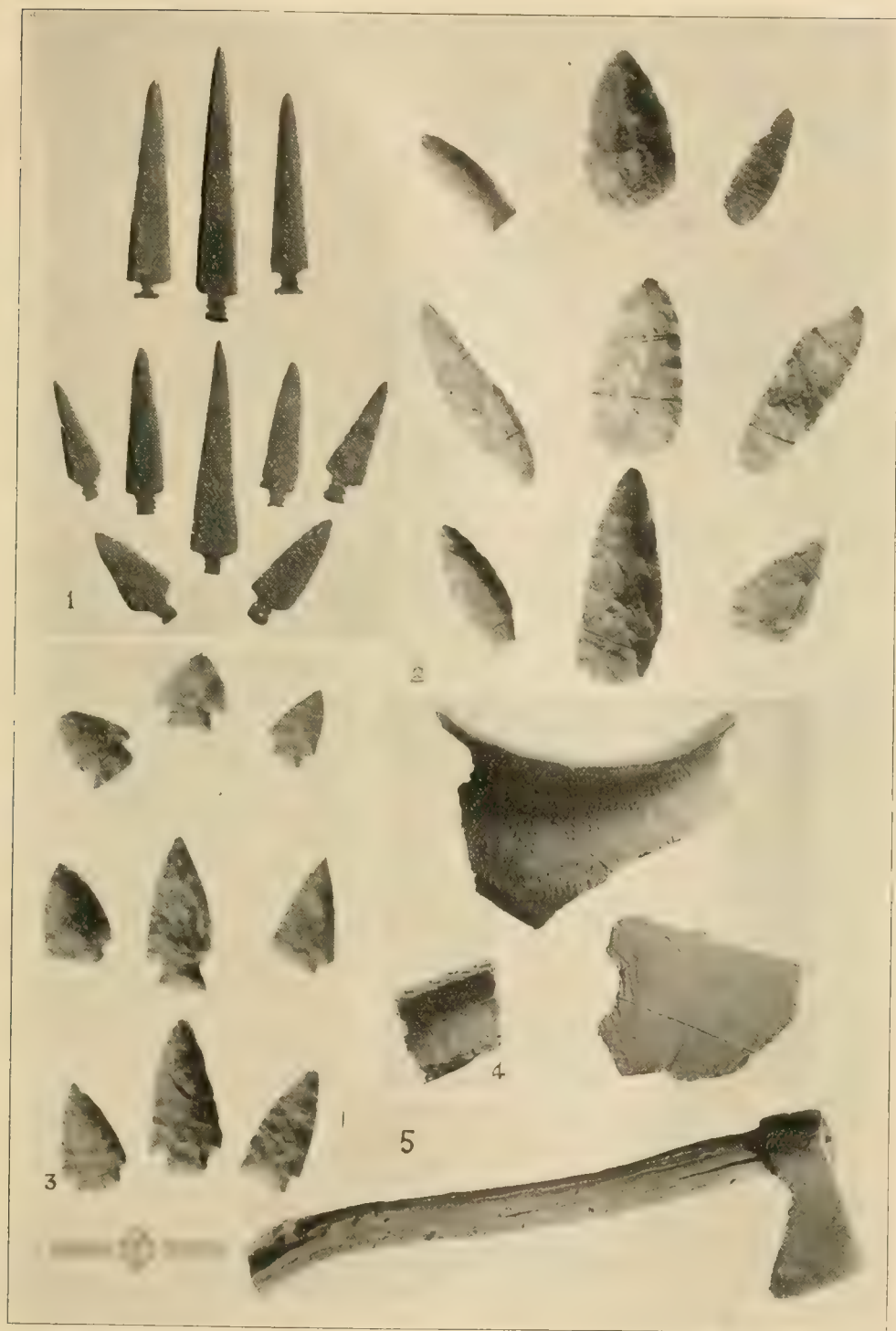
Nebraska archeology is still in the morning twilight of commencement, yet twenty-four village sites have been discovered, explored, and charted. Along almost every Nebraska stream, stone implements and weapons have been found. Some scientists declare that the possessors of these stone implements had no pottery and belonged to a race which antedates the molders of earthen vessels. These are not questions to be settled here. We pass them along to the student and the scientist.

THE FINDING OF POTTERY

The possessors of pottery once lived in Custer county, how long ago no man can tell, but the fact is not disputed. Many stone implements, such as stone hammers, stone tomahawks, battle axes, stone knives, and arrow heads have been found.

Al. Morgan, one of the early settlers, in the vicinity of Cumro, has gathered many curious implements, many of which were produced and used by Indians who inhabited Custer county, perhaps generations before the tribes of a later day were found here by the white man.

The molders of pottery once roamed these hills and drank from these springs and streams. It is presumed that this pottery was manufactured by the remote ancestors of later-day Indians. If it is argued that the molders of the pottery and the makers of the flint implements indicate a higher civilization than that of the modern red man, the ethnologists reply that these plains and hills were not always covered with buffaloes and elk, and that some time in the remote past the ancestors of the noble red man were grain eaters. Grain eaters rise to a higher degree of intelligence



1—Iron arrow-heads used by Indians after they began trading with white men. 2—Indian stone knives and spear-heads. 3—Arrow-heads found in Custer county by A. L. Morgan. 4—Specimens of pottery excavated from Indian grave on the Bentley farm, near Sargent. 5—Indian battle-axe found on the South Loup.

and civilization than meat eaters. When the Indian was compelled to find his bread in the soil and gather the harvest of fields and forests he was more enlightened and civilized than his descendants, who found life easy when the buffalo and the elk made it too easy for him to subsist.

The grain eaters needed stone implements with which to grind and dig, and vessels in which to conserve and retain. It required mental effort, as well as physical, so evidences of a creditable mentality are found in the vessels and implements they have left behind.

The citizens of Callaway attest the finding of broken pottery on the South Loup hills north of the river.

A few years ago Frank Kelley and others found fragments of pottery, each piece clearly defined, on the Ed. Neth farm some eight or ten miles west of Broken Bow. All this testifies to the fact of former inhabitants.

In 1916 H. M. Bentley, who lives in section 32, township 20 north, range 17 west, which is located approximately four miles northeast of Sargent in this county, while plowing on a hill top, uncovered some thirty or forty pieces of gray pottery. This pottery had evidently been made by weaving grass baskets and daubing clay mud or slime on the inside and then burning them in some kind of an improvised kiln. This process left the pottery with the imprint of the grass basket embossed on the exterior.

The material of the pottery resembles a form of hard gray-blue stone. Two or three of the pieces found are of good size, and one is from the rim of the vessel of which is was once a part, and describes an arc of at least one-fourth of the circumference of the vessel. At the same time and in the same place Mr. Bentley uncovered parts of human bones, among which, still clinging to a fragment of a human jaw-bone, was a well preserved human tooth.

The size of the tooth and the bones indicates that they belonged to a child of twelve or thirteen years, or else to some diminutive adult. Drs. Bass, Beck, and Mullins, all rep-

utable dentists of Broken Bow, have examined the tooth and declare it to be the upper first molar of the right side. They believe it to be the first or baby tooth, but in this they are not certain, as the tooth gives evidence of much wear, perhaps more wear than a child's tooth would have received. The wear indicates that the tooth belonged to a grain eater and, if so, its owner lived at a time when the ancestors of the present Indian families were grain eaters, and a higher intelligence made them manufacturers of ware and implements. Other pieces of pottery and similar relics left by an ancient tribe were found on a high hill on the farm of J. E. Grint, some two or three miles south of the Bentley farm.

Not long since Professor Elmer E. Blackman, curator of the Nebraska Historical Society, visited the scene of these finds and spent some time in making examinations. On this tour of inspection he was accompanied by Judge Humphrey, associate editor of this publication. Professor Blackman believes that these relics were deposited by the far-off ancestors of the present Pawnee Indians. He further believes that these Indians were not permanent occupants of the region, but that they came here on summer hunting trips, during a period when the elk and buffaloes were numerous. This would place this particular people, who have so kindly left us the relics, in the transition period between grain-eating and meat-eating Indians. In support of his theory he submits the following statements:

"In relation to the Indian remains in Custer county which I inspected with Judge Humphrey, August 20, 1918, I may offer the following conclusions:

"A little preliminary study of the situation shows that the area of Custer county was part of the land ceded to the United States by the Pawnees on the 24th of September, 1857. The treaty was signed at Table Creek, Nebraska Territory. Table Creek is near Nebraska City, and we have in the museum of the Nebraska Historical Society a photograph of the signing of this treaty, the same showing Pe-ta-Le-Sharu, Samuel Allis, J. Sterling Morton,



6—Arrow-heads and human bone and tooth excavated from Indian grave on the Bentley farm, near Sargent. 7—Indian hammers and other stone implements. 8—Arrow-heads found in Custer county and owned by A. L. Morgan, of Cumro. 9—Butt of rifle found on the Westerville battle-field by A. R. Humphrey, during a recent examination of the field. 10—Battle-axes found on the South Loup. 11—Miniature specimen of Indian pottery found at mouth of Deer creek, Custer county, and owned by A. L. Morgan. 12—Indian battle-axe. 13—Indian pipe found on the South Loup.

James W. Denver, and others who were present at the signing. For the full text of this treaty reference may be made to the United States Statutes at Large, Volume XI, page 729.

"The Republican Pawnees once lived south of the Platte — Pike says he was at their village in 1806. I find the ruins of their habitat along the Republican river, even west of Orleans. From the banks of the Republican they chiefly secured the flint which was used for implements. This was easy to get, splendid in quality, and was probably the cause of their residence there. This implement-making material became the direct cause of the supremacy which this tribe gained over their neighbors, and which they held until the whites came with firearms and 'fire-water.'

"The area now occupied by Custer county was the abundant buffalo plains over which the Pawnees hunted during the time preceding contact with the whites, as well as later; but the site explored does not show contact with white men, and antedates firearms — hence the reference to the earlier date.

"Both the sites visited may be classed as one. Due east of Sargent are evidences that show this to be the point where the hunting party probably left the Middle Loup river, and thence was afforded an easy trail to the location farther north and west of this point, which I determine as the location of the camp.

"In the hill-encircled valley near where the farm house stands is a beautiful, level expanse upon which the summer tepees were set up. This was an ideal spot, protected from observation by the hills which separate this sheltered valley from the Middle Loup river. There was ample timber for fuel, and water from springs. Probably year after year the same tribe came here to secure the meat supply. Doubtless small game was abundant. We know that vast herds of buffaloes roamed this region, and from here the hunters sallied forth to capture the winter supply of meat and hides, while the squaws remained in the sheltered valley, to dry the meat and dress the hides.

"Some of their people died from sickness or accident, and the surrounding hill-tops (es-

pecially west of the camp) were the sites for the final resting places of the noble dead.

"The pottery found on the hill-top indicates that these Indians had a custom of placing food and water in the graves, for the use of the departed on their journey to the happy hunting-ground. Many tribes observed the custom. The Pawnees practiced it.

"I believe this site antedates contact with the whites. This is proven by the absence of any white man's artifacts. I believe it is one of the sites used soon after the Pawnees migrated to the plains region, because the chips of flint found on this site are from the flint found in the Texas region from which they migrated. I do not doubt but this summer camp was occupied by the Pawnees. First, because the specimens of pottery found are identical with the pottery made by the Pawnees, and, second, because the flint chips are from nodules which originally were found in the vicinity of the Brazos river in Texas, the land from which the Pawnees originally came.

"The implement-making material brought with them on their migrations north, would be exhausted in time, so, finding the chips from these nodules leads us to believe the camp was used at an early date.

"The small, flint arrow-heads found on the same hill-top as were the pottery and bones, are not so crude or large as those used by the modern red man. They give evidence of a skill and workmanship the latter did not possess. The workmanship declares a degree of civilization, while the barbed flint itself tells the story of the battle and chase in that unknown time. The bow and arrow constituted the equipment of both the warrior and the hunter of this primitive race. The flint-head, well formed, well edged, and sharply outlined, would argue that the arrow to which it was attached, with thong or grass, was skill-fashioned and high-grade, and likewise that the bow would be designed and modeled with more skill than those used by the later Indians.

"The utility of the implement depends upon the degree of intelligence of the user. In the hands of keen intelligence it does better exe-

cution and is more deadly than in the hands of the untutored savage. And then, as the workmanship declares the degree of skill and intelligence, we must conclude that these arrows were once used by a people who in some degree outranked in civilization the Indians of the present century, and were very effective in their hands. They served their owners well and were the Winchesters of their day. This race used the arrow for the hunt, and if, like



BLACK KETTLE, A CHEYENNE CHIEF

their civilized brethren of to-day, they slaughtered each other, they relied for victory over their enemy, upon the same implement, which, like the vendor's liniment, was made for man or beast. This is all we know—it would be useless to add more. Their past is sealed. Their centuries are dead."

THE INDIANS OF SIXTY YEARS AGO

Coming down to the day of maps and records, we know something about the Indian tribes which inhabited Custer county in the generations next preceding the white man's advent.

The ethnological traces of the red man's genealogy, divide our North American Indians

into five great families, and with glib tongue rattle off the names "Caddoan family, Siouan family, Algonkain family, Shoshonean family, and the Kiowan family."

At least four of these families were represented in the tribal relations of the red man who once hunted and haunted the wild game herds of these prairies.

The Pawnees were here. This was their treaty reservation. It was their legal home. They were owners, in fee simple, and claimants by possession. If Professor Blackman is right, they were here for a thousand years before the white man bothered them. The Pawnees belong to the Caddoan family. The Omahas, the Poncas, and the Otoes hunted these plains and here warred with the Pawnees. These tribes belonged to the Siouan family. An Indian authority says that the domain of the Omahas lay north of the Platte river. That might include Custer county or at least a part of it. If they never lived here they were oftentimes visitors and long-time campers on these hills and river valleys.

Fremont records the Cheyenne Indians as located on the Platte above Grand Island. From this location the buffalo chase would often take them over the South Loup country. The Cheyennes held their family membership with the Algonkains. Mooney, in his eighteenth annual report to the bureau of ethnology, says that the Comanches, who have sometimes been called by the Siouan name of Padoucas, once had a permanent home on the north fork of the Platte river and that their ordinary range over the plains was from five to eight hundred miles. A range of less than half that circle would center their hunting field in Custer county. The Comanche belonged to the Shoshonean family.

This is all that is known about our Indian predecessors. Their tepees are down, their camp fires are out, and the bronzed master of the wild herds is gone. When any of his descendants come to Custer county now they wear the white man's garb,—pants, white collar, and a red necktie, or, if the gender is more favorable, a calico skirt, of wall paper pattern, and a silk handkerchief over plaited



A FULL-DRESS PARTY

hair. The Indian pony and the Indian dog live only in the pictures of the past; their bones and poverty are forgotten; with hoof beats and yelps they follow the herds no more.

NO INDIAN ATROCITIES IN CUSTER COUNTY

Beyond doubt the early trappers and hunters in Custer county had many exciting times and several of them may have been killed by the Indians, but concerning tragedies of this time we have no records. John Wilmouth, who will be mentioned later, claims to have been

engaged in an Indian battle in the year 1860, somewhere in the vicinity of Milburn. He makes the claim that three or four white men were killed at this time. Mr. Wilmouth is ninety years of age and his memory hardly accurate.

Aside from this there is no statement made, by any one who pretends to know, to the effect that any settlers were disturbed.

PROBABLE BATTLES

Beyond doubt, several battles were fought within the confines of the county during the



AN INDIAN COUNCIL AND WAR DRESS

days when these prairies were ranged by scouting parties from the United States forts at Kearney and Hartseff. Old settlers claim that several battle fields have been found in the county: one is located near the present town site of Berwyn, and one on the Forsythe farm near New Helena. On both of these fields arrow-heads, human bones, and other relics of conflict have been found.

WELL MARKED RIFLE PITS

Perhaps the most clearly defined of any battle field in Custer county is the one located in section 16, township 17, range 18, which location is in the school section owned by

and this helped, of course, to form an improvised breastwork. These pits with their accompanying mounds vary in length from six to sixty feet and if they were ever fully manned, at least four or five hundred white men or soldiers must have been engaged.

In the center of the enclosed area is a depression which early settlers say was a water hole when they came to the country. If a stand was to be made by a company of soldiers on ground of their own choosing there would naturally be some provisions for water.

It is claimed that in an early day another such system of breastworks and pits was found near the mouth of Spring creek, on the farm



CUSTER COUNTY'S FIRST DRYING PLANT

Allen brothers and lies three miles north and one-half mile west of the present Westerville store.

After much investigation, in which the services of the state historian, Professor A. E. Sheldon, and Curator E. E. Blackman have been rendered, it can be stated positively that here a battle of some importance has been fought. Here a line of rifle pits, clearly demarked, encloses an area of perhaps six or eight acres, the line conforming more nearly to an ellipse than a circle. The pits were probably three feet deep at the time they were dug. The dirt was thrown to the outside,

now owned by Judge A. R. Humphrey. J. J. Douglass, who saw this field, says that originally a well had been dug in the center of the enclosure. Talking with a former United States soldier who served in the regular army in the days of the early '60s and who for a number of years, during the '60s, was stationed at Kearney, Mr. Douglass learned that the soldiers of the fort had located in a number of places what they called outposts, where they dug pits, threw up breastworks made in circle form, enclosing water, and marked them, so that in case they were too hotly pressed by the Indians they could make a run for

the nearest of these outposts and find there some protection in making a stand.

It is altogether probable that the Allen field was one of these outposts, and was probably attached to Fort Kearney. It will be noted in another place that State Surveyor Robert Harvey finds an old wagon trail coming out of Valley county through Mira valley and entering Custer county in the vicinity of Woods Park. This trail came from the north-east and led in a southwest direction directly in line with the rifle pits described. It is

in the battle was in evidence when the first settlers came to the country. A skull which belonged to an Indian was found by the Allen brothers near the battle ground, where it had probably been exhumed by wind or coyotes from a shallow grave.

As late as August 18, 1918, Judge A. R. Humphrey found on the ground within the circle the stock of an old carbine.

Excavations made in the bottom of some of the pits disclosed deposits of charcoal which, no doubt, was the remains of fires built in



RIFLE PITS ON THE WESTERVILLE BATTLE-FIELD

Curator E. E. Blackman at right; Judge A. R. Humphrey stands in one of the pits; W. L. Gaston at the right

possible that this trail is connected in some way with the battle field.

THE SIGNS OF BATTLE

Accepting the theory that this was an outpost, it is also evident that it was the scene of a battle. Arrow-heads in abundance have been picked up. This would show that Indians were the parties engaged on one side, while broken guns, bullets, and parts of a sabre, would indicate that white men and soldiers were the occupants of the pits. A mound supposed to be a field grave for soldiers killed

the pits, and might indicate that the stand was made in the fall of the year, when the weather was cold, but before the ground had frozen.

This is all that we know positively. There is a tradition that in an early day a band of Indians attacked a party of gold miners, returning from the Black Hills, and robbed them of a large amount of gold dust, that the soldiers followed them to recover the gold and that here they overtook the Indians and made their stand. Tradition also has it that a large number of Indians were killed and

only a few of the soldiers engaged survived. But the tradition lacks confirmation.

A FORT IN CUSTER COUNTY

To guard against the depredations of Indians, the citizens of Douglas Grove built, in 1876, a fort which, at first, they named Fort Garber, in honor of the governor, but later, because no Indians came and the scare did not materialize in war whoops, tomahawks, and scalps, it was called Fort Disappointment.

It was built with bastioned corners, so that the Indians could not scale the walls from without, and was large enough to hold all the settlers. A well was dug inside for water supply, forty stands of arms were obtained from the government, and a company of state militia organized, called the Garber County Regulars. W. H. Comstock was made captain and from that time forth the genial pioneer was known as Captain Comstock.

NEW HELENA FRIGHTENED

About the same time, rumors of an Indian outbreak and massacre further north frightened the people of New Helena or Victoria Creek. The *Omaha Bee* published an account of the massacre of settlers in the Middle Loup valley. J. N. Dryden, now of Kearney, then sent the following note addressed to the surviving citizens of Victoria Creek:

Douglas Grove, May 27, 1876.
To the Surviving Citizens of Victoria Creek:

My Dear Friends: I send you all the information relative to the movements of the Indians I am able to procure and think is reliable.

The clippings are from the late Omaha and Chicago dailies. Saw Mr. Merchant's folks off all right on the 6:45 train Thursday morning. They were very uneasy about Mr. Merchant. Truly, J. N. D.

This general uprising of the Sioux, who resented the intrusion of miners pushing into the Black Hills territory, so frightened the people of New Helena that when they received the Dryden note, they rallied the settlers and built a fort of cedar logs on the Forsythe place, but some of the families were so frightened that they fled the country. After the

fort was built Judge Mathews applied to the state for arms and received fourteen rifles and two thousand rounds of cartridges. Most of the people who had fled for safety returned to their claims. Their fears proved groundless. No Indians came. So it can be stated on the best authority that no settlers of Custer county were ever seriously molested by Indians.

*Douglas Grove
May 27/76
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Truly,
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FACSIMILE OF LETTER OF J. N. DRYDEN

AN INDIAN BATTLE

On the 4th day of July, 1918, A. K. Holmes, editor and publisher of the *Taylor Clarion*, published the following account of an early battle, which took place in Custer county, between a surveying party of twelve men and

a marauding tribe of Indians. The article here appended has been submitted to the old settlers of the northeast corner of the county and, according to their testimony, the *Clarion* account is authentic. Mr. Holmes writes a personal letter in which he states that the William Stevens mentioned in the article is a very reliable and trustworthy citizen and absolute dependence can be placed upon his word. C. E. Gibbons, of Comstock, also bears testimony to the standing and character of William Stevens, and he, with others, locates the scene of battle close to the junction of Spring creek, which heads on Gibbons' place three or four miles southwest of Comstock and almost directly south of Comstock forms its junction with the Middle Loup river. This locates the battle ground approximately three and one-half miles south of Comstock.

THE CLARION ARTICLE

The following article, under the caption "A no man's land of early days," is the one referred to above:

Like all the pioneer settlers of forty years ago, William Stevens depended on Central City and Grand Island as his railroad points. The road down the valley, as then traveled, was long and wearisome. It was sometimes on one side of the Loup river, and then on the other, just as the exigencies of the breaks and soils and untamed wilds demanded. The trips were not always free from dangers, nor were the drivers always care free as to the safety of families and properties left at home during the week or more of absence. There was no rapid transit of message in those days, and the valley never echoed the chug of the auto bringing help in case of unanticipated distress or Indian visitation.

But the trips were frequently enlivened by impressive incident, experiences related, or traditions and tales told over, which now stand out in the memory of the pioneer as a pleasurable and cherished reminiscence. It has been so always, and everywhere. In taming the wilds of every country the pioneers enacted the scenes which subsequently became the play puppets of the retrospective hour.

Mr. Stevens occasionally hauled loads of cedar posts to Central City. Small and few as were his financial transactions in those days, some were certain to come, and the posts of-

fered one of the very few solutions to the incoming revenue problem.

Stopping at nightfall with some lone settler on the endless prairie, who was trying to develop a home amidst the haunts of the coyotes, the owls, and the rattlesnakes, the driver could get his night's lodging and hay for the team for twenty-five cents. The quarter looked very big and very welcome to the owners of the soddies on the claims down the valley.

On one of those trips, Mr. Stevens found the bridge at St. Paul washed away, and so he proceeded to Fullerton, in the hope that he might be able to get across, perhaps over the ferry. It was while there that Mr. Stevens met a resident of the town who had in previous years been a member of a United States surveying party of twelve which made the original federal survey of this country. And thence we get this little tale.

Like in many such instances, there are no positive means of identifying locations. Distances were not accurately known. But from the surveyor's minute description of the creek, its bank, another draw to the southward, separated from the creek by a level prairie, the upward slope to the south of the draw, and the hills and canyons beyond,—these, and other minutiae, enabled Mr. Stevens to feel satisfied that the location lay upon the land he had subsequently homesteaded. He has another proof—which is quite conclusive. In the field and pastured hills on the up-slope south of the draw, he has since picked up perhaps half a hundred of rifle balls, which had in the after years lain where they struck or fell. Their numbers indicated an old-time battle-field.

The surveying party was engaged along the creek near its mouth, one morning, when a band of Indians came out of the canyon to the south and advanced northward. It didn't matter to what tribe they belonged, for they were warlike in manner and too numerous to justify a parley for negotiations. The surveyors dropped below the creek bank for shelter, feeling that such situation would offer means for an advantageous resistance. The government had provided them with the old-time, long-range "Needle-guns"—and it was now time to use them.

Before the Indians got to the draw the surveyors began to pick them off as best they could. So it was but natural that the redskins should crouch in the draw for their own protection. Their guns were of the short-range class, and they could not reach the surveyors. They were safe in the draw, but they dare not venture across the level to-

ward the surveyors. Both parties were safe where they were, but neither dared to show itself in open, and neither cared to assert claim to the expanse between—for it was a "No Man's Land" of another day.

Yet neither could get away without taking chances. So they kept up their spasmodic exchange of compliments through all that by-gone day, both waiting for the welcome cloak of the night-time to cover their strategic designs.

When darkness came, as an encompassing friend, the plans that were evolved during the day were set in motion, and the surveying

they came. That would have been the romance of history.

The same hills that reverberated o'er the valley the desultory crack of the defender's rifle that day are still sitting guard at the valley's brink, but they now send back the echoes of agricultural and pastoral pursuit—for the "No Man's Land" of that pioneer day is a field in the "one man's land" of the present, sending its corn from the ditches and dairy products from the herd,—all as silent testimony of the changes of time.

The same creek (now known as Spring creek) wanders through the same crooks, and



[From *Butcher History of Custer County*]

AN EARLY WINTER SCENE

party began its "strategic withdrawal." Slipping along under the bank of the creek to the river, they were soon quietly going with the stream to surroundings that promised greater safety. But there was no further conflict.

Such is the story as it was outlined to us. The original relator went no further. The next chapter, if any, was not revealed. And why did the Indians not follow? It is everybody's guess. They could have harassed—but they did not. Possibly they, too, were strategists. Perhaps they also longed for the cover of darkness, in order that they might likewise resort to a "strategic retreat," and go slinking back to the canyon from whence

the same banks to-day afford tempting playgrounds for the romping children of anglers who cast hook or seine in the quiet little channel.

More rifle balls lie plugged in the slope and the hill sides, waiting to be picked up by some wandering stroller who will stand and wonder. He may not have even the shadowy tradition of the two belligerent parties—each sneaking away in a strategic retreat—to give direction to his imaginative tread.

WHO WAS THE FIRST WHITE MAN?

Coming now to the days in which men made records and wrote history—who was the first

white man that ever set eyes on Custer county? Who, among all the explorers of early days, had opportunity to camp in this region? Following Columbus came the Cabots, Vespuccius, and Magellan, DeSoto, Balboa, Ponce de Leon, Coronado, Drake, and a dozen such kindred spirits. They tramped the continent and sought for gold, for territory, for hot springs of youth and any form of wealth the new land might possess, but did they ever see Nebraska? Did their expeditions ever extend so far west or so far east, did any of them come up from the south or drop down from the north into our central Nebraska? Suspicion attaches to none of them unless it be to Coronado.

DID CORONADO FIND US

If we can believe his biographers, some of his exploring party may have been the first Europeans to have seen Custer county. In July of 1541 this Spanish general and explorer, bent

on exploring the country he called Quivera, came out of New Mexico from the south and west and penetrated into the region of Nebraska as far north as the Platte river, and how much farther we do not know. From the Coronado camp on the Platte, it is not unlikely that the hunters rode out in all directions and, if so, perhaps they might have touched the south part of our young dominion. If Coronado did not find us then, perhaps we were discovered a few years later by Padilla, a Franciscan friar, who was one of the Coronado party and who returned to do

missionary work among the Indians in the Platte region. According to tradition, Padilla not only labored for several months among a powerful tribe of Nebraska Indians, but it was here that he lost his life and in Nebraska soil, perhaps not far removed from Custer county, his bones went back to virgin dust. During his operations he had with him perhaps a dozen men, mostly friars and body-servants, and imagination need not labor hard to believe that some of them wandered far enough north to reach this county and to have been among the first, if not the first, to set foot on Custer county soil, or walk the green carpet of Custer prairies.

PLENTY OF WILD GAME

Perhaps here they hunted the buffaloes or other denizens of the new land. The country then must have been a hunters' paradise. Buffaloes ranged in such numbers that stampeding herds made the ground tremble, while



[Photo by S. D. Butcher]

AN OLD SETTLER ON THE SOUTH LOUP

the sound of their treading resembled distant thunder. Elk and deer were plentiful in those days. Antelope and wild turkeys, with goose and grouse, added variety to the hunters' menu and fattened the red man on savory meats that kings could not buy.

Since Coronado and Padilla may have found our location and looked it over full centuries before this generation fell heir to its possessions, we will list their advent as among the possibilities, and for want of better record, let it go at that.

OTHER EXPEDITIONS

The Lewis and Clark expedition of 1803 passed by so far to the north and east, that it is not likely that any side expeditions were made into the Custer county region. They followed the Missouri river from their Council Bluff's camp to where it crosses the state line, a route that missed the Custer portion of the state by nearly a hundred miles.

There is still another chance that we may have been exposed to the survey of an early expedition. A party of French Canadians, eight or ten in number, in charge of Pierre and Paul Mallet spent one winter at the junction of the Niobrara and Missouri rivers and from there journeyed south until they discovered and named the Platte river. As the river course seemed to lead in the direction they wished to go, they followed it sourceward for seventy miles and then traversed a woodless plain. Some of their side expeditions or hunting parties might have visited some of the places now in the confines of this county, and have been the first or second white party to behold it.

Zebulon M. Pike missed a mighty good chance to pay us a visit as long ago as 1806, when he conducted his expedition from eastern Missouri to the Colorado mountains, where he nailed his name to the high, bald mountain now known as Pike's Peak. Some writers claim that he traveled through parts of southern and central Nebraska. But Kansas is selfish, and down four miles south of Hardy, Nebraska, and at least three miles south of the Nebraska-Kansas state line, it has erected a monument and marked it "The northern limit of the Pike route." Unless that stone comes as wide of the truth as tombstones often do, Lieutenant Pike never saw our territory, unless he had unusually long vision when he looked north and east from the tip-top rocks of his mountain namesake.

In the winter time of 1812, one Robert Stuart, a Scotchman, who went west in the year before, in an expedition headed by himself and Wilson Price Hunt, wandered back with a few of his party to the headwater of the Platte river, where they undertook to winter.

The Indians routed them out of their winter quarters, and they journeyed east three hundred and thirty miles down the river, when they were stopped by heavy snows and, not finding comfortable winter quarters, they turned back toward what is now Scotts Bluff county, where they remained for the rest of the winter. It may be that they invaded Custer county.

Captain Henry Dodge, with an expedition of soldiers, came out of the southeast in 1835 and must have penetrated almost, if not quite, to the Custer county line.

GENERAL WARREN WAS HERE IN 1855

In 1855 or 1856 Lieutenant G. K. Warren, a major-general in the Civil war, conducted a military exploring expedition up the Loup valley in search of the most suitable route for a transcontinental railway. His route was along the north side of the Loup river, through the Pawnee Indian village, forded the North Fork and crossed the present townsite of St. Paul, as later shown by his wagon tracks, thence along the north side of the Middle Loup to its source. This road was very plain in 1872 when Robert Harvey made the government survey on the north side of the river. It was made by an old military expedition as shown by the uniform wide-gauge and grass-covered wagon tracks, and was the only wagon train in the Loup valley. There was also an old, wide-gauge, grass-covered wagon trail through Woods Park, leading out of Mira valley in Valley county. These trails cross each other on the north side of the Middle Loup river in the Woods Park vicinity. Mr. Harvey mentions in his surveyor's field notes the point where the trails cross.

JOHN WILMOUTH THE FIRST MAN HERE

One of the questions of burning interest for the purposes of this history is: Who was the first white man to come into the county on any pretext whatsoever, is now alive, and of whom there is a definite record? If information obtained is correct the question can be answered. In the hills seven miles northeast of Merna is the home of Uncle John Wilmouth. Uncle John lives on the same homestead upon which

he settled in the spring of 1883 and which has been his home continuously since that time. He has never mortgaged it nor offered it for sale. He lives in a sod house, which has been repaired as the occasion required, and as the years passed. His good wife lives with him and although they are advancing in years they are in comfortable circumstances.

If the story that Uncle John tells is correct, beyond any doubt he is the first white man to have seen Custer county and who is still living.

UNCLE JOHN'S STORY

Uncle John does not know his age but thinks that he was born probably in 1831 or 1832. His brother, George Wilmouth, who lives in Broken Bow, is sixty-six years of age, and George is the youngest of eleven children, while John is the oldest. Naturally that would substantiate the dates Uncle John gives for his birth. He says that when he was a boy of sixteen or seventeen he ran away from his home in Virginia, with another boy about the same age, and that they made their way down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to St. Louis, where they joined a caravan of Mormons en route for Salt Lake; that with them he passed over the Platte river trail through Nebraska in 1851. He claims to have spent nine very exciting years in Utah and the mountain region, during which he had many startling encounters with Indians. He claims to have been captured by Indians two or three times and exhibits knots and scars on his wrists and hands which show the Indians tied him with sharp thongs that cut through the skin into the flesh. In the early spring of 1860, in company with twenty or twenty-five other men, he started on the return trip to the states. They made their way through Wyoming and into the region of the Bad Lands and the south line of the Dakotas. Here Uncle John gives a graphic description of a rendezvous of thieves whom they found in this locality and with whom he and one or two others of the party had an exciting adventure. From this place the party headed south in an endeavor to reach Fort Kearney. Members of

the party fell out along the route or were killed by Indians until there were only eight or nine left in the company that turned south through Nebraska. Uncle John thinks that his party struck the Middle Loup river and followed it down into the region of Custer county and that they were probably in Custer county when surrounded by a band of Indians with whom they had a hard fight. Their horses got away from them but were not captured by the Indians, and after Uncle John and three or four of the survivors succeeded in crawling away from the Indians under cover of night they were fortunate enough to find their horses in a canyon pocket next morning. They succeeded in catching the horses and started south in the direction of Kearney with all possible haste. They crossed the South Loup river, Uncle John thinks, somewhere near the present site of Oconto and in about a day's ride from that place they came in sight of the United States flag and in a short time after they sighted the flag they met United States soldiers. They were none too soon, however, for a cloud of dust rising from the plains back along the way they had come showed plainly that the Indians were pursuing them.

This is Uncle John's story. It has to be taken, analyzed, and examined in the light of every possibility. Could it be true? Is it possible that it is true? Is it probably true? All these are questions to be considered. It must be taken into consideration that Uncle John is old, and memory is treacherous. Uncle John's neighbors are inclined to believe that approaching old age makes suggestions and fancies personal realities. This is one of the caprices of old age and halting memory. On the other hand the story could have been true. The dates fixed make it all possible if not probable. Seven years ago Uncle John recited to a creditable witness the same story, with the same details, which he recites now to Judge A. R. Humphrey and the recorder of this story. Uncle John's description of conditions in Utah and western Colorado is true to conditions that prevailed at the time he says he was there. His account of the thieves en-

countered in Dakota and description of their rendezvous tallies exactly with the underground railroad story related by Robert Harvey in another chapter of this volume. The United States flag which he claims to have seen at or near Fort Kearney helps to corroborate his story, for there was at that time a tall flag pole from which the flag continually floated, standing on a prominence in front of the fort. A portion of this flag pole is now in the historical museum in the state library at Lincoln.

It is altogether probable that Uncle John's stimulated imagination may account for some of the details he recites, yet we think it altogether possible and probable that he made the trip he claims to have made, at or near the time he claims to have made it, and as none can dispute the story it becomes creditable history and accordingly we make the statement that Uncle John Wilmouth is the first man to have seen Custer county who is still alive.

CHAPTER II

DESCRIPTIONS, LINES AND BOUNDARIES

TABLE LANDS AND VALLEYS — UNDULATIONS TABULATED — TOWNS AND RANGES — NO TECHNICAL TERMS — HARVEY'S CONTRIBUTION — BRIDGING CLEAR CREEK — A MUTINY — FIND RUINS OF OLD FORTIFICATIONS — AN IMPENDING INDIAN BATTLE — A CAMP FIRE — FIND AN ERROR ON FIFTH PARALLEL — A LAME OX AND THE REMEDY — NAMES OF CREEKS — FOOLING THE COOK — GOVERNMENT SURVEYS — CUSTER COUNTY WEATHER — TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION TABLES

If Nebraska is the central state of the Union, Custer county is the central county of the state. If Nebraska is the heart of the nation, Custer county is the heart of Nebraska, and in its relation to the entire country is the heart of the heart. All that Nebraska is in rank and place to the United States, Custer county is to other counties of the state. If there are advantages in a central location, they accrue, in the whole, to Custer county. So far as north and south are concerned the north line of the county is eighty-three miles south of the north line of the state, while the south line of the county is seventy-two miles north of the south line of the state. In its relation to east and west, the east line of the county is one hundred and seventy-four miles west of the average east line of the state, and the west line of the county is one hundred and sixty-two miles east of the average west line of the state. This places the geographical center of the state well into the heart of Custer county. As nearly as can be ascertained by map measurements, the northwest corner of township 18, range 23 west, township 18 north, is the geographical center of Nebraska. This falls in Custer county and is approximately four miles south of Anselmo.

But since it is best, perhaps, to trace its boundaries so as to record size as well as location, drive a stake down on the northeast corner of section 1, township 20 north, range

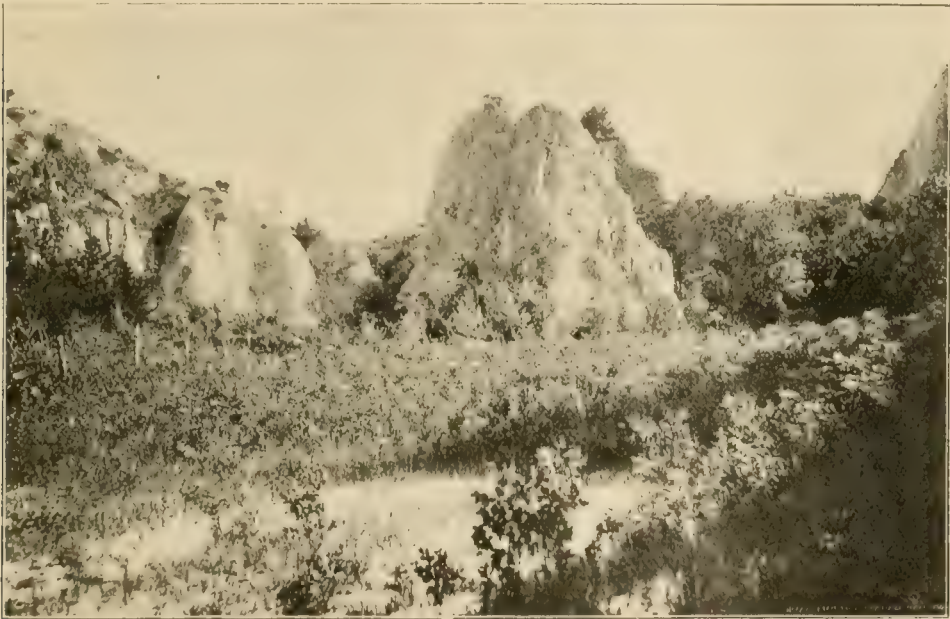
17 west, 6th principal meridian, then run a straight line west fifty-four miles over hills and valleys to the northwest corner of section 6, township 20 north, range 25 west, thence south in a straight line forty-eight miles to the southwest corner of section 31, township 13 north, thence east in a line straight and true to the southeast corner of section 36, township 13 north, range 17 west, thence north forty-eight miles, as the surveyor would say, to the place of beginning. Now we have run the boundaries of the county. We have enclosed seventy-two townships of thirty-six sections each or a tract of land containing 2,592 square miles. The average man can perhaps best understand the extent of territory if it is described in acres. Custer county contains 1,658,880 acres of land.

TABLE LANDS AND VALLEYS

The general topography of the county might be described as rolling or undulating, ranging from precipitous and broken cliffs along the rivers to the level lands of tables and valleys. There are several plateaus which are commonly called table land, and accordingly have received their respective cognomens. In the central part of the county is the celebrated "West" table, a very fertile, productive soil region and the largest table in the county. Directly east across on the eastern side of the dale or Merna valley is the "East" table.

Over in the northeast section of the county the "French" table and "Boggs" table have prominent place and are celebrated for their productive farm lands. South of the center of the county is the "Ryno" table. In the southeast corner there is a large tract of table land that is called "Blackhill Basin." Let no man think because this table is called the "Blackhill Basin" that it is not table land. All plateaus or tables are higher at their outer edge or rim than in the center. The southwest corner of the county has a monop-

ty, nine miles west of the southeast corner. The Middle Loup valley is approximately forty-eight miles long and from three to eight miles wide. It comes in from the north, crossing the county line in the exact center of the county east and west, and runs out through the east line of the county eighteen miles south of the northeast corner. In addition to these major valleys there are smaller valleys, along the creeks and smaller streams, that are unnamed. Other well defined valleys have been given place and name on the



[Photo by S. D. Butcher]

OWL'S NEST IN CHEESEBROUGH CANYON
Near West Union, Custer county

ly of small tables. Here are located "Redfern" table, "Stop" table, "Tallin" table, "Odensciants" table, "Rock Island" table, and several others.

Along with the tables go the valleys, and if the county is celebrated for its table-land it is also noted for its extensive and fertile valleys. The South Loup valley leads all the valleys of the county in size. It is approximately sixty miles long and from three to five miles wide. It enters the county at the west line, west and north of Arnold, and runs out through the south line of the coun-

Custer county map and demand a place and name in this volume. In the northwest section of the county are Dale valley, Ortello valley, Eureka valley, Sand valley, Hoosier valley, and Muddy Creek valley. Over in the northeast the valleys are dignified by the name of parks, accordingly we have Cummings Park, Woods Park, Lee's Park, and Spencer Park. Roten valley is over in the southeast corner of the county. All these valleys are generally level, deep-soiled, and well-watered and in an early day were very attractive to home-seekers. They were the

first lands to be settled and accordingly are to-day the sites of the oldest farms.

In addition to the two forks of the Loup river which flow through the county there are several other small streams which affect more or less the topography of the county,—Clear creek, in the east portion of the county, the Muddy, originating in the center of the county and flowing down toward the southeast corner; Deer creek, Spring creek, Ash creek, and Wood river are all in the south half of the county. Over in the north, Victoria creek, Lillian creek, and Rifle creek are the principal water courses, outside of the rivers. The lineal measurements of Custer county's rivers and creeks are more than two hundred and fifty miles. In the early days many of these streams were well wooded with ash, box-elder, jack oak, willow, elm, and other varieties, among which red cedar figured prominently.

UNDULATIONS TABULATED

A more detailed description of the topography of the county given by townships and ranges as displayed in the records of the state office of the surveyor general is as follows:

RANGE 17

Township 13. Rolling; black loam; fine grass land.

Township 14. Rolling; black loam; smooth valley along Muddy creek.

Township 15. Rolling; black loam; smooth valley along Muddy creek.

Township 16. Fine valley along Clear creek; balance rolling.

Township 17. All rolling; black loam; fine grass land.

Township 18. East of Middle Loup; quite sandy; west, fine, irrigation ditch in operation.

Township 19. Sandy in Loup valley, fertile; balance rolling, grass land.

Township 20. Rolling, fine black loam, good grass land.

RANGE 18

Township 13. Rolling; fine black loam; fine farms in Elk creek valley, rest grazing.

Township 14. Good farms along Elk creek; balance rolling, fertile.

Township 15. Muddy creek valley, fertile; balance rolling.

Township 16. Rolling, except in Clear and Muddy creek valleys.

Township 17. Fine valley land along creek, with rolling, grass land between.

Township 18. Fine valley, surrounded by rolling, grass land.

Township 19. Middle Loup valley, fertile, some sand; rolling south of river.

Township 20. Nearly all rolling; some rather rough, good grass land.

RANGE 19

Township 13. Fine ranches along South Loup; balance rolling; black soil.

Township 14. Rolling; black loam; good valleys.

Township 15. Rolling; black loam; good valleys.

Township 16. Fine valleys along Muddy and Dutchman creeks; balance rolling, good.

Township 17. Good valley along Clear creek; balance rolling, good land.

Township 18. Several small valleys, very fertile; balance rolling.

Township 19. Good valley north of Middle Loup, south, sandy; balance rolling, with good valleys.

Township 20. Rolling, but good land.

RANGE 20

Township 13. Rolling; black loam; fine valley along Loup.

Township 14. Good valley along Loup; balance rolling.

Township 15. Rolling; rough in north part.

Township 16. Good along Muddy creek; balance rolling, rough in south.

Township 17. Good along Muddy and Clear creeks; balance rolling.

Township 18. Rolling with good valleys.

Township 19. Good valleys along Middle Loup river and Lillian creek; rolling in south part with good valleys; Lillian irrigation ditch.

Township 20. Good valley along Middle Loup; balance rolling.

RANGE 21

Township 13. Very fine land along Wood river; balance rolling.

Township 14. Rolling, except along Loup river.

Township 15. Rolling; fine grass land.

Township 16. Fine level land in southwest; some sand in northeast; balance rolling.

Township 17. Fine valley in northwest; table-land in northeast; balance rolling, some sand.

Township 18. Table-land in south; fine valley in center; balance rolling.

Township 19. Fine valley along Victoria creek; balance rolling, some sand.

Township 20. Middle Loup valley; balance rolling and sandy.

RANGE 22

Township 13. Rolling; good valleys and grass land.

Township 14. Wood river valley, fertile; balance rolling.

Township 15. South Loup river and Spring creek valleys, good; balance rolling, rough.

Township 16. Rolling with good valleys; good soil; grass land.

Township 17. Northwest part fine table-land; northeast part good valley; east, sandy.

Township 18. East part fine valley; balance rolling, with good valleys.

Township 19. Southeast good valley; balance sandy and rolling.

Township 20. Sandy, rolling land; good ranches.

RANGE 23

Township 13. Rolling lands with good valleys; good table-land in northeast part.

Township 14. South part fine table-land; balance rolling, good valleys.

Township 15. South part rough; large valley; Loup valley and west of township sandy loam.

Township 16. Good valley along South Loup; balance rough, rolling.

Township 17. North and east parts fine table-lands; rest rolling, rough.

Township 18. Southwest fine table; Ortel-lo valley, fertile; north part sandy, rolling.

Township 19. Rolling, sandy land; good ranches.

Township 20. Rolling, sandy land, good ranches.

RANGE 24

Township 13. Rolling land with good valleys.

Township 14. Some fine table-land; balance rolling.

Township 15. South third rolling; central third valley, sandy; north third sandy and rough.

Township 16. Good valley along Loup; balance rolling and rough.

Township 17. Rolling and rough grazing land; northeast table-land.

Township 18. South part fine table-land; balance rolling; north some sand.

Township 19. Rolling, sandy, grass land.

Township 20. Rolling, sandy land; ranches.

RANGE 25

Township 13. Rolling lands with good valleys.

Township 14. Rolling lands with good valleys and table-lands.

Township 15. Fine table-land; valley in eastern part.

Township 16. Rolling land; some sand in north part.

Township 17. Good valley along South Loup; balance rolling, rough.

Township 18. Rough, rolling, grazing lands.

Township 19. Rolling, sandy; grass lands; ranches.

Township 20. Rolling, sandy; grass lands; ranches.

Custer county has a deep, rich soil, well suited to all kinds of agriculture and grass production. In the north and west part of the county is a region known as the sand hills, but these hills are well grassed and produce continually a nutritious crop of more than forty different kinds of grasses. These grasses are very nutritious and make splendid grazing for cattle. Many of the valleys in

the sand hill region have a mixture of clay or black loam in the sand composition which makes them profitable for farming or agricultural purposes. In all other sections of the county the hills are generally clay sub-soil and in addition to producing luxuriant grasses produce in abundance all kinds of agricultural products. The table lands and valleys are adapted to all kinds of grains and especially to the growth of alfalfa.

NO TECHNICAL TERMS

In the description of soil, it does not serve the purpose to be technical. This is not a scientific treatise. Geologists tell us that the soils of the county that are tillable are of cretaceous rock formation, or in other words decomposed rock. When decomposition was complete the soil thus formed was distributed over the lower levels by the action of wind and water. A recent soil survey of central Nebraska west of Hall and Howard counties, made by the United States government, designates the soil of Custer county generally as "Colby silt." Silt is defined as mud and fine earth deposited by water, and in its distribution, if not in its production, the water has always been aided and abetted by the wind. Generally speaking, the soil is from a few feet to many feet in depth and may be divided into three principal kinds. The alluvial soils of the creeks and river valleys are called Lincoln loams. The hills or upland table soils are called "Colby silt" and the sandy silt, ranging from a good sandy soil to almost pure sand, is found on top of the sand dunes. All these soils have value in the propagation of plant life. The soil character so far as the valleys are concerned is generally uniform. For miles on either side of the streams the alluvial soil belongs to the Lincoln silt series and is rich in humus and very productive. This silt has a strata of Colby silt, washed from the hills and higher ground in the formative periods. The Colby silt of the hills or upland tables is also uniform and exceedingly productive when climatic conditions are favorable. Like the soils of the valley it contains nitrogen, potash, and phos-

phorate in sufficient amounts to produce abundant plant life.

For a full three dozen years the soils of Custer county have been in cultivation, and during these years, when rainfall was sufficient, have justified the claim that they are well adapted to agricultural purposes.

Underneath the soil stratum lies a deep bed of glacial gravel, through which flows an inexhaustible quantity of purest water, very soft, and free from mineral compositions. All deep wells in the county go down into this gravel stratum and are thus guaranteed the finest kind of water, in absolutely inexhaustible quantities.

HARVEY'S CONTRIBUTION

[Robert Harvey, the man who ran the lines of Custer county survey and who has been Nebraska state surveyor for many years, makes the following contribution to this volume]:

The territory embraced within the limits of my exterior lines was a tract thirty-six miles north and south and forty-eight miles east and west, and during the progress of the work there naturally occurred incidents of trivial moment at the time and few of them found a mention in the field notes of surveys or in the reports to the surveyor general; but as the years pass and the generations succeed each other on the stage of action their thoughts turn back to the first things, first happenings and the first movements toward planting a new civilization.

In all new countries a certain line of alleged incidents becomes current, stock stories and traditions, and some have found their way into published histories as historic facts.

I will endeavor in the following pages briefly to tell the story of some of the incidents which occurred in connection with my party and progress of the work and observations made, some of which are of record and some of memory.

BRIDGING CLEAR CREEK

The party was organized and outfitted at St. Paul, Howard county, and on going to the

work I proceeded up the south side of the Middle Loup and over the table land to Clear creek, which I found to be about ten feet wide and five feet deep, near the north line of section 1, township 15 north, range 17 west. The banks were soft and there was no timber within five or six miles, except a small clump of box-elders near our camp. I cut steps in the banks and on these set four ten-gallon water casks, two on each bank, and upon these we placed the empty wagon-box. For approaches, the end-gates and the box-elders were used. The supplies were carried over and the four mules led through, all within two hours. A few days afterward two surveying parties of about eighteen men spent half a day building a bridge six miles below, of cottonwood logs, cut in a nearby canyon.

A MUTINY

After reaching our initial, which was the corner of townships 14 and 15 north, ranges 17 and 18 west, on the south side of

Muddy creek, I ran north six miles, when, upon reaching camp, I found that the camp men, unused to conserving the water supply, had nearly exhausted it, so after a late dinner I told the men we would hitch up and run the line a mile or two north to where I supposed the creek to be, and camp for the night. Two of the men revolted, struck, said they had done their day's work and would

go no farther. I had not known these men before they were engaged, they having been recommended to me. During our travel to the work they had studiously avoided reaching the noon and night camps until after the camp work was done, but always in time for their meals; jocosely they said to the men, out of my hearing, that they were out on a "lark," a "picnic" and to "have a good time." Now I considered the time had come when

there must be a "show of hands," so after explaining the necessity for the move and their still declining to move, I told them they could either obey orders or quit; they said they would quit. I told them to turn in their arms and ammunition (which belonged to the government), roll their blankets, take two days' rations and get outside of the camp ground within fifteen minutes, and that fifteen meant fifteen and not sixteen; it was done and they walked out. When the surveyor general heard of this



ROBERT HARVEY, STATE SURVEYOR

he mildly reprimanded me, saying that it was a dangerous procedure to discharge men in an Indian infested county, but I said they were given a choice and they volunteered to quit. In after years when I went into the jurisdiction of another surveyor general, in one of the southwestern territories, I found I had a record, the story had preceded me. I was compelled, however, to return and procure other men.

FIND RUINS OF OLD FORTIFICATIONS

I completed the township lines south of the fourth standard parallel, returned to the east side of the work, and began running the lines between the fourth and fifth parallels. On running east on the line between townships 18 and 19, range 17, we found on the right bank of the Loup river a circular line of fortifications overgrown with grass and extending from bank to bank. In the grass we found rust-eaten tin plates and tin cups and in the brush on the east side an old set of hay scales.

AN IMPENDING INDIAN BATTLE

This was in section 33, township 19, range 17 north. Being nearly out of provisions, I only ran this line east to the river and proceeded down the river to the upper end of an island which I think is about opposite Comstock, and camped close to the river bank. On the west, about fifty or a hundred yards, was a broad, bulrush slough which entered the river farther down. I thought this a good defensive position against Indians, as the only way they could get at us with their ponies would be to come down along the narrow strip of solid ground between the ruin and slough for a mile or two.

While the cook was getting dinner, I looked across the valley and noticed several horse-men on the bluffs, who were going southeast toward the river, and before reaching the valley they saw us and came directly toward our camp; of course, they were Indians. I therefore sent the two best shots into the bulrushes with instruction not to let them cross the slough, while we threw up a line of breast-works in front of the camp. While thus engaged I got into the wagon, so I could see across the swamp. Someone said, "Where is Jim Scott?" His spade was in the rifle pit but he was gone and the word went round that Jim had run. The wagon stood close to the cut bank and looking over I saw Jim putting on a new pair of overalls. I yelled, "Jim, what are you doing? Why ain't you digging?" "Well, boss," said Jim, "I just thought if we are to fight I don't want to

be found dead in an old pair of ragged overalls."

No sound came from the bulrushes, neither could I see any signs of Indians or my two men, when finally one of the men appeared and called that they were white men and soldiers. Captain John Mix, of a cavalry command, was out on reconnoissance and was camped about two miles down the river, behind some timber, and these men were returning hunters for the command.

A CAMP FIRE

After having received supplies I continued the range line north. I camped at the corner of townships 18 and 20, ranges 17 and 18, and completed the line between townships 19 and 20, range 18, in the afternoon. Next morning I found that the teamster, Charley Storey, had brought, from the river the evening before, only one barrel of water and the stock and camp had used nearly all of it, leaving only a small supply for use of the men and team that were to go north to the county line, or parallel. So Storey was instructed to return to the river for more water.

The tent stood about three chains north of the township corner and it had to be taken down so that I could see to set the flagman. We reached the county line at noon and at the last flag station, on a hill just south of the line, I looked back and noticed a thin column of smoke shooting straight up and directly over the line. We hurriedly ate our dinner and hurried back to camp, and from the bluff overlooking the valley saw that the camp was on fire, the tent down and men trying to put out the fire. It seemed that after we had started north on the line the cook concluded to go with Storey to the river, for Storey's father had been killed by the Indians and he was very unsafe to be trusted alone. Before going, however, he dug a trench, emptied the fire box of the sheet iron stove into it, sprinkled water on the living coals and then covered them over with earth. They were at the river when they noticed the smoke, but the cook ran the three miles, reached camp before the tent fell, saved

the small trench containing field notes and maps, etc., and carried out the box of five hundred rounds of paper cartridge ammunition for revolvers. The pine box had burned through at one corner, scorched the inside paper lining and in perhaps another instant the entire contents would have exploded. The tent, one wagon-cover, all of our bedding, extra clothing, and the grain and flour sacks were consumed. John M. Daugherty, who was running section lines, was camped in front of the entrance to Woods Park and lent us what assistance he could by loaning us grain sacks, boxes, etc., to hold what we were able to save, and some extra blankets. Mr. Daugherty's party was at dinner when they saw the smoke and through a field glass said they saw some men at the camp, saw the team returning from the river and saw the tent fall. They thought it was Indians raiding the camp. It was suggested that the two men discharged in July, had returned to commit the depredation. Upon examination it was found that the dry buffalo grass had not been burned for several feet around the stove, and there was no evidence of there having been an explosion of the buried coals. I have never been able to formulate a satisfactory theory as to the cause of this fire. This caused me a loss of several days in going to the settlement on the Loup where I was loaned tents, blankets, etc., by Captain Munon, of Company C, Ninth United States Infantry, who was then camped near the present town of Cotesfield, Howard county.

FIND AN ERROR ON FIFTH PARALLEL

Resuming work, I returned to the 4th parallel and projected the next range line with its complement of township lines, and at the end of the twenty-four miles I should have intersected the 5th parallel or county line north of a cedar canyon, and after a half day's search found the corner nearest my intersection had within a few days been torn down and a new one built about fifty rods west, and on the west side of the canyon near a pine tree. Here was more trouble.

My camp was on the north side of the

Loup river and Daugherty's camp on the south side below. On my return I reported to Daugherty what I had found and proposed a joint examination. He opposed it, as it would cause a loss of time and besides that, that our authority was to close on the line as we found it. We locked horns at once. I insisted that according to my closing six miles east a few days before a great balk had been made somewhere along the line and we would have to show to the surveyor general's office that it was not in our lines, by pointing out by an examination when it existed, and since I had the township lines between the 5th and 1th parallels I would then have to explain the discrepancy. In fact, I would not be able to run their lines until it was reported and passed upon by the surveyor general. Further, that I proposed to find the error and report it, as neither of us would be able to get pay for any work in townships 20 in any of the ranges until it was settled. I insisted that he should bear a part of the expense, so it was finally agreed that next morning he bring his team and two or three men, and that I should send to his camp three men so that his work could go on. We spent two days on that examination and found that Park had torn down his original line and set all of the corners west from fifty to sixty rods for five miles and from the southwest corner of section 36, range 18, had set a section corner west 15.80 chains and marked it for the corner of sections 34 and 35, which we found on the west side of the canyon among some trees and south of the old Kent postoffice in Loup county. The corner one mile west of it was marked the same. The construction of the new corners showed fraud, for some of them were scarcely distinguishable. We left them as found, for we knew they must or should be destroyed and a new line run. On our return to camp we made out a report to the surveyor general, read it to the assistants, which were subscribed to before us. Next day Mr. Daugherty, being in need of provisions, sent his team and driver with one of my men to St. Paul, with the report to be mailed to the surveyor general. We also

sent notice to Mr. Park at North Platte, so that he could correct his line.

I had a partial acquaintance with Mr. Park in 1869, in Omaha, had been in his camp and had seen him at work in the field. In the Civil war he was lieutenant colonel of the Fourth Michigan Cavalry, which captured Jefferson Davis, and therefore came to the state with political and military prestige. His first connection with the surveys of the public lands that I find in the records is his contract number 1, dated July 2, 1867. In the same party with me in 1869 were two men who were with Park in 1868, in Howard and Sherman counties, and I heard a great deal about him, so I was anxious that Mr. Daugherty should join me in the examination of the parallel for his individual and moral support.

Park, Daugherty, and myself were called in conference in January following, when it was agreed that Mr. Park should correct the line in early spring and correct our closing corners to alignment on the new line and report the same to us. I never received any report, but I notice in my notes that my figures, in black ink, are corrected, in red ink, by the surveyor general's office.

A LAME OX AND THE REMEDY

In early September one of the oxen became very lame in one of its hind feet, by reason of the wearing through of the sole of the hoof. Various schemes were tried without relief and it became a question of turning it loose in the brush along the river, when it was bethought to try shoeing it with hoop iron. A heavy hoop was taken from a water barrel and a shoe cut out to fit the toe. The ox was tied up along the side of the camp wagon with the foot strapped down on top of the hub. We were unable to drive the shingle nails through the edge of the dry hard hoof. The holes were drilled and the burned nails driven and clinched. We had no further trouble and the shoe remained for several months.

NAMES OF CREEKS

I gave the name of Rock creek to the little stream of water flowing into the deep river

at the south edge of the oak grove, in township 18, range 17, on finding rock in the bottom of the river at its mouth; the name of Lillian to the stream on the south side of the Loup in township 19, ranges 18 and 19, and Victoria in townships 19 and 20, ranges 20 and 21, after two nieces living in Indiana.

FOOLING THE COOK

During all my previous years on the plains, I had heard it claimed that the antelope was a species of the sheep family, and especially the pilgrim plainmen maintained they had the odor of sheep, that the meat tasted like sheep and they were sheep. So it was with nearly all of my party in Custer county, and the cook was so very positive that they were mutton that his stomach rebelled when he cooked the meat. To bring matters to a test, a bet was made of an oyster supper for the entire crew that he could not distinguish the difference blindfolded. So one forenoon by good luck a deer and antelope were killed, and the saddles and sirloin cut out. In the evening the cook fried in separate pans cuts of sirloin of each, so that he knew he would have a square deal. When blindfolded he was given a piece of the deer and then the antelope and failed each time. It was tried in various ways and finally he was given one kind several times in succession, then the other. He guessed it correctly once and his stomach never rebelled after that. Antelope and sheep are of an entirely different and distinct species.

GOVERNMENT SURVEYS

The act of congress, approved July 22, 1854, created the surveying district of Kansas and Nebraska territories.

John Calhoun, of Springfield, Illinois, was appointed surveyor general, by President Franklin Pierce, August 15, 1854, with headquarters at Leavenworth, Kansas.

The first contract for surveys was awarded to Professor Jonathan P. Johnson, November 2, 1854, for the first sixty miles of the Base line on the fortieth parallel of north latitude.

On March 1, 1867, Nebraska territory was admitted into the Union as a state and the

surveying district was changed, Kansas being consolidated with Wisconsin, and Nebraska with Iowa July 28, 1866, under the title of "Iowa and Nebraska," with the surveyor general's office at Plattsmouth. Phineas P. Hitchcock, of Omaha, for surveyor general, was appointed by President Andrew Johnson in April, 1867.

While the two territories constituted the surveying district 233 contracts were awarded for surveys in the two territories, but in the new district contracts began with number 1.

The first survey of the public lands which affected Custer county was the establishment of the southeast corner of township 13 north, range 17 west, or the third initial point of the second guide meridian west, by H. C. F. Hackbusch, 1866.

Surveyors whose work in any way affected Custer county were:

- 1—H. C. F. Hackbusch, Leavenworth, Kansas;
- 2—J. B. Park, Omaha;
- 3—Nicholas J. Paul, Omaha, now St. Paul;
- 4—John F. Burch, Omaha;
- 5—Robert Harvey, St. Paul;
- 6—Joe E. North, Columbus;
- 7—John W. Daugherty, Fremont;
- 8—James L. Slocum, Falls City;
- 9—D. V. Stephenson, Falls City;
- 10—Zadok Stephenson, Falls City;
- 11—S. C. McElroy, Falls City;
- 12—H. C. Campbell, address not known.

Of the above list of twelve surveyors, only numbers 3, 5, and 8 are known to me to be now living.

An abstract of the history of the government survey is given in the following tables:

TABLE I

Lines Designated	By Whom Surveyed	Date of Contract	No. of Contract	Miles	Chains	Links	When Surveyed
3rd Standard Parallel.....	J. B. Park.....	July 2, 1867	1	48	.....	.....	1866
3rd Standard Parallel.....	Wm. J. Allason..	April 29, 1869	17	6	.....	.....	1869
4th Standard Parallel.....	J. B. Park.....	July 2, 1867	1	.....	39	03	1867
4th Standard Parallel.....	J. B. Park.....	Oct. 16, 1868	14	48	.....	.....	1868
4th Standard Parallel.....	Wm. J. Allason..	April 29, 1869	17	5	16	90	1869
5th Standard Parallel.....	Nicholas J. Paul.	June 6, 1868	7	.....	40	43	1868
5th Standard Parallel.....	J. B. Park.....	May 10, 1872	53	48	.....	.....	1872
5th Standard Parallel.....	J. B. Park.....	May 10, 1872	53	5	19	34	1872
2nd Guide Meridian.....	J. B. Park.....	July 2, 1867	1	24	.....	.....	1867
2nd Guide Meridian.....	Nicholas J. Paul.	June 6, 1868	7	24	.....	.....	1868
3rd Guide Meridian.....	J. B. Park.....	Oct. 16, 1868	14	24	.....	.....	1868
3rd Guide Meridian.....	J. B. Park.....	May 10, 1872	53	24	.....	.....	1872
				Total	257	35	70
EXTERIORS—Township Boundaries.							
Tps. 13 and 14, Rs. 17 to 24...	Nicholas J. Paul.	June 11, 1869	21	179	70	53	1869
Tps. 15 and 16, Rs. 17 to 24...	Robert Harvey...	June 20, 1872	54	126	15	29	1872
Connecting Lines.....	Robert Harvey...	June 20, 1872	54	.....	63	70	1872
Tps. 17 to 20, Rs. 17 to 24...	Robert Harvey...	June 20, 1872	54	317	35	98	1872
Connecting Lines.....	Robert Harvey...	June 20, 1872	54	.....	74	45	1872
Tps. 13 to 16, Rs. 17 to 24...	J. B. Park.....	June 11, 1869	21	179	70	53	1869
Connecting Lines.....	J. B. Park.....	April 29, 1869	18	.....	16	90	1869
Tps. 17 to 20, Rs. 17 to 24...	H. C. Campbell..	April 11, 1873	70	41	78	57	1873
Connecting Lines.....	H. C. Campbell..	April 11, 1873	70	.....	19	34	1873
				Total	709	58	93

Table I includes the standard parallels, guide meridians, township lines, and connecting lines, names of the surveyors, date of con-

tract of survey, number of contract, lengths of lines in miles, chains, and links, and the year when the survey was made.

TABLE II

Townships Designated	By Whom Surveyed	No. of Contract	Date of Contract	Miles	Chains	Links	When Surveyed
Tp. 13, Rs. 17 to 24 inc.....	J. F. Burch.....	20	June 3, 1869	479	77	44	1869
Tp. 14, Rs. 21 to 24 inc.....	J. B. Park.....	53	May 10, 1873	239	66	4	1873
Tps. 14 to 16, Rs. 17 to 20 and 15 and 16, Rs. 21 to 24 inc. And Connecting Lines.....	J. E. North.....	55	June 22, 1872	1204	13	47	1872
Tp. 17, R. 17.....	Robert Harvey..	54	June 20, 1872	60	3	80	1872
Meanders	Robert Harvey..	54	June 20, 1872	75	10	.....	.....
Tps. 17 to 20, Rs. 17 to 24 inc, and Tp. 17, R. 21.....	J. W. Daugherty	64	July 22, 1872	959	70	44	1872
Meanders	J. W. Daugherty	64	July 22, 1872	32	25	.....	.....
Connecting Lines.....	J. W. Daugherty	64	July 22, 1872	1	34	55	1872
Tps. 18, 20, R. 21; Tps. 17, 18, 20, R. 22; Tps. 18, 20, R. 23; Tp. 19, R. 24.....	Jas. L. Slocum...	73	May 14, 1873	480	68	68	1873
Meanders	Jas. L. Slocum...	.....	.....	9	38	25	.....
And Connecting Lines.....	Jas. L. Slocum...	.....	.....	2	50	19	1873
Tp. 19, Rs. 21, 22; Tps. 17, 19, R. 23; Tp. 20, R. 24 inc.....	D. V. Stephenson	73	May 14, 1873	300	44	39	1873
And Connecting Lines.....	D. V. Stephenson	.....	.....	1	15	28	1873
Tp. 17, R. 24; Tps. 18, 20, R. 25	S. C. McElroy...	74	May 20, 1873	182	78	13	1873
Connecting Lines.....	S. C. McElroy...	.....	.....	1	18	59	1873
Tp. 18, R. 24; Tp. 19, R. 25.....	Z. Stephenson...	74	May 20, 1873	120	4	51	1873
Tps. 13 to 15, R. 25.....	J. B. Park.....	18	April 29, 1869	180	21	86	1869
Tp. 16, R. 25.....	J. B. Park.....	47	June 16, 1871	61	13	93	1871
Connecting Lines.....	J. B. Park.....	.....	.....	1	19	30	1871
Tp. 17, R. 25.....	H. C. Campbell..	70	April 11, 1873	59	77	69	1873
Total				4384	33	05	

Note: The connecting lines are the distances from the closing corners to the nearest corners on the parallels, owing to the convergence of meridians and not to errors of surveys.

Table II is the subdivision of townships into sections and gives the numbers of the townships, names of the surveyors, date and number of contract, lengths of lines in miles, chains, and links, and year when survey was made, and includes the length of the right bank of the Loup river and all connecting lines. See note above in table II.

TABLE III
RECAPITULATION

	Miles	Chains	Links
Standard Parallels.....	161	35	70
Guide Meridians.....	96	.....	.....
Township Lines.....	707	44	54
Section Lines.....	4329	60	38
Meander Lines.....	42	58	35
Connecting Lines.....	14	8	71
Total	5351	47	68

Table III is a summary of the different kinds of lines and their lengths.

TABLE IV

LAND AND WATER AREA

Range	Land Area	Water Area
R. 17	183|250|49 Acres	1 051 18 Acres
18	183|650|08 Acres	550 96 Acres
19	183|835|80 Acres	568 41 Acres
20	183|245|74 Acres	524 68 Acres
21	183|319|95 Acres	575 77 Acres
22	184|056|94 Acres	
23	183|453|58 Acres	
24	183|893|02 Acres	
25	184|358|43 Acres	
	1653|064|03 Acres	3 270 77 Acres

Total number of Acres.....1,656,334.80
Land Area.....2579.7875 square miles
Water Area..... 5.1106 square miles
Total2584.8981 square miles
[August 24, 1919,—Robert Harvey.]

Table IV is a tabulation of the land and water area of the county by ranges. These data by townships are very instructive and useful,

but would occupy about three pages and therefore are omitted.

The Middle Loup river having been meandered, the water area is deducted from the public lands. The south branch was not meandered and its area was sold as a part of the land area and is therefore not included in the tabulation.

I always employed a full crew of men, consisting of a cook, teamsters, two chainmen, two cornermen, and one flagman. In Custer county I had altogether twelve men; two were discharged at the beginning, for mutiny, and two discharged after the destruction of the camp by fire in August; three remained throughout the work, six were accessions. Only five are known to be living.

CUSTER COUNTY WEATHER

No detailed description of climatic conditions in Custer county is necessary. It can be truthfully stated that the climate is much the same as in other parts of the middle west, and admirably adapted to stock-raising and agriculture. It has always been a very healthful climate.

Through the courtesy of G. A. Loveland, meteorologist in charge of the United States Weather Bureau, at Lincoln, Nebraska, the following tables showing precipitation in the county covering a range of thirty-six years and temperature covering a period of seventeen years are given.

The earliest reports come from Sargent and the following tables in the order of their establishment, are submitted.

SARGENT

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1883	.....	0.40	0.90	2.75	3.90	6.65	2.98	2.95	4.17	0.51	0.00	0.30	.....
1884	0.33	.....	.....	2.55	3.12	1.25	4.20	2.65	0.09	0.32	0.10	1.65	.....
1885	0.08	0.15	1.58	2.92	6.23	3.32	3.01	3.14	2.15	1.00	1.50	0.25	26.03
1886	1.52	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1887	0.25	0.29	0.35	2.61	1.51	2.09	.....	5.17	4.15	0.01	0.60	0.42	.....
1888	.....	.....	2.27	2.31	8.30	3.02	5.63	2.97	1.62	0.83	0.00	1.35	.....
1889	1.00	0.17	0.78	1.50	1.03	4.18	4.76	1.28	1.02	0.39	0.72	.....	.....
1890	.....	0.55	0.76	1.67	.....	.....	.....	3.64	0.71	1.24	0.49	0.00	.....
1891	0.75	1.18	2.67	1.90	0.41	7.46	3.28	6.18	0.87	0.28	0.20	1.10	26.28
1892	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1893	.....	.....	.....	2.04	2.59	3.49	2.08	0.81	0.60	.....	.....	.....	.....
1894	.....	.....	0.91	2.02	0.30	3.50	2.29	0.68	1.67	1.44	.....	.....	.....
1895	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1896	.....	.....	0.91	4.31	2.01	3.97	3.09	0.42	2.25	2.20	1.29	T	.....
1908	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.52	.05	.....
1909	.30	1.05	.....	.62	2.54	1.83	5.75	2.12	1.57	.90	.80	.....	.....
1910	.70	.....	.....	.20	1.82	3.21	1.40	6.47	1.40	.15	T	.75	.....
1911	.75	.10	.20	1.99	2.55	.58	5.49	4.65	2.11	4.04	T	.....	.....
	.59	.58	.99	2.33	2.59	3.57	3.56	3.40	1.64	1.31	.51	.68	21.75

ANSLEY

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1888	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	T	0.59	.....
1889	0.30	T	2.20	0.50	1.30	2.93	8.90	1.23	0.40	0.60	0.80	T	19.16
1890	0.40	0.20	1.20	3.50	3.40	2.60	1.00	3.00	1.10	2.60	0.75	T	19.75
1891	T	2.00	2.05	6.30	1.90	8.19	4.57	1.22	0.80	1.14	0.00	1.25	29.42
1892	1.70	1.30	1.42	3.03	6.90	1.66	3.03	3.43	0.18	1.82	.....	0.20	.....
1893	0.25	0.80	1.80	0.82	2.39	.....	.....	.....	1.20	0.00	T	.....	.....
1894	.....	.....	.....	1.38	0.92	2.34	1.40	0.44	1.64	1.06	T	0.12	9.30
1895	0.05	1.37	0.32	2.76	2.59	5.90	1.08	2.63	2.78	0.45	0.91	0.10	20.94

CALLAWAY

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1892									0.13	1.55	0.13	0.37	.....
1893	T	0.29	1.67	0.94	2.53	2.79	1.36	1.28	0.60	0.39	0.05	0.79	12.69
1894	0.20	0.15	0.80	0.81	0.18	2.74	2.38	0.40	0.40	1.00	0.00	0.00	9.06
1895	0.30	1.65	0.12	3.15	2.35	9.03	0.38	6.35	1.40	0.05	0.90	0.03	25.71
1896	0.25	0.05	1.33	5.69	1.53	3.58	1.93	1.95	2.20	1.00	0.20	T	19.71
1897	0.35	0.48	1.28	5.30	0.30	4.95	0.70	1.78	1.15	5.00	0.30	0.95	22.54
1898	0.45	0.15	0.60	2.35	4.45	2.98	2.60	6.85	1.50	T	0.65	T	22.58
1899	T	0.55	T	0.55	2.21	5.65	1.40	1.85	0.75	0.45	1.65	0.63	15.69
1900	T	1.57	0.47	4.50	2.90	0.95	3.50	4.70	1.90	1.25	0.50	0.35	22.59
1901	0.17	1.01	3.13	3.35	2.15	8.30	1.33	3.85	6.65	1.90	1.15	0.67	33.66
1902	0.70	0.35	1.30	0.90	6.25	3.95	4.40	1.35	3.95	0.95	0.10	0.95	25.15
1903	0.45	1.53	0.10	2.05	5.45	2.25	7.70	4.28	0.30	1.10	0.55	T	25.76
1904	0.64	T	T	0.51	4.24	2.97	6.32	5.89	1.83			T	
1905	1.35	0.50	0.61	3.50	7.70	6.21	3.10			0.66	1.02	T	
1906	0.50	0.34	1.00	8.88	1.06	1.32	2.50	3.72	4.17	4.73	1.10	0.96	30.28
1907	0.45	T		0.40	3.95	4.70	3.88			T		0.38	
1908	T	T	0.18	T	4.93		3.87	2.11			T		
1909	.25	1.68	T		1.94	1.32	3.93	1.13	2.73	.59	2.28	1.12	
1910	.28	0	.31	.62	.92	4.01	1.59	4.82			0	1.34	
1911	.59	.75	.65	4.14	2.61	.60	3.58	4.48	2.58		.05	.55	
1912	.30					1.96	2.64	1.58			.53	.50	
1913	.15	1.04	1.75	2.87	1.03	2.27	1.68	.23	1.80		2.04		
1914	.22	.29	1.55	2.05	2.61	5.73	1.39	1.49			0	.69	
1915	1.10	1.34	2.71	4.60	4.23	8.23	6.74	4.50	2.98	1.59	.29	.73	39.04
1916	.53	.47	.31	1.26	3.72	2.68	2.87	2.80					
1917		.35	.80	1.07	4.51	2.21	2.69						
1918	.80	.20	.19	1.60	6.35	2.06	1.60	2.70					
Normal	0.40	0.59	0.87	2.59	3.21	3.74	2.93	3.05	2.06	1.31	0.59	0.50	22.10

BROKEN BOW

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1895	0.05				2.30	9.90	1.05	3.94	1.89	0.00	0.50	0.05	.....
1896	0.07	0.01	2.45	6.10	2.73	4.89	7.73	.....	2.14	2.35	0.30	0.20	.....
1897	0.10	0.55	1.60	5.40	0.37	4.28	1.11	1.36	1.14	4.03	0.40	1.15	21.49
1898	0.70	0.10	0.00	2.54	4.71	2.49	2.03	3.55	1.38	3.90	0.22	T	21.62
1899	T	0.22	0.32	1.30	3.08	4.47	6.42	2.82	0.60	0.42	1.64	0.66	21.95
1900	0.05	1.03	0.51	6.17	2.46	1.29	4.35	4.00	1.32	1.10	0.32	T	22.60
1901	0.10	0.50	1.88	2.45	1.71	9.26	1.15	1.03	4.83	1.60	0.75	0.10	25.36
1902	0.32	0.32	0.76	1.11	5.59	2.76	6.98	2.75	3.93	1.41	0.00	0.72	26.65
1903	0.24	1.15	0.35	0.81	5.40	2.32	6.27	6.16	0.50	0.98	0.40	T	24.58
1904	0.10	T	0.20	1.47	5.06	3.73	6.50	1.97	3.66	3.92	T	T	26.61
1905	0.93	1.10	1.10	5.59	5.73	8.26	5.41	0.94	3.14	1.13	0.71	0.00	34.04
1906	0.55	0.22	0.62	9.35	2.23	1.77	5.89	4.06	2.55	3.75	1.60	1.03	33.62
1907	0.78			0.28	2.60	4.91	5.01	1.70	0.94	0.46	0.06	0.64	.....
1908	T	1.53	0.15	0.40	3.77	7.13	4.51	4.19	2.32	1.96	0.34	T	26.30
1909	.10	.48	.05	1.17	1.38	3.65	6.93	4.08	3.18	.81	1.07	1.44	24.34
1910	.22			.43	3.12	5.22	8.40	9.89	1.92	.18	0	.75	.....
1911	.19	.33			4.04	.64	4.31	3.74	2.25	4.66	T	.70	.....
1912	.60	.20	2.50	2.24	.57	1.30	3.10	1.30	1.37	1.27	0	.12	14.57
1913	.07	.69	2.29	3.23	2.76	3.32	2.11	1.29	2.33	.22	1.27	5.32	24.90
1914	.10	.30	1.08	1.76	3.01	3.87	1.07	3.10	.50	.90	T	.56	16.25
1915	1.00		2.37	2.87	3.12	6.85	5.91	2.96	2.54	.55		.47	.....
1916			.18	1.16	3.61	3.24	4.12	3.16	2.71	.60	.35	.42	.....
1917	.73	.39	1.20	2.89	6.86	2.80	2.09	2.55	3.43	.09	1.85	.28	25.16
1918	.88	.36	.13	1.70	5.56	1.61	2.12	2.17					.....
Normals	0.34	0.50	0.99	2.75	3.41	4.16	3.90	3.16	2.20	1.58	0.54	0.63	24.39

MASON CITY

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1906 .....		.45	1.10	9.40			4.60	4.30	2.84	4.45	1.30	1.40	.....
1907 .....	.53	.65	.20			2.63		3.30	3.02	.50	.02	1.16	.....
1908 .....	.02	.25	.35	.30	2.03	4.83	5.47	2.10	2.77	2.50		.26	.....
1909 .....	.20	.45	.25	.53	1.81	1.20	4.66	2.49	1.66	1.20	1.30	1.85	17.60
1910	1.00	.05	.45	.62	3.39	4.29	1.32	5.86	1.64	0	.15	1.05	19.82
1911 .....	.15	.60	1.04	3.48	3.32	.92	6.38	2.02	2.25	4.00	.16	.52	24.84
1912 .....	.82	.30	2.80	1.60		1.38	3.53	1.87	3.25	.95	.10	.40	.....
1913 .....	.45	1.02	2.22	1.94	1.75	2.03	2.92	1.58	2.13	.20	.65	5.65	22.54
1914 .....	.10	1.02	1.23	1.92	1.42	8.23	.46	1.61	.75	.61	0	.86	18.21
1915	1.30	2.27	2.88	4.20	4.40	8.38	7.60	2.03	3.60	.70	.52	.94	38.82
1916 .....	.88	.40	.42	.86	2.27	2.40	1.11	.85	1.65	.90	.40	.85	12.99
1917 .....	.58	.35	1.21	4.25	4.45	1.85	.90	.70	1.22	.10	.72	.40	16.73
1918	1.29	.60	.09	.80			1.69	1.65					.....
Normals .....	.55	.66	1.10	2.64	3.42	4.06	1.65	2.77	2.56	1.61	0.48	0.97	24.83

BROKEN BOW

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
Mean Temp...	23.8	24.9	34.4	47.8	58.8	68.8	73.5	71.8	62.8	49.5	37.2	26.8	.....
Highest Temp.	78	78	85	94	110	102	102	101	106	92	75	80	110
Lowest Temp.	-25	-36	-10	9	19	33	40	36	22	10	-11	-27	-36

CALLAWAY

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
Mean Temp...	24.4	24.5	36.9	48.5	58.2	68.1	73.6	72.4	62.7	51.0	38.5	27.3	.....
Highest Temp.	66	75	87	93	97	105	106	103	102	95	78	74	106
Lowest Temp.	-30	-36	-10	5	21	32	40	35	21	11	-12	-28	-36



[Photo by S. D. Batchelor]

A MORNING HUNT ON THE MIDDLE LOUP IN CUSTER COUNTY

The hunter is Mr. A. Pulliam, a crack shot, as can be seen by the two coyotes strapped behind his saddle

CHAPTER III

IN THE DAYS OF CATTLE

RANCHES ARE LOCATED — BIG PROFITS — LIFE WITH THE COWBOYS — WOMEN WERE SCARCE — A STAMPEDE — THE ROUNDUP — A ROUNDUP OF ROUNDUPS — CATTLE MEN VERSUS SETTLERS — A NEAR BATTLE — AN UNDERGROUND RAILROAD — THE WILD WEST HAS WILD HORSES

When the white man found this location the prairies were covered with buffalo, deer, elk, and antelope, while the prairie chickens, grouse, wild duck, and goose were found in great abundance. This was nature's suggestion that the country was suited to stock-raising and poultry production, and the demonstration of the years since has justified the prediction. In the early days of Custer county, cattle raising was the only occupation. It indeed was a profitable industry. As early as 1869 the great advantages of this country attracted attention of the cattlemen of the south and east. The territory, well grassed and well watered, was very attractive.

Texas was then the greatest breeding ground for cattle and horses in the United States and probably in the world, but it was railroadless and without means of transportation. Cattlemen were compelled to trail their stock across many hundred miles of prairie to find a railroad shipping point. At that time Ogallala, in western Nebraska, was the shipping point for all the adjacent plains to the south, including the Panhandle territory and all northern Texas. Cattle were brought to this point in such numbers that at times it was estimated more than a hundred thousand head grazed on the surrounding ranges, awaiting shipment. These cattle were sometimes held for months. Grass ranges were in demand.

During these long waits the cattle were frequently allowed to range over the divide,

on the north into the South Loup valley, and thus the Texans and southern cattlemen discovered that their herds could live and keep fat all winter on the rich, luxurious grasses which they found here in great abundance. The fame of the South Loup valley spread among cattlemen. They investigated. They found plenty of grass of different varieties, among which was an abundance of buffalo grass, best adapted for winter pasture. They found hills and breaks that afforded shelter from the winter storms. They found an abundance of running water in open streams, and all these advantages combined to make it an ideal cattle country, into which cattlemen were not long in driving their herds.

RANCHES ARE LOCATED

At this late day it is almost impossible to be accurate about dates or the order in which cattlemen settled in the country. At that time all was government land and the stockmen came in and appropriated their ranges. They set up land marks and made claims for so many miles of prairie in this direction and that direction until they had assured themselves of plenty of territory. Ranges often overlapped, herds became mixed, but that made small difference. Some few erected fences but for the most part herds ran at large. Concerning dates and settlements, the following is given upon the authority of Judge H. M. Sullivan:

In the winter of 1869 and 1870 one Captain



A RANCH SCENE ON THE SOUTH LOUP — THE OLD BRIGHTON RANCH

[Photo by S. D. Batchelor]

Streeter for the first time wintered cattle in the territory now comprising Custer county. On Ash creek, a short distance south of Broken Bow, he turned out in the fall 821 cattle, of which 385 were yearlings. They were all Texas cattle; the following spring he rounded up 819, a loss of only two head.

In 1872 E. J. Boblits came into the South Loup country, located a range on what is now known as Tuckerville and stocked it heavily with cattle. Boblits has since acquired the title of judge, through efficient occupancy of the office of county judge, to which he was several times elected. He is one of the few stockmen who is still in the country occupying the same location. In fact, he claims the distinction of being the oldest continual resident of the county. He also claims to have built the first frame house in the county.

The Boblits family is still living on part of the ranch, in a magnificent country home where generous southern hospitality is still on exhibition.

Childs B. Harrington, H. C. Stuckey, and Anton Abel located ranches shortly after this in the eastern half of the South Loup valley. About the same time Williams and Kilgore and John Myers located in the same region, a little more to the south.

In 1872 John Harrington came from Texas and located a ranch on the South Loup, eight miles northwest of Callaway in the region of Triumph. He brought in about two thousand head of cattle and built three cedar-log houses. These houses were built in true southern fashion, with the passways between them roofed.

A cattle ranch was established by Nimrod Caple and Manly, his son, in 1875, on the head of Spring creek, where bursts forth from the side of a steep hill one of the largest and purest springs in the country. Mr. Caple sold out his cattle and left in 1876. In his departure many a settler rejoiced, for his cattle were always doing some damage to crops. Mr. Caple always offered to pay, but invariably carried a fifty-dollar bill, which none of his neighbors could ever "bust." He always, in this way, got his cattle, but the farmer seldom got any pay.

In 1876 Edward Holway and J. D. Haskell occupied the same ranch formerly located by Harrington, and this ranch was afterwards sold to the Parker Live Stock Company of Illinois. The range claimed by those owning this ranch was the South Loup valley from Triumph west to Cedar canyon and the territory north adjoining.

The Parker Live Stock Company first came to the county in 1876. It located its headquarters at a point about two miles west of Callaway, and claimed as its range what is now known as Sand valley and the territory lying south and west. This company began with 1,500 head of cattle, and J. J. Douglass, afterward clerk of the district court of this county, was the manager.

In 1876 Durfee & Gasman located a ranch a short distance north of Callaway on the north side of the Loup, at what is known as the Big Spring, on the farm now owned by N. M. Morgan, and they began business with 3,000 steers.

W. H. Paxton, of Omaha, in 1876, located a ranch a short distance southeast of Callaway, on the Cottonwood, with 2,000 cattle.

In 1878 Durfee & Gasman bought out the Paxton ranch and consolidated it with their ranch on the opposite side of the river. The range they claimed after the consolidation was the large valley about Callaway, the Wood River valley and the valley of the Cottonwood.

In 1876 Arnold & Ritchie located a ranch on the Loup, a short distance east of Arnold, with 1,000 cattle.

In 1877 Henry Brothers located another ranch, west of Arnold, with 3,000 cattle.

Some time previously to this, the afterward famous Olive Brothers located a ranch on the Dismal river, in Blaine county. Later, in the fall of 1877, without giving up the Dismal river ranch, they moved headquarters to the South Loup and established a ranch which included a good many thousand acres of South Loup valley and included Spring creek and Turner valley. They claimed to have, in all, something like fifteen thousand head of cattle,

but those who had opportunity to know, doubted their holdings were so extensive.

In 1875 N. H. Dryden, now of Kearney, located a range on Victoria creek, settled there and brought with him about 100 head of cattle.

In 1876 Thomas Loughran and I. Childs each entered land on the river, near the Dryden ranch, and also began raising cattle.

The same year Frank Ewing located a ranch in the Middle Loup valley, near where Milburn now is, with 600 head of cattle.

In 1878 Smith & Tee located on the north side of the Middle Loup river, not far from the ranch of Ewing. They turned out about 800 head of cattle.

In 1879 Finch-Hatten Brothers located a ranch on the Loup, just below the mouth of the Dismal, with 700 head of cattle.

Shortly afterward Miles & Gamlin followed with 1,600 head of cattle, locating not far from the ranch of Finch-Hatten Brothers.

Other cattlemen came into the country during these times of whom it is impossible to get much reliable data. Among these were the Finlen Brothers, Rankin Live Stock Company, and others. The Finlen Brothers remained in the country for years. Thomas Finlen is still a resident.

The cattlemen met with no reverses until the winter of 1880-81.

At this late date it is impossible to know accurately, the number of cattle in Custer county in the summer of 1880, but there were probably very nearly 60,000 head of cattle, of the value of not less than \$1,500,000. The greater part of these cattle had been reared or brought into the county after the year 1875.

BIG PROFITS

Probably in the settlement of the United States no agricultural or grazing territory of a similar area witnessed such a rapid accumulation of wealth. Up to the winter of 1880-81 the profits from the business had exceeded the most sanguine expectations of the ranchman.

The winters were mild and pleasant, with plenty of moisture during the springs and

summers. The buffalo grass upon the hills each year made a splendid growth. During the spring and summer the cattle did not graze upon this grass, for there was plenty of blue-stem, grama, and rye grass in the valleys and lagoons. But with the advent of freezing weather the cattle at once went to the hills to feed upon the buffalo grass. No more valuable winter forage exists than buffalo grass properly cured. Cattle fed upon the best of wild hay will not be in better condition in the spring than those which have wintered upon buffalo grass. In the economy of nature this grass seems to have been created and brought forth especially for winter feed. The thousands of buffaloes that originally roamed this country and made it their winter home lived upon this grass during the winter; hence the name.

In those days there was a greater profit in buying young Texas steers and holding them, than in raising calves. Yearling steers brought here from Texas could be bought at from five to six dollars per head; two-year-old for nine dollars; three-year-old from twelve to fourteen dollars; cows from ten to twelve dollars.

These same steers, kept on Custer county range for from eighteen months to two years, would sell from twenty-five to forty and forty-five dollars per head.

For a number of years no taxes were levied against the cattle. No investment in real estate was necessary. The cedar canyons furnished material for houses, corrals, and fuel. There was no expense for fencing or wells. The increase in value was nearly all profit. The only important items of expense in the business were supplies for and wages to the cowboys. They received thirty-five to forty dollars per month.

LIFE WITH THE COWBOYS

It would be hard to give a better portrayal of the experiences, hardships, and danger to which the cowboys were subjected in the early days than that written by J. D. Haskell, of Arnold, who is now a prominent rancher and stockman of the South Loup region:

"In those days big cattle-owners thought

that if they furnished a tent for their men to sleep in it would be too much luxury and would make life with the herd altogether too easy. They figured that men would be slow to leave the tent on stormy nights and look after the cattle. On the roundup and on the trail cattle always had to be night-herded. The cattle that had been gathered during the day were never left for a moment until they were back on the owner's range. Night shifts were necessary. The first shift rode around the cattle until eleven o'clock. The second from eleven until two, and the third from two o'clock until after breakfast. These reliefs were composed of from one to four men, according to the size of the herd. In the spring, through the months of April and May, a good deal of rain generally fell and not infrequently there was snow and blizzards. It was often cloudy and drizzly for three or four days at a time. The cowboys were compelled to make their beds on the wet ground, and very often a heavy rain would come on in the night and they would find themselves lying in a sheet of water. In such cases there was nothing to do but get up and lean against the wagon or saddle horse until morning.

"With daylight, work would begin and no opportunity was offered through the day to dry clothing and bedding. When night came on again there was nothing to do but turn into wet blankets.

"No stove was furnished with the cook wagon. Bread was baked in a 'dutch oven,' and other food in skillets. Frequently there was no time to eat breakfast. It always seemed strange that the men, compelled as they were constantly to endure this exposure, escaped contracting fatal diseases.

WOMEN WERE SCARCE

"On a regular cattle ranch no women were to be found. There was always a man to do the cooking. Those who sampled cattle-ranch hospitality claim that the cooks were almost experts.

"Ranchmen and cowboys, like most other

members of class occupation, were clannish and stuck together in protection of each others' interests. They were generous to a fault among themselves and to any one needy, but for an outsider to mingle in their business was not altogether healthy exercise.

A STAMPEDE

"In 1877 three men and a cook were holding a band of 1,000 Texas steers on the Muddy, where Broken Bow now stands. They had to night-herd the cattle every night. They saw only one man pass during the three months they were there. They received no mail and had nothing to read. As they were all young men who had been reared in the far east they experienced a lonely time, shut in from the outside world.

"The last of September the owner sent a man to direct them to move the cattle to the ranch near where Callaway now is, that they might be taken from there to Lexington and shipped to Chicago. The first night after the start for the ranch they camped about seven miles west of where they had held the cattle. The early part of the night was beautiful. All the boys but the night-herder had turned in and for the first time in three months were enjoying sleep under a roof.

"About ten o'clock the man out with the cattle observed a black, angry cloud moving up from the north. He rode to the tent, called to the other men to hurry up and help hold the cattle. They got up slowly, grumbling. However, as soon as they looked out and saw what a terrible storm was coming, they rushed for their horses, but before they could saddle and mount, the storm had struck them.

"In the meantime the watcher had hurried back to the cattle. He had almost reached the head of the herd when the storm broke. The darkness was intense. A terrible wind drove the rain in sheets. The entire herd jumped to their feet as one steer and started on a wild stampede before the storm. And oh, such a night!

"The instant the cattle started, the boy was also gone like a shot along the side of the

herd. For more than a mile he ran beside the herd, over chop hills, across canyons, trying to get in the lead of the steers.

"The roar of 4,000 hoof beats, mingled with the constant crash of thunder, made it a race never to be forgotten. The cattle could only be seen by the rider at the flash of the lightning, which was so dazzling as almost to blind his eyes. Time and again the wiry pony was on his knees, but almost instantly up and going again.

"Gradually the pony gained upon the leaders and the rider held him in against them. They began to swerve from their straight course before the storm. Gradually he brought them to running in a circle, then as he closed in nearer the outside cattle the circle became smaller and smaller until they were at a standstill.

"The storm ended as suddenly as it began. Shortly his companions were there and the cattle were driven back to the tent and held until morning, when, on a count of the herd, it was found twenty-five were missing. These were found later—not far from where the cattle were stopped the night before—lying upon the hillside and resting from their terrible run.

"The point where that stampede was stopped was at what is now the Charles Jeffords farm at the foot of the Big Table."

THE ROUNDUP

Prior to the winter of 1880-81 very little hay was prepared for winter use. The cattle wintered on the range where they summered. During the winter the cattle were permitted to roam wherever they felt inclined, and no attention was paid to them.

The work of handling the cattle began with the spring roundup, about the first of May, and closed with the last shipment of cattle to market in the fall, which was about the first of November.

The cowboys, after the long, idle winter, looked forward to the spring roundup with the same desire that the soldier, after months in the barracks, longs for active duty in the field and for battle. As the time for beginning

of the roundup drew near the cowboy would be found busily engaged in washing his clothing and blankets; his saddle and bridle were cleaned and oiled; bits, spurs, and six-shooters were polished; and saddle ponies were curried and given extra feed and attention.

Among these men was found that same diversity of character, temperament, energy, and intelligence common to mankind everywhere. A reputation for courage was a necessary requisite to good standing in cowboy society. He who could display the greatest recklessness, or assume the role of the greatest daredevil, stood foremost and was the leader of that society.

This desire for notoriety among his fellows led the cowboy into many serious difficulties and gave rise to the general opinion that he was without feeling or regard for the rights of others and was naturally cruel. This opinion was erroneous. His recklessness and occasional cruelty were not the natural products of his nature but were rather, in most instances, assumed in a spirit of bravado. As a rule, the cowboy was true to his friends, and with him it was a religious principle to stand by and never desert a friend in a "tight place."

In the general roundup in the spring, all cattlemen having cattle upon the territory to be covered took part. Sometimes as many as one hundred men worked together. A captain was selected, and he directed the men. Cook wagons were provided and these were kept convenient to the men at work on the range.

Each day cattle found were driven to a point selected by the captain, where the calves were branded and the cattle of the different owners were "cut out" from the others and driven back to the range of the owner, and so work went on from week to week until all the territory where it was probable cattle of those engaged in the roundup could be found, was covered.

After this roundup was completed each ranchman again covered his own range, branded the calves found there, and again, later in the summer, when the steers had become fat, the range was again gone over, and

those in condition for the market were cut out and driven to the railroad and shipped.

A ROUNDUP OF ROUNDUPS

After the South Loup spring roundup was finished the cowboys who had been riding the ranges for from four to six weeks would mount their horses and hike for North Platte, where they would meet the riders from the North Platte roundup, and then would be held a roundup of roundups that made history of its own. On these occasions there would assemble from two to three hundred men, with from five to seven hundred saddle horses. Each ranch outfit represented would have a crack shot, a foot racer, a boxer, a race horse, a bucking broncho, and all these would be trotted out in their turns and matched against the rivals of the other ranches. Defeats and victories were both celebrated by drinks for the crowd. These celebrations lasted as long as the cowboys' money held out. Associated at different times in these lusty carnivals were such characters as Buck Taylor, Major North, John Shores, and Buffalo Bill, all of whom had race horses of their own and were always ready to back them up with all the money they could get their hands on.

CATTLEMEN VERSUS SETTLERS

As early as 1874 settlers began coming in—that is, a few adventuresome spirits drifted into the Middle and South Loup countries and a settlement or two was made in the eastern section of the county and also in the New Helena district. They came in slowly at first and their coming was not encouraged by the cattlemen, who saw that the homesteader would sooner or later absorb his range and supplant stock-raising and grazing with farming and stock-raising on the farmer's scale. He was naturally averse to this, and the reckless cowboys, who understood that with the going of the large herd would go their occupation and employment, never put themselves out to make things attractive and pleasant for the settler. One writer says:

A very bitter feeling existed between those engaged in the two occupations; neither was

fair nor just with the other. The weaker was compelled to give way to the stronger. There were a hundred homesteaders to every ranchman. A few of the more courageous cattlemen made a struggle to hold their ranges. They fenced in large tracts of territory, constructed wells in these pastures, and the cowboys in their employ made homestead, pre-emption, and timber-culture entries therein, under the government land laws.

Frame shacks or shanties were constructed, called by the cowboys, in their application and final proof, houses. These were in many instances upon runners or wheels and were moved from claim to claim. The same shanty oftentimes answered the purpose of a house in making final proof for three or four cowboys upon as many different claims. But all this was of no avail to the ranchman. The homesteader made entries within his pasture. He contested and had cancelled the claims of the cowboy. He cut and destroyed the fences. Bloodshed and murder were in some instances the result. In the courts the ranchman had but little hope of success. In his controversy with the homesteader he must try his case before a jury of homesteaders.

A NEAR-BATTLE

Early in the fall of 1884 a few settlers located homesteads in the northeast corner of the Brighton Ranch Company's pasture, on Ash creek. This pasture was about fifteen miles square and extended several miles south of the Loup river almost to Broken Bow, and was inclosed with a wire fence. The land being government land, and subject to entry, these settlers served notice on the ranch company to remove their fences from about their claims within thirty days. The company paid no attention to this request, and at the expiration of the time the settlers made a raid on the fence and appropriated the posts to make roofs for their sod houses. Roofs in those days were made by laying a large log, called a ridge log, lengthwise of the building at the top. The fence posts were then laid up to form the rafters, to which brush was fastened, the whole being covered with one or two layers of prairie sod, coated with several inches of yellow clay, procured from the canyons, which turned water very effectually.

In a short time after the appropriation of these posts the foreman of the ranch had the



A TYPICAL CATTLE SCENE IN EARLY DAYS

[Photo by S. D. Buehler]

settlers arrested and taken to Broken Bow for trial. The sheriff had no sooner departed with the prisoners than the second foreman of the ranch rigged up two large wagons, drawn by four mules each, and proceeded to the houses of the settlers, accompanied by a number of the cowboys. They drove up to a house, took a team and a large chain, hitched on to the projecting end of the ridge log, and in about three seconds the sod house was a shapeless mass of sod, hay, brush, and posts mixed up in almost inextricable confusion. The ranchmen then culled their posts from the wreck and loaded them into the wagons, when they went to the next house and repeated the operation, leaving the occupants to pick their few household goods out of the ruins at their leisure. The boys were having great fun at the expense of the settlers, cracking jokes and making merry as the work of destruction went on. After destroying several houses in this manner they proceeded to the claim of a Mr. King, and Mrs. King, seeing them approaching, met them with a shotgun and dared them to come on. Had it been Mr. King, the invitation would possibly have been accepted, but the cowboys were too gallant to enter into a quarrel with a lady, and withdrew without molesting her.

In the meantime a boy of the settlement had been despatched to Broken Bow, on the fastest pony that could be procured, to secure help, and quite a posse of men from the town started for the scene of action. The foreman of the ranch, who was in Broken Bow at the time as complaining witness against the settlers, heard of this and sent one of his cowboys in haste to warn the second foreman of the impending invasion. The messenger arrived at the settlement in advance of the citizens and gave the alarm. The housewreckers were thoroughly scared, and, turning the heads of their mule teams toward the South Loup, applied the whip freely. As the mules began to run over the rough prairie the posts began to fall off the wagons, and as the teams began to show signs of weariness the cowboys began to heave off more posts to lighten the load as they bumped along, leaving

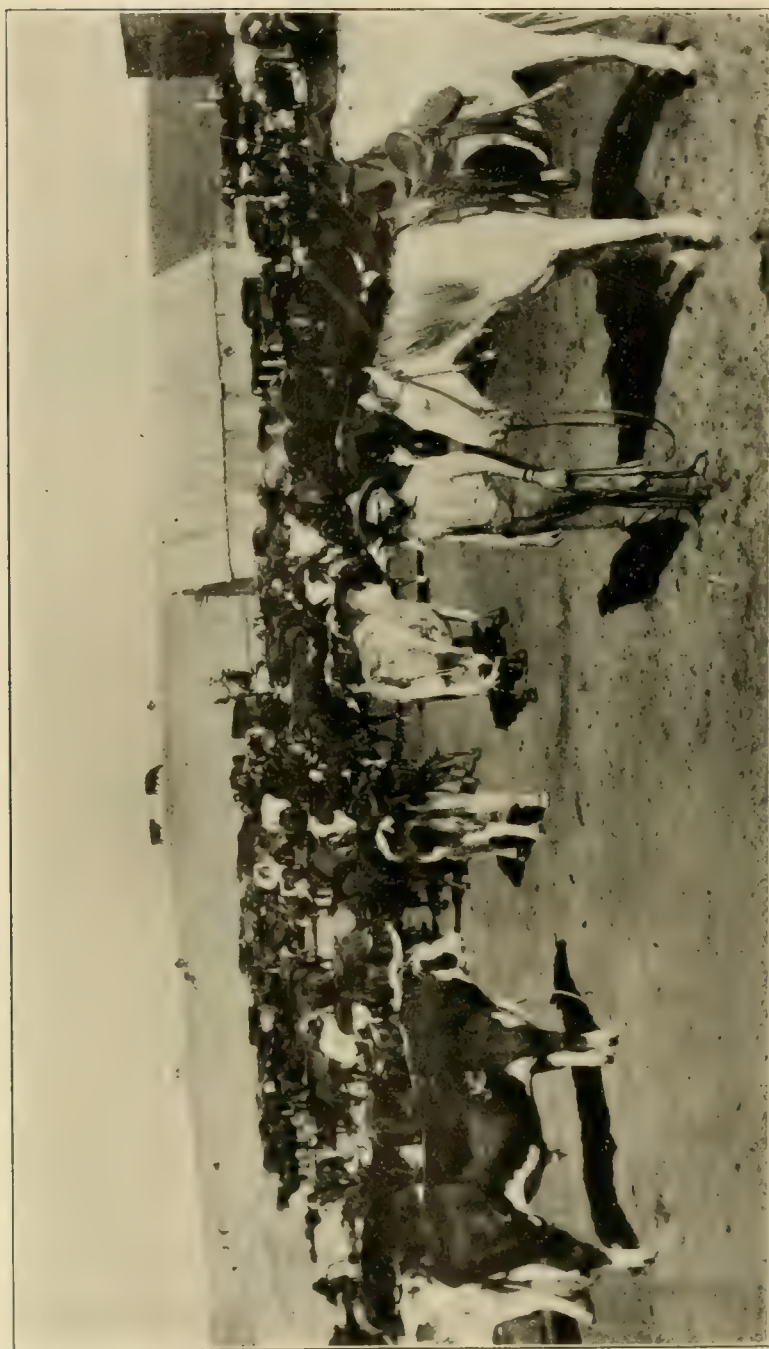
a trail behind them like that of a railroad construction gang. Arriving at the ranch, they turned out their mules, secured their Winchesters and made a break for the hills on the south side of the river, to await developments. When the posse of rescuers arrived at the little settlement and found the invaders gone, they did not follow them, but returned to Broken Bow. The cowboys remained in the hills two days, waiting for the approach of the enemy in vain.

The ranch company failed to make any case against the settlers, it being shown that the ranch pasture was government land and that the claims were lawfully held by the homesteaders, who had a perfect right to remove the fence which inclosed their property. The prisoners were accordingly released and were not again molested. The second foreman of the ranch was subsequently arrested for tearing down the houses of the settlers, was tried at Broken Bow, found guilty, fined twenty-five dollars and costs, and confined one day in the county jail.

The winter of 1880-81 marked the termination of extraordinary profits in the cattle industry in Custer county. The severe winter entailed frightful losses upon cattlemen. Some whole herds were wiped out of existence. This opened the door to the settlers, who were not slow to flock in and settle in all parts of the county, picking out, of course, the choice and level land without regard to whether it was in some ranchman's range. By the close of 1884 there were fully 18,000 people in Custer county, and probably not to exceed 4,000 cattle.

As the ranchman and the Texas steer in the '60s and early '70s had driven out the Indian and the buffalo, so now in the '80s the ranchman and the steer were compelled to give way to the farmer and the horse.

It may be well to record here one more incident which illustrates the kind of war waged in those days between settler and rancher. In 1875 Frederick Schreyer located a homestead about five miles up the river from where Callaway now stands. His only neighbors were cowboys, and peace and harmony



[Photo by S. D. Butcher]

CATTRAN AND SANDERS CATTLE RANCH ON MIDDLE LOUP

did not prevail in his neighborhood. He was not given a welcome reception. No bands played in his honor. There were presented no testimonials expressing the pleasure of the ranchmen and cowboys because he had moved in. In order to discourage the lone homesteader, the festive cow-punchers stampeded their herds over the roof of his dugout, and herded their steers in his cornfield. When he resorted to arms to defend himself he was arrested and put into jail. But Schreyer was an indomitable spirit and not easily put down. His career, however, was so marked in the early days that it is given another place on these pages.

The last cowboy has disappeared from the South Loup country, from the Middle Loup, and from other parts of Custer county that were once covered with cattle. The plucky pioneers, however, who paved the way for others to follow, are still with us, for the most part, full of years and honors, living in the enjoyment of the fruits of their toil.

AN UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

The following story, told by Robert Harvey, describing a discovery made in the South Loup country in July, 1872, by himself and surveying party, seems to disclose the "main line" of the famous "underground railroad," over which a great number of valuable horses, and perhaps other property, passed through the county in the days of the early '70s.

"During the last days of July we completed all but six miles of lines south of the fourth standard parallel and camped at the corner of townships 15 and 16 north, ranges 23 and 24 west, near the northeast edge of a beautiful round, flat valley, located on what is now the line between Triumph and Delight precincts. The depression, is, no doubt, a very remote lake-bed or basin formed by the rocking of an ancient iceberg.

"In the afternoon we started north on the last six miles of the range line of this part of the work and ascended the long, grassy south slope of a high hill or promontory. After considerable labor and fatigue, we reached

the summit of the clean-cut northeast rim. The diagonal descent along the steep northeast slope was attained with considerable difficulty, and having reached the bottom I found that the bluffs' dark shadows cast far out into the valley, rendering farther progress that evening impossible. We proceeded to camp, which we found on the right bank of the South Loup river.

"Next morning we resumed the work of projecting our abandoned line northward, and at the half-mile corner between sections 13 and 18 we crossed a small spring brook having its source in springs under the east slope of the high bluff. A little farther north we ascended an elevated clay spur formed by the river on the north and the little brook on the southeast. The bluff terminated a little east of our line in a low bottom covered with wild hemp and sunflowers.

"Crossing this spur, I noticed a deeply cut wagon track, which appeared to have been made in soft wet ground and then grass grown, which excited my curiosity, and turning down the trail a few yards I came upon a cowbell and a spring of a wagon spring-seat, common to that period. Descending to the low bench I passed to the left along the foot of the spur and near its point suddenly came upon the door of a cave which was set flush with the perpendicularly cut bank.

"Pushing open the door, I entered a room containing a fireplace at the north end, a single sleeping bunk at the south end and an old rough-board table. Evidently it was the kitchen, dining room, reception hall, parlor, and cook's sleeping room. Passing through a door in the partition I entered a large room which had feed stalls arranged along the north side and west end, and sleeping bunks along the south side. Some shelled corn was scattered about and a copy of Harper's Weekly of the previous June lay on the floor.

"On the outside we searched in the grass and weeds for signs of occupancy, but found no tracks or paths leading to the river or creek, but at the water's edge of the brook found a block about three feet long, cut from



Photo by S. D. Butler
Rounding up a nice bunch of "White Faces" on the McDowsey Ranch, South Loup River, near Georgetown, Nebraska, 1904

a cottonwood and pegged with forked stakes to hold it fast so one could stand upon it and dip water from the brook.

"The discovery of such an abode, far from any settlement, and in an Indian infested country where hunters had not yet ventured, was remarkable. It brought to my recollections a story I had heard repeated in Benton county, Iowa, three years before. The story ran that a young man of the neighborhood had gone west in 1866 or 1867, and joined a band of horse thieves whose 'runway' was from Mexico to the British possessions. The party with which he worked operated in Nebraska and perhaps Dakota Territory.

"One of the stations along the route was in a cave on a branch of the Loup river and near the foot of a high, dark hill, with pine timber growing along the bluffs and a little stream of spring water flowing past the mouth of the cave. Their next station was two days' ride from this cave and located in a forest of pine and cedar in the canyons of the Loup river.

"The story seems to describe this place. Here was a cave on the right bank of a branch of the Loup, with a small spring brook only a few yards away. There was a high, dark, frowning hill nearby, while scattering pine timber grew along the bluffs on the opposite side of the river, and about seventy-five miles to the northeast, about two days' ride, were the cedar and pine-wooded canyons of the North Loup below the mouth of the Calamus river. All of the details of the story dovetailed exactly with the place.

"In the latter part of September I was operating north of the parallel and on the 30th pitched my camp on the long, high mesa, or table-land, west of where Broken Bow is now located. Being almost destitute of water in the afternoon, I sent two men with the light wagon to the south branch and gave instructions to fill the barrels that evening and return early next morning. It was about seven miles to the river and six to our initial point on the parallel for the survey of the line between ranges 23 and 24 west, township 17 north.

"On our way to the initial point we came to

the south edge of the high undulating table-land about three miles south of camp, when we halted to scan the country. We expected to find evidence of two surveying parties operating south of us, who should be near the close of their work and about ready to return to their homes. We had brought with us a lot of written mail, hoping we might send it with them.

"We scanned the country south, east, and west, and finally observed a bright spot far up the river. It looked like the reflection from a bright surface, and a dark object loomed near it. To ascertain if it was moving I directed the instrument towards it and made out that it was moving down the valley.

"After watching the object for a time we concluded it was a wagon. But our curiosity was excited when we discovered that only one or two men were walking and several rode in the wagon, which was a very unusual thing for surveyors to do when traveling over the prairie. The bright spot we had seen was the reflected sunlight from the bright tire of the hind wheel. The wagon proceeded down the valley and halted on the clay spur where our cave of July was found. Here the horses were turned out and the men passed from sight over the end of the spur.

"It was now quite late and my suspicions were thoroughly aroused, and being anxious for the safety of the teamster, who had not returned from the river, and the team, I determined to go to their relief. Sending a man to camp, we hurried to the river and reached it at dark, just as the wagon arrived. The men were entirely ignorant of the presence of strangers and surprised at the suspected character of their very nearby neighbors. Giving directions for guard duty during the night, Charley Starkweather and I walked along the bank, perhaps a hundred yards, and yelled several times without receiving an answer, then fired two shots, which brought a feeble voice inquiring what we wanted. We told him we were surveyors and had lost our way to camp, that we were hungry and tired and wanted accommodations for the night. The fellow told us they were strangers in the

country and poorly provided, so could not entertain us. We told him there was plenty of room in the cave and we would come over.

"Fording the river, we followed him to the dugout, which it really was, and instead of there being three or four men, there were sixteen. After explaining who we were and our business we asked for supper and a place to sleep. We tried to be friendly and agreeable, but none of the men would talk except

equally strange to us that so many men were there, far from settlements, in an Indian country. They claimed to be hunters, yet, in a splendid game country, they had gotten only one or two deer in a week and were poorly supplied with bedding and food.

"Without supper, we lay down on a blanket before the fire-place, but each of us quietly slipped a cartridge into his gun and each took a turn on guard, feigning to be asleep. At break of day we quietly slipped out, and,



THE OLD BLACK RANCH ON DEER CREEK

one about fifty years old who appeared to be the spokesman and leader. He said they were hunters, had been there about a week, had killed only one or two deer, and were out of provisions, excepting a little coffee. A team and two men had gone that morning to Plum Creek station on the Union Pacific railroad for provisions, but had not returned, therefore they could not feed us.

"It seemed very strange to us that one man should do all the talking for the gang and he refused to tell us where they were from, except that he came from Iowa. It seemed

on going around the south side of the spur, saw two fine black horses and a new top buggy. I have been told by some of the early settlers that this was the rendezvous or hiding place of Doc Middleton; but Doc had not gained notoriety in 1872, nor do I think he had gone into the rustling business then. If this was the cave, or station, attributed to the young man in Iowa, which I have every reason to believe it to be, Doc Middleton and he were one and the same person. Doc Middleton was only a boy when the cave was occupied by the horsethieves."

THE WILD WEST HAS WILD HORSES

Dan Haskell, who came to Custer county before its organization, and who had to do with its development as much as any other man, gives this interesting account of a wild horse hunt in the county:

"A correspondent of the *Chicago Drovers' Journal* says: 'I have seen the stag hunt in Scotland and the steeple chase in Ireland, but compared with a wild-horse hunt on the Haskell & Company ranch in Nebraska, these are tame sports.'

"In the summer of 1884, we had a herd of six hundred horses on our ranch. One evening about sundown we were driving them across a small bridge when they became frightened and commenced to run. This raised a dense cloud of dust, which added to the fright of the animals, causing them to stampede, break through a fence on either side, and kill five of them, the balance of the herd flying in every direction into the hills. During the night they became mixed up with a herd of wild horses, of which there were large numbers roaming over this country at that time. One would naturally suppose that the wild horse could outstrip his domesticated brother in a long race, but in separating our stampeded herd from the wild ones we discovered that such is not the case. The domesticated horse, being better bred, proved to have superior powers of endurance. As the wild horse has long ago disappeared from Custer county, a short description of his habits and the manner of hunting may be interesting to the reader.

"Wild horses roamed over the prairie in small bands, each led by a stallion, who was the head of the family. The first business of the hunter was to shoot these band stallions, which would cause the mares and colts of that family to unite themselves with another band. By repeating the operation of shooting the leading stallions quite a bunch of horses would soon be gathered together, the object being to chase as many down at once as possible. Having gone thus far, the work of the hunter has just begun. When pursued, we found that wild horses always traveled in a circle, and that they would eventually get

back to the place from which they started. After getting a bunch of the required size together, by shooting the stallions as described, our next move was to establish camps along the course we concluded the animals would run, with a man at each station to take care of the saddle horses, which were used in relays. Two men, well mounted, then started the herd of wild horses, and crowded them to their utmost limit, giving them time neither to eat nor rest until they were completely run down, and would permit themselves to be corralled. It usually took about five days of constant motion to accomplish this, although sometimes a herd would succumb in two or three days. Whenever we reached a relay camp our saddle horses were changed, thus keeping the wild horses on the constant move day and night. The long race generally broke the old ones down so that they were seldom of any use afterward, but the young ones seemed little the worse for their chase after a few days' rest.

"Occasionally we would start a bunch led by an old stallion that would, when pushed hard, start out and run for fifty miles in one direction, taking us away from our camps altogether and compelling us often to ride a hundred miles without a change of horses. At intervals in the chase one or more of the wild horses would drop back, not able to keep up with the flying herd. These were always roped, thrown, and hobbled, so that we could return and get them after the main bunch had been run down. We had a one-armed man on our ranch, by the name of Jim Hunnell, who could rope and hobble a wild horse with the best of them. With one end of his lariat tied to the horn of his saddle, he would take the bridle-rein in his teeth, and, holding the coil and loop both in his hand, would catch and throw his horse every time, putting on the hobbles by using his hand and teeth. Those who have tried to rope a wild horse and hobble him with two good hands will appreciate the work done by Jim Hunnell. The most favorable time to chase wild horses was when there was snow on the ground, as we could then follow the trail much easier dur-

ing the night. We carried small, dark-lanterns with us, to be used when it would be impossible to follow the trail without them. We would sometimes be caught by a blizzard, in the middle of a chase, and be obliged to give up and get back to the camp as best we could. In February, 1883, my brother and myself started out to catch a small bunch of eleven horses headed by a fine roan stallion. One of the neighbors had been catching the colts for two seasons. We had six good saddle horses with us, expecting to locate them at two different points along the course we thought the wild horses would take, but when we reached our friend's house he said he had chased the bunch several times and they took a circle only of ten or twelve miles, so we left our extra horses at his place and set out with but one feed of corn and a lunch in our pockets. We soon located the herd, and away they went like the wind, the fine old roan stallion in the lead. When the old fellow found out that some one was after him that meant business, he struck off on a tangent at the top of his speed in a southwesterly direction. Late in the afternoon we struck the North Platte valley northwest of Ogallala. The roan then changed his course to northwest, and traveled at such a killing gait that, had it not been for the snow on the ground, we could hardly have been able to follow him. As we neared the B. and M. Railroad, the snow became quite deep, and after the darkness came on we lighted our lanterns and followed the trail without any trouble. At three o'clock in the morning we concluded to stop and give our saddle horses a rest, as they had been ridden

hard all day and night, except when we had stopped to feed them the corn and to eat our lunch. We scraped a little round place in the snow, which was twelve inches deep, and lay down on the frozen ground together, holding our horses by the bridle reins. We were so cold our teeth chattered together, while our horses stood and shivered. As soon as daylight appeared we arose from our downy bed and rode up to the top of a high bluff, from which we discerned the wild horses huddled up in a small valley with their heads down, taking a much-needed rest. Hearing the bark of a dog, we proceeded in that direction and came to the ranch of Carl Gross, southwest of Lakeside, where we remained that day and the following night. We were both snow-blind. Early next morning, we took up the trail of the horses and followed them back to the place from which they had started. We procured fresh saddle horses, set out after them again, and two days later had the entire bunch in a corral at our home ranch. While in pursuit of this roan band, we sighted another herd of fourteen, headed by a fine brown horse, and next month gave them chase and had them corralled in two days. This was our last horse hunt.

"Wild horses have almost entirely disappeared from Nebraska, although it is said there are still a few small bands in the vicinity of Blue river. The writer has seen hundreds of them on Tallin Table in Custer county, and it was a grand sight to see the fat, sleek fellows watering at the pools, which stood there as late as the month of June, each leader herding his family to keep it from mixing with other herds."

CHAPTER IV

COUNTY ORGANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT

THE PROPOSED GARBER COUNTY — KOUNTZ COUNTY — GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION — FIRST COUNTY OFFICERS — FIRST MEETING OF SUPERVISORS — FIRST VOTING PLACES — FIRST ELECTION RESULTS — THE NEW OFFICERS — CUSTER COUNTY JUDGES — THE FIRST COUNTY ASSESSMENT — NAMES OF THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED AS COUNTY CLERKS — CLERKS OF DISTRICT COURT — COUNTY TREASURERS — REGISTERS OF DEEDS — COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS — OFFICIAL ROSTER OF CUSTER COUNTY — A NOTED SHERIFF — MULTIPLY VOTING PRECINCTS — THE LAST PRECINCT SUPERVISORS — THE NEW BOARD — BRAND COMMISSIONERS — COUNTY DIVISION — FIRST LAND DOCUMENTS — THE EVOLUTION OF THE COURT HOUSE — THE CUSTER COUNTY UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE — KINKAID BILL GOES INTO EFFECT — NEW LAW TAKES EFFECT — A QUIET AND ORDERLY CROWD — CROWD GETS A REST — THE LAND ENTRIES — OPENING OF THE MILITARY AND FOREST RESERVES — PERSONNEL OF THE NOTARIES — LETUP, STOP, OVER, AND REST

From the vast sweep of an almost endless prairie, entirely without human inhabitants, save marauding tribes of primitive red men, to a white population numerous enough to justify the organization of a county, is a far cry. Prior to June, 1877, the territory now comprised in Custer county covered all the distance between the uninhabited waste and the nucleus of organized government. Under early conditions the cattlemen or ranchers had been compelled to pay taxes to the organized counties on the east. They had no benefit from any taxes paid and no enforcement of the law. If lawless characters committed depredations, ran off or branded their stock, there was no recourse of law. Of course the cattlemen never expected that this would become an agricultural territory. It seemed evident to them that it would always be a range country and cattle-raising the chief industry; still, they must have some semblance of law, there must be some way provided to punish cattle thieves and, perhaps, a few schools would have to be established. In order to accomplish this, it was evident that county organization should be established and maintained.

County organization began to be talked over. Several meetings were held at different times for the purpose of taking steps toward organization. One of these meetings was held in the residence of Ne George, at which were present Frank Young, L. D. George, Coe Kilgore, and Joshua Woods. No action was taken, however, and in different places were held several other meetings, which were barren of results so far as effecting organization was concerned.

THE PROPOSED GARBER COUNTY

During the winter of 1875 a bill was introduced into the legislature, and passed by both houses, authorizing the organization of a county to be known as Garber county, comprising a territory of twenty-four miles square, lying immediately west of Valley county. It did not appear, however, that the proposed new county had enough inhabitants to support and maintain, through taxation, a county organization. So the proposition received the veto of Governor Garber. The governor's veto did not take into consideration the fact that the new county was named in his honor. The territory

included in the bill to create Garber county was about one-fourth of the present Custer county, and on the basis of the precinct organization would have included the precincts of Sargent, West Union, half of Milburn, most of Lillian, all of Garfield, Douglas Grove, Comstock, Spring Creek, Westerville, some of Berwyn, and about one-fourth of Broken Bow. The southwest corner of the county would have been located in the present townsite of Broken

how this name came to be applied or who was the first to apply it, is not known. The government, however, seems to have given some recognition to this cognomen. The early postoffices of the county were designated as being in Kountz county, Nebraska. This statement concerning the counties accounts for the conflicting opinion that prevails among early settlers concerning the first county names. Some state positively that Custer



Old cottonwood tree on the Anton Abel ranch, south of the Loup river, where was held the last meeting to effect county organization, in 1877. This meeting named the county and chose the officers who were later appointed by the governor. The only two survivors of that meeting are shown in the above picture and are J. J. Douglass and Al. Wise, both of Callaway.

Bow. Notwithstanding that the measure failed, the name Garber county attached to this territory until after the organization of the present county.

KOUNTZ COUNTY

Exclusive of that portion of the county which wanted to be organized into Garber county, all the rest of the unorganized territory west of Valley and Sherman counties was known as Kountz county, so named after Kountz brothers, wealthy bankers of Omaha. Just

county was first known as Garber county, others that it was first known as Kountz county and, in harmony with the above explanation, both are right.

NOW COMES CUSTER COUNTY

Agitation for the new county continued and finally culminated in the organization of Custer county. The taxpayers of the unorganized territory were growing continually more restless under the assessment of high taxes which they could pay but could not spend. This left

them, they declared, holding the hot end of the poker. Other organization meetings were held and the agitation kept up. Eight ranchmen met one day under a tree on the Frank H. Young place and took the preliminary steps toward organization. A later meeting at which thirteen ranchmen were present finally put the machinery in motion. This second meeting was held at the Anton Abel ranch. The first officers were recommended to the governor by the men in attendance at this meeting.

In the legislature of 1877, the Hon. J. H. McCall, of Dawson county, came to the rescue of these settlers and introduced in the legislature the following bill, which accordingly passed both houses and was signed by Governor Garber:

Be it enacted by the legislature of the State of Nebraska:

Section 1. That all that portion of the state of Nebraska, commencing at the southeast corner of township thirteen (13), north of range seventeen (17), west of the sixth principal meridian, thence north to the northeast corner of township twenty (20), north of range seventeen (17), west, thence west to the northwest corner of township twenty (20), north of range twenty-five west, thence south to the southwest corner of township thirteen (13), north of range twenty-five (25), west, thence east to beginning, shall constitute the county of Custer.

Approved February 17, 1877.

It is not known who is entitled to the distinction of naming the new county, but it was named "Custer" in honor of the gallant Indian fighter who perished with all his command at the memorable battle on the Little Big Horn the previous summer, 1876.

In May a petition was sent to Governor Garber, signed by most of the cattlemen of the county, asking for the appointment of temporary officers to complete the organization of the county, as follows:

To the Honorable Silas Garber,
Governor of the State of Nebraska:

We, the undersigned, inhabitants of Custer county, Nebraska, and taxpayers therein, petition you to appoint and commission James Gasmann, Anton Abel, and H. C. Stuckey as special county commissioners, and Frank H.

Young as special county clerk of said county for the purpose of forming a permanent organization for said county, and that you will appoint and declare the southeast quarter of section 23, in township 15 north, range 22 west, as the temporary county seat of said county, and for this we will ever pray.

(Signed)	Frank H. Young
James G. Gasmann	Emmett V. Filer
W. T. H. Tucker	Nate Fuller
H. C. Stuckey	J. J. Douglass
Denman Fritt	P. W. O'Brien
Phil Dufrand	A. B. Bradney
Anton Abel	W. W. Wattles
E. J. Boblits	I. O. Child
James Paxton	W. H. Kilgore
A. H. Wise	Joshua Wood
T. M. Jameson	S. C. Stuckey
Reginald McKee	Louis Wambsgan

STATE OF NEBRASKA

County of Dawson,

Personally appeared before me, a notary public in and for Dawson county, Nebraska, James P. Paxton, Frank H. Long, and James Gasmann, who, being duly sworn, depose and say that they are resident freeholders in the county of Custer and state of Nebraska, that such county contains a population of not less than two hundred inhabitants, and that ten or more of such inhabitants are taxpayers, and further they say not.

James P. Paxton
Frank H. Young
James Gasmann

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of May, 1877.

(Seal) H. O. Smith, Notary Public

The following letters and recommendations from prominent citizens of Dawson county were forwarded with the petition to the governor, and may be interesting as a part of this history:

Office of the Clerk of County and District Courts, Dawson County.

Plum Creek, Nebr., June 14, 1877.
His Excellency, Silas Garber,
Lincoln, Nebr.

Dear Sir—Several of the citizens of Custer county have been speaking to me about the organization of that county, and desire me to write to you about the matter. There is quite a large amount of personal property owned by the citizens of that territory, and under the present status it is under the control of no one. One-half of the county is in this judicial district, and the other in the

sixth. Mr. Young, a resident of that county, will call upon you for the purpose of seeing about the matter, and will explain the situation to you. I feel like accommodating them if it can be done. Please let me know the situation. Yours, etc., C. J. DILWORTH

Plum Creek, Nebr., June 23, 1877.

Governor Garber,
Lincoln, Nebr.

Sir—I am acquainted with a great many of the residents of Custer county and they all are very anxious to be in running order, and it would be a great help in stopping the cattle and horse stealing. I am personally acquainted for a long time with F. H. Young, and can recommend him in every respect.

R. F. JAMES, Sheriff Dawson county, Nebr.

We have read the statement of Mr. James and believe it true in every particular.

H. T. HEDGES, P. M.

E. S. STUCKEY, County Treasurer

H. O. SMITH, Deputy Sheriff

T. L. WARRINGTON, Attorney at Law

W. H. LENGEL, County Clerk

R. B. PIERCE, County Judge

Plum Creek, Nebr., June 23, 1877

Hon. Silas Garber,
Lincoln, Nebr.

Dear Sir—Enclosed find letters from the county officers in regard to Custer county. Mr. MacColl is absent and will not be back for about two weeks; the other officers all signed the papers. I would like to get the commission by return mail, if possible, as I am in a hurry to get out of Custer county to look after my calves, as it is time to brand them. Hoping you will give this your early attention, I remain,

Yours respectfully,

FRANK H. YOUNG

The governor, on the 27th day of June, issued the following proclamation, which launched Custer county on its glorious career:

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, A large number of the citizens of the unorganized county of Custer have united in a petition asking that the said county be organized and that James Gasmann, Anton Abel, and H. C. Stuckey be appointed special county commissioners, and Frank H. Young be appointed special county clerk of said county, for the purpose of forming a permanent organization, and that the southeast quarter of section twenty-three, in township fifteen north, range twenty-two west, be

designated as the temporary county seat of said county of Custer, and it appearing that the said county contains a population of not less than two hundred inhabitants, and ten or more of said petitioners are taxpayers and residents of said county:

Now, therefore, I, Silas Garber, governor of the state of Nebraska, in accordance with the memorial of said petitioners, and under and by the authority in me vested and in pursuance of the statute in such cases made and provided, do declare said county to be temporarily organized for the purpose of permanent organization, and do appoint and commission the persons above named as the special county commissioners, and the said person above named as special county clerk of said county, and do declare the place above named and described as the temporary county seat of said county.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand, and caused to be affixed the great seal of the state of Nebraska.

Done at Lincoln, the capital, this twenty-seventh day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven and of the independence of the United States one hundred and first, and of this state the eleventh.

SILAS GARBER

By the Governor:

BRUNO TSCHUCK, the Secretary of State.

FIRST COUNTY OFFICERS

Prior to the issuing of the proclamation by Governor Garber, establishing a temporary organization for Custer county, a meeting had been held at the home of Frank Young at which were present E. J. Boblits, Al Wise, J. J. Douglass, Joshua Woods, Vergil Allen, and other early settlers to the number of thirteen. This meeting recommended the appointment of Frank Young as temporary county clerk, Anton Abel, James Gasmann, and H. C. Stuckey as county commissioners, and accordingly the governor was petitioned for their appointment. Complying with the request the governor named these men for their respective offices and they became, by the governor's proclamation, the first officers of Custer county.

FIRST MEETING OF SUPERVISORS

By the authority of the governor's proclamation, the first session of the special county

commissioners met at the temporary county seat and they were duly sworn into office. Frank H. Young had taken the oath of office as county clerk in the governor's office at Lincoln, so when the supervisors had been duly inducted into their office, they were ready to commence business. The first matter of business attended to was the passing of an order calling for a special election to be held on Tuesday, the 31st day of July, 1877, for the purpose of electing a county judge, a sheriff, a clerk, a treasurer, a coroner, a surveyor, and three county commissioners. The matter of selecting a county seat, or of making the temporary county seat the per-

voting place should be the home of Joshua Woods. In precinct number two all the electors were to resort to the home of Anton Abel, the third voting precinct was in the home of E. Halloway. This last voting precinct was so far to the south end of the precinct that the New Helena people objected and, at the first opportunity, presented the first petition ever presented to a Custer county board praying for a new precinct. As this request was granted, this special election of July 31 was the only election ever held while the county was divided in only three precincts. The election came off in due form. Fifty-eight votes were cast, which constituted



A TRINITY OF OLD-TIMERS

Virgil Allen

Milo Young

J. J. Douglass

manent location of the county capital, was also to be decided at that special election.

After the special election had been provided for, the three commissioners proceeded to chop the county up into three voting precincts, which they did by cutting off tiers of townships running clear through the county from north to south on the east end of the county and constituting that as precinct number one. Another three ranges of townships west of first precinct and running through the middle of the county constituted the second precinct, while the remaining three tiers of townships on the west end of the county became the third precinct.

FIRST VOTING PLACES

In the first precinct it was ordered that the

the sum total of the new county's voting strength. It was the first election, it was being held far from the centers of eastern civilization and, consequently, form and ceremony were little observed. In the third precinct they did not go to the formality of administering the oath to either judges or clerks, consequently the vote in the third precinct was thrown out when an official canvass of the vote was made by the county commissioners.

The election, however, was an event long remembered in those days, conducted under a purely western regime. The voters came early and in most cases stayed for dinner with the judge of election, who was also host for the occasion. It is related that not more than three or four voters in each precinct

made the trip to the polls and back without trading horses. One early narrator makes the too extravagant claim that more horses were traded that day than votes cast.

FIRST ELECTION RESULTS

When the supervisors assembled in August to canvass the returns of the special election, they rejected the vote of the third precinct, for reasons that have been previously stated, and, on summing up the returns from the other two precincts, announced that the temporary county seat was to be the permanent county seat, and that the following officers were duly and regularly elected:

Commissioners, Anton Abel, James Gas-
mann, William Kilgore.

Clerk, Frank H. Young.

Treasurer, S. C. Stuckey.

Sheriff, Joshua Woods.

Coroner, Charles R. Mathews.

Surveyor, H. C. Norton.

County Judge, Louis Wambögan.

All of these officials filed their bonds, which were accepted by the newly elected county judge. Equipped with these officers, the Custer county ship of state was ready to sail. The New Helena people were on hand with their petition requesting a new precinct with a voting place in the New Helena postoffice, which was then in the home of Judge Mathews. It was an accommodating board of commissioners that received the petition, hence the request was granted, and never since that time has this been a county of three precincts.

The special election was scarcely over before the commissioners and the people began to campaign for the regular election in November of the same fall, only four months off. The regular election came on and was held in the four voting places. This time all the judges and all the clerks were sworn into office, the voting proceeding regularly, and counts were duly made and returns sworn to. Horse trading came in for its regular place on the program and several cleverly hidden spavins went home with new

owners. This election did not greatly change the personnel of the official staff.

THE NEW OFFICERS

The same commissioners, Abel, Gasmann, and Kilgore, were retained in office, S. C. Stuckey was retained as treasurer, Joshua Wood as sheriff, Charles R. Mathews as coroner, but John W. Benedict was made county surveyor, and Wilson Hewitt was elected county judge.

The early records of the county are very meagre. No official roster has been kept. It is a hard and laborious task to trace the proceedings of county commissioners, to fill out in detail the official roster, or to name the men in succession who have served the county in various capacities down to the present time. Some of these early officers performed very little service. They had no offices other than their own residences, so that in fact the county seat was scattered all over Custer county, according to the places where officials had their residences. Salaries were small, some offices, in fact, being without any salary attached, and for services rendered the incumbents were remunerated only by a nominal fee. The offices were not as attractive as they are now—they were not considered plump plums to be grabbed every time some power shook the political tree. There were no conventionalities; a county official was in his office and ready for business whenever and wherever he was found. If the treasurer was in the hay-field when a taxpayer came along with the money, there was a business transaction forthwith to which Custer county was party.

It took one lovelorn candidate for matrimony three days to hunt up the county judge in order to procure a license, and when he located the judge, that official had to stop fighting fire long enough to grant the license. But if it took some time and trouble to locate the office and the officer, there was no difficulty about formalities when they were found. A judge would enter in a day-book a statement that a marriage license had been issued

to such and such parties, then proceed to perform the ceremony and make the same entry do for both the license and return. Ceremonies, too, were simple and informal. It is related that when Judge Boblits performed his first marriage ceremony he simply said: "If you folks want each other for husband and wife you are married. And what God and Boblits have joined together let no man put asunder."

CUSTER COUNTY JUDGES

The statement has been made that all the men who have served Custer county in the capacity of county judge during the past forty-one years are still alive and in a reasonable state of health. This is a very remarkable fact. Great pains have been taken to ascertain if the statement is correct. Louis Wambsgân was elected county judge at the first election ever held in Custer county. He filed a bond and took the oath of office but never transacted any official business other than to pass on the bonds of the first officers. Four months later, at the time of the regular election, he was not a candidate for re-election and Wilson Hewitt was elected county judge. Hewitt was sworn into office in January, 1878, and in April of the same year resigned. The board accepted his resignation and appointed E. J. Boblits to fill the vacancy. At the next regular election, in the fall of 1878, Boblits was regularly elected as his own successor and served for two more years. In the fall of 1880 Judge C. R. Mathews, of New Helena, was made the county judge. From that time on the following have served as county judges in the order named: Judge John S. Benjamin, Judge Arthur H. Kilgore, Judge John Reese, Judge H. J. Shinn, Judge J. R. Rhodes, Judge J. A. Armour, Judge A. R. Humphrey, Judge H. C. Holcomb, and Judge N. Dwight Ford, who is the present incumbent.

The first assessors to serve the new county were W. H. Comstock, Coe Kilgore, H. A. Chapin, and I. P. Bell, who were appointed to assess all taxable property in their respective precincts. In the spring of 1877 W. H. Comstock had been appointed by the authori-

ties of Valley county to assess the property in the Custer county territory. This was done and returns made to Valley county but later an agreement was made by which the tax was collected by the Custer county officials and paid in to the Custer county treasurer. This was the first revenue coming into the coffers of the young county.

THE FIRST COUNTY ASSESSMENT

In the spring of 1878, eight months after the organization of the county, the first assessment was made by the assessors mentioned in the foregoing paragraph. When the returns were compiled it was found that the young county had taxable property to the amount of \$136,054.50.

NAMES OF THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED AS COUNTY CLERKS

Frank H. Young was the first clerk to serve the county. He was one of the most efficient officers that every served in any capacity. He was first appointed by the governor and afterwards elected at both the special and regular elections in the year of 1877. He served for three years and six months. Since his retirement the following men have served in the order named: Wilson Hewitt, J. J. Brown, A. W. Hyatt, George Richtmyer, J. B. Osborne, George W. Dewey, Joseph E. Pigman, W. H. Osborn, Jr., Robert E. Waters, present incumbent.

CLERKS OF DISTRICT COURT

A complete roster of county officers has been very hard to obtain. Some of the offices have been created since the organization of the county. In the early days the county clerk served also as clerk of district court until the office of clerk of district court was instituted, in 1888. Those who have served the county as clerk are Wilson Hewitt, J. J. Brown, J. J. Douglass, S. M. Dorris, James Stockham, C. T. Orr, George B. Mair, and the present incumbent, Jess Gandy.

COUNTY TREASURERS

The men who have been intrusted with the public funds of the county are as follows:

S. C. Stuckey, C. T. Crawford, Dr. R. C. Talbot, W. C. Bidwell, Hues Brown, David Weimer, H. Lomax, Mark Schneringer, W. A. George, J. E. Cavenee, Clarence Mackey, and M. S. Eddy, the present incumbent.

REGISTERS OF DEEDS

The office of register of deeds has had five occupants. It dates from 1894, when D. W. Lanternman first filled the office. His successors have been Charles H. Jeffords, C. O. Linn, J. T. Wood, and the present recorder, George E. Porter.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS

The office of superintendent of public instruction is one that dates from the organization of the county. The first superintendent was E. D. Eubanks, who served five years and who at one time might have said that he was superintendent of public instruction in a county in which there were no schoolhouses. It was during his regime that the first districts were organized and the first schools established. The following men have filled the office of county superintendent since the retirement of E. D. Eubanks as a public officer: D. M. Amsberry, C. F. Randall, W. H. Hendrickson, H. H. Hyatt, J. J. Tooley, J. G. W. Lewis, H. M. Pinkney, G. E. Lewis, and T. C. Grimes, who is filling the office at the present time.

OFFICIAL ROSTER OF CUSTER COUNTY

The following constitutes the official roster of Custer county as it stands on this first day of September, A. D. 1918:

District Judge, Bruno O. Hostetler.

County Judge, N. Dwight Ford.

Senator, Twenty-third Senatorial District, Charles W. Beal.

Representatives, W. J. Taylor, George Greenwalt.

Sheriff, Joseph F. Wilson.

Deputy Sheriff, Ernest Thompson.

Treasurer, M. S. Eddy.

Deputy Treasurer, Mrs. J. B. Osborne.

County Clerk, Robert E. Waters.

Deputy County Clerk, Essie Holcomb.

County Superintendent, T. C. Grimes.

Register of Deeds, George E. Porter.

Clerk of District Court, Jesse Gandy.

Deputy Clerk of District Court, M. M. Runyan.

County Attorney, Frank Kelley.

County Surveyor, A. J. VanAntwerp.

County Assessor, G. T. Robinson.

County Commissioners: R. J. Mills, First District; Robert Farley, Second District; Scott Cooper, Third District; J. H. Phillips, Fourth District; H. B. Schneringer, Fifth District;; E. K. Lichtenberger, Sixth District; John Walker, Seventh District.

A NOTED SHERIFF

One of the men who has served as sheriff of Custer county rendered such excellent service and in so many ways made himself both prominent and useful that a somewhat extended mention may not be out of place in this connection, although it is not the policy to bring biographical sketches into this department of the volume.

Charles U. Richardson served as deputy sheriff under Eli Armstrong for three years, following which he was twice elected sheriff, making in all seven years of service rendered for the county as sheriff or deputy sheriff. He was in many ways a remarkable man, was a native of Virginia, and was a veteran of the Confederate army, in which he rendered an unusual and helpful service. He was counted too young to carry arms when he first entered the service and was made a messenger boy for Stonewall Jackson. After two years' service in this capacity he was promoted to a full-fledged soldier and served to the end of the war. He was with General Robert E. Lee at the surrender at Appomattox. He was one who participated in the famous charge led by George Pickett at Gettysburg. He was wounded four times and carried the effects of his wounds to the grave. He was once left for dead on the battlefield, but Charlie Richardson, as he was familiarly called, was not to be killed by bullets. He was destined for a career in Custer county, to be a homesteader, a mail contractor, and a useful citizen. It was to be his lot to die in peace, surrounded

by his friends in Custer county, December 3, 1910. His widow and family still survive.

MULTIPLY VOTING PRECINCTS

Very early in the life of the new county it was found that voting precincts were so few and far apart that people living in remote parts were practically disfranchised. The three precincts already noted, lasted only for the first election. The first petition for a new voting precinct came from New Helena, early in the first year of the county's existence, and the accommodating supervisors granted the prayers of the petitioners. In the winter of 1878, through the influence of Judge Mathews and others living in the north part of the county, the legislature passed the following bill:

Each board of county commissioners shall divide the county into convenient precincts, and as occasion requires subdivide precincts or erect new precincts, alter precinct lines and whenever any portion of territory containing in the aggregate not less than one township of land nor more than four townships lying contiguous shall contain not less than fifteen voters, it shall be the duty of the board of county commissioners, upon receipt of a petition signed by a majority of such voters, to constitute such territory a new voting precinct.

With the passage of such an elastic measure the jig was up. There would be no good place to stop. Of making many precincts there was to be no end. However, it all worked to the advantage of the young county. Settlers came in very rapidly. There were over two thousand voters in the county as early as 1884. Precincts were laid out, polling places were established, and by 1888 the present organization of the county was, with the exception of a few divisions that had been made recently, the same as it is to-day.

For the benefit of future investigators, we record here the present organization of the county. Reading from left to right, commencing in the north tier, the precincts are as follows: Hayes, Victoria, Milburn, West Union, Lillian first, Lillian second, Sargent, Arnold, Cliff, Kilfoil, Broken Bow, Garfield, Douglas Grove, Comstock, Spring Creek, Tri-

umph, Ryno, Berwyn, Westerville, Myrtle, Elim, Delight, Custer, East Custer, Ansley, Algernon, Wayne, Grant, Wood River, Loup, Elk Creek.

Over the first regime of county organization each precinct constituted a supervisorial district and was reported in supervisors' meetings each month until the number reached twenty-five. This made a meeting of the supervisors look like a young legislature. The body was unwieldy and likewise expensive. It was, perhaps, the expense that started the campaign for representation on a different basis. As a result of the campaign in 1895 a change was made and the county was divided into seven supervisorial districts with one supervisor or commissioner from each district.

THE LAST PRECINCT SUPERVISORS

The last board to serve under the old precinct basis was as follows: I. A. Reneau, Broken Bow; L. McCandless, Broken Bow; J. A. Daily, Ansley; J. S. Spooner, Douglas; Jules Haumont, Garfield; M. R. Foster, Victoria; W. A. George, Loup; W. C. Nixon, Grant; A. Pool, Hayes; G. W. Dewey, Lillian; M. Schneringer, Delight; John Samuelson, Arnold; A. C. Towle, Kilfoil; J. C. Hutt, Cliff; F. Schreyer, Triumph; T. W. Carr, Elim; H. Lomax, Wood River; B. L. Nicholas, Elk Creek; Scott Cooper, Myrtle; R. J. Mills, Westerville, S. Neth, Custer; A. S. Welch, Berwyn; B. P. Morris, Algernon. With the passing of this board, mass meeting of supervisors was a thing of the past. In January, 1896, the new board met to resume the business of the county under increased responsibility because of reduced representation.

THE NEW BOARD

The first representatives of the districts were L. W. Cole, district 1; G. W. Dewey, district 2; George E. Carr, district 3; J. C. Hutt, district 4; E. B. Whaley, district 5; W. A. George, district 6; B. P. Morris, district 7. These districts have remained intact without much gerrymandering until the present time. Under the present division, it was ordered in 1880 that each precinct constitute a road district.

Accordingly the roads of the county have been maintained by public expense under precinct direction ever since its organization.

BRAND COMMISSIONERS

One of the early officers of the county, and one not in vogue to-day, was a brand commissioner. The brand commissioner was appointed by the commissioners or supervisors and in each case, so far as the record shows, the brand commissioner was a member of the county board. In the days of cattle when everything was an open range, herds were mixed, and identity of stock was something that occasioned a good deal of trouble. It is charged that a good many people were very careless with the branding irons and often stuck them on to the wrong animal. Some cattle were rebranded. All this caused trouble. Disputes constantly arose. In order that every brand used by a cattle-owner might be known, and that cattle branded with his recorded brand might be protected, the brand commissioner was appointed. It can well be imagined that he had his hands full. Anton Abel was the first brand commissioner, having been appointed in 1877. It did not take Anton very long to get all the glory that the office of brand commissioner could furnish. He was soon satisfied and in the spring of 1878 he resigned and J. D. Haskell was appointed his successor. It is recorded that Haskell was one of the best authorities on brands to be found anywhere in the western part of the state. It is claimed that he could read brands half a mile away on the opposite side of the steer while he was going at a forty-mile clip. Mr. Haskell seems to have given good satisfaction and a great many disputes were amicably settled during his tenure of office.

With the passing of the big herds and the closing of the range there was no longer work for the brand commissioner and the office ceased to exist.

COUNTY DIVISION

Dividing the county up into precincts seemed to have gotten the early settlers into the division habit. So, very early in the history of

the county, division sentiment began to show itself. In September, 1879, county division propaganda commenced in earnest. A petition was presented by Phil Dufrand, which asked that the proposition of dividing the county be submitted to the people. The proposition was to cut a slice off from the east end of the county, which should be twelve miles wide at the south line of the county, and pass in irregular jogs to the north part of the county, the west line of the proposed county reaching the north line of Custer county at a point twenty-four miles west of the northeast corner of Custer county. This new county was to be known as Blaine county. The people voted on the proposition, but it was rejected.

FIRST LAND DOCUMENTS

Ever since the settlers landed in the county all kinds of bickering, bartering, trading, and selling have been going on. Somebody has made the statement that every acre of land in Custer county has been sold twice since the county was organized. Whether the statement is correct or not can never be ascertained. It may be interesting to record that the first United States patent for Custer county land was made to Charles A. Nale and filed with the register of deeds December 24, 1878. This patent was for the west one-half of the southeast one-fourth, section 15, and the northwest, northeast lot 1, section 22, township 18, range 17. The first deed was for the same land, made by Charles A. Nale to F. S. Nightingale, and was filed for record May 1, 1879.

While land has been shunted around from one owner to another in a somewhat promiscuous way, much of it has been mortgaged. There was a time when it was a popular belief that you could not raise corn or wheat on land that was not mortgaged. The first mortgage of record in the county, however, was not a farm mortgage but was a mortgage of the Union Pacific Railroad to Cyrus H. McCormick et al., trustees. This mortgage was filed August 26, 1878, before any land patents had been granted. The second mortgage which really figures in Custer land transac-

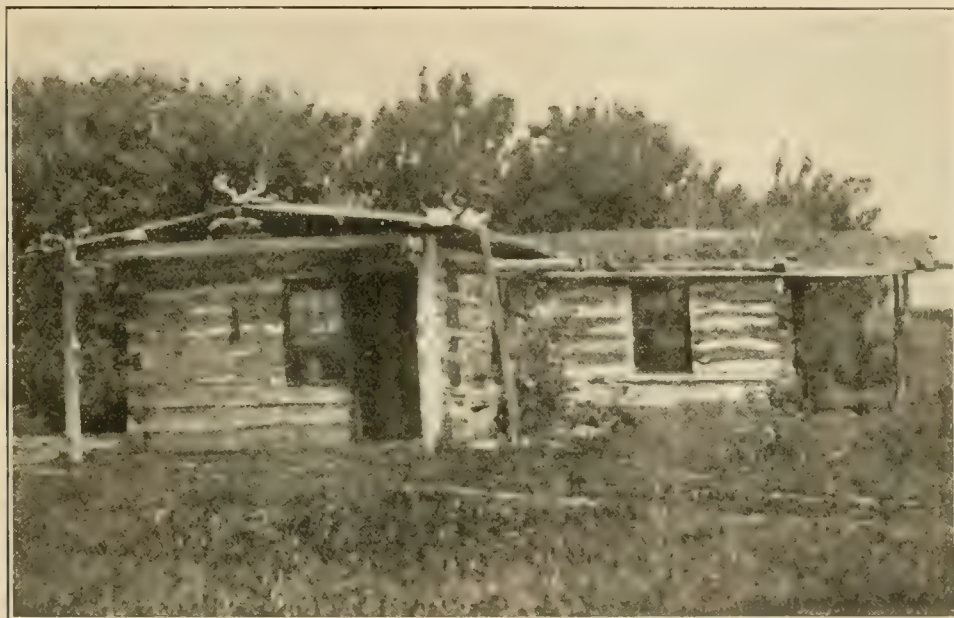
tions was made by Henry Goodyear and wife to Henry G. Wiley, and it was filed for record December 21, 1880. The first mortgage ever released, and therefore it is to be presumed the first one paid, was one released by Charles C. Burr to Charles A. Hall and wife.

THE EVOLUTION OF THE COURT HOUSE

Since the location of the county seat of Custer county at Broken Bow, four separate court houses have been built and used for the accommodation of the public. As an

cated on the northeast corner of block 12. In this building the officers were housed and the public business transacted until the commencement of the term of officers who were elected in 1889. The county clerk, the county judge, the county treasurer, and the county superintendent maintained offices in this building.

The question of county division was always a sore question to the people in and around Broken Bow, and to placate the county-division sentiment and to meet the criticism of divisionists outside of the immediate vicinity of Broken



[Photo by S. D. Butcher]

BUILDING THAT SERVED AS FIRST COURT HOUSE OF CUSTER COUNTY

incentive to the location of the county seat at Broken Bow the Gandy brothers, A. W., J. P., and Jess, agreed to put up a building and donate its use to the county for court-house purposes, until the sale of county lots, under the terms of the location of the county seat made by them, would provide a fund with which to build a more commodious building. Following out their agreement, they erected a small frame building on the southeast corner of block 5, where the *Custer County Chief* office now stands. This was the first court house in Broken Bow.

After the sale of the lots in the proposed town, a four-room court house was built, lo-

Bow, who insisted that Broken Bow should build a court house because the town received all the advantage incident to its being center of public business, a bond proposition was duly submitted at the election of 1888 and Broken Bow precinct bonded itself in the sum of twelve thousand dollars, for the purpose of building a court house on the site selected by a vote of the people as the county seat.

These bonds were twenty-year bonds bearing six per cent. The last bond was paid on the first day of January, 1909. With the money thus obtained from the bonds, aided by private subscriptions from various people in Broken Bow, the court house located on block

6 of the original town was built. The list of private subscribers to this court-house fund has been lost, and it is impossible now to tell who the private subscribers were or the amount contributed by them toward the building of this third court house in Broken Bow. The court house was built and ready for occupancy on the first of January, 1889.

At the fall election of 1888 the political situation in Custer county turned upside down. The Republican ticket was defeated and for the first time county officers of a political complexion other than Republican were elected. It seemed a queer coincidence that the new court house should be built and first occupied by an entirely new set of men who were in no way charged with its building. This court house served the purpose from the time of its occupancy, commencing January 1, 1889, until it was destroyed by fire, on the 14th day of January, 1910.

Immediately after the destruction of this third court-house building by fire, the citizens of Broken Bow, aided by friends from other precincts, presented a petition to the county board of supervisors asking that a special election be called for the purpose of voting a tax of five mills on the taxable property of the county for the purpose of building a court house on the site of the one destroyed by fire. The question was duly submitted to the voters of the county by the board. Strenuous opposition to this tax proposition was met from the county divisionists and the county division centers of the county. They argued, and with some force, that the time to divide the county was when the court house was destroyed and while no bond or tax rested on the county for public buildings. The five-mill tax-levy proposition was submitted to the voters of the county, at a special election held on the first day of March, 1910, and the proposition to vote the tax was defeated by a vote of 2234 for, to 2213 against the proposition. In the meantime the county board had arranged their local offices here and there throughout the town, wherever they could rent a building, and the business of the county was

conducted in the various offices scattered throughout the town.

During the summer of 1910, county-division petitions were freely circulated, signed, and, in September, presented to the board, and the proposition of dividing the county into counties was submitted to the electors of the county at the general election in 1910. The names selected for the new counties were: Arbor, Albany, and Corn, the fourth county being the old county of Custer or what would remain of it in the event that division carried. Probably as warm a county division campaign as was ever waged, occurred in the fall of 1910. The vote on the proposition at the general election showed that Arbor county received 2344 votes while there was cast against the proposition 2995 votes; Albany county 2298, against 2975 votes; Corn county 2312, against 3001 votes. Since that time there has been no further effort to divide the county.

After the election of 1910, petitions were again presented to the county board and a special election was called for the purpose of voting a tax to build a new court house, on the site of the old one destroyed by fire. This second proposition asked for an election on the seven-mill tax, four mills to be levied and collected in 1911 and three mills to be levied and collected in 1912. This proposition was submitted to the electors of the county on the 9th day of January, 1911. It carried by vote of 2732 for the levy and 2203 against.

Immediately after the canvass of the vote, steps were taken to adopt a plan to let a contract and commence the erection of a court house under the supervision of the board of supervisors. The contract for the new building was let in the early spring of 1911, the contract price being \$55,087.00. This was the contract price of the building alone. At the time the old court house was destroyed, the county board carried an insurance of thirteen thousand dollars on the building and fixtures, and this insurance money was retained for the purpose of furnishing the new court house. Work on the new court house proceeded rapidly, and in the summer of 1912 the contractor

turned it over to the building board, ready for occupancy.

The fourth court house stands on the site of the one destroyed by fire and in every way is a model of architecture, convenience, and durability, fire-proof throughout the commodious offices, and vaultage-room sufficient to care for the public records of the county for many years to come. It is regarded by capable judges who have seen it and examined its compartments as a model court house in all respects.

CUSTER COUNTY UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE

Since 1890 Custer county has had a government land office located at Broken Bow. In June, 1916, the present register, M. C. Warrington, and present receiver, John P. Robertson, went into their respective positions, and the event was chronicled in the local paper at the time, giving in outline a history of the office from its inception to the present day. It is here quoted at length:

In March, 1890, by an act of congress, the Broken Bow land district was created and the office established at Broken Bow, Nebraska. On April 24, 1890, Judge John Reese, of Broken Bow, was appointed the first register and Hon. James Whitehead, the first receiver, by President Harrison, and they both continued in their respective offices until July 1, 1894, when Hon. A. J. Robertson, of this city, a son-in-law of Judge Reese, and Hon. Charles H. Adams, of Lincoln, were appointed, by President Cleveland, receiver and register, respectively. These officials both retained their positions for a term of four years, which expired July 1, 1898.

In change of administration from Cleveland to McKinley, Hon. James Whitehead, now of Emporia, Kansas, and Hon. F. H. Young, of Broken Bow, were appointed by President McKinley, register and receiver, respectively. Mr. Young, at the close of his first four-year term, was reappointed for a second term, but at the expiration of about a half-year, owing to the necessary press of private business, resigned his position early in 1903. On March 3, 1903, the day of Mr. Young's resignation, Judge Reese again entered the federal service by being appointed receiver, by President Roosevelt. The Judge served as receiver and Mr. Whitehead as register until June 24, 1906.

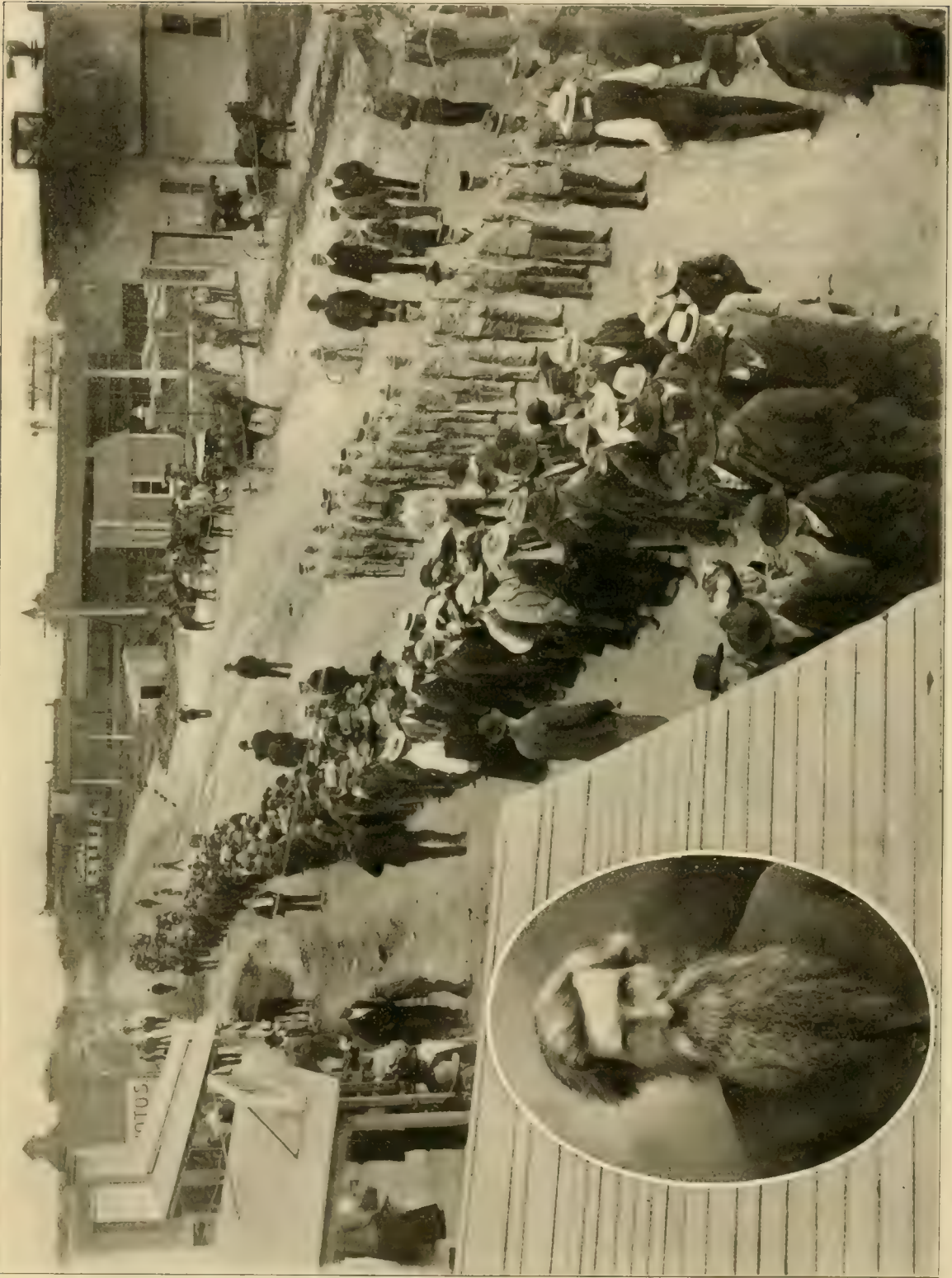
During the period between March 3, 1903, and August 1, 1906, Judge Reese was associated with Mr. Whitehead, who was register of the land office.

On June 24, 1906, Judge Reese preferring the office of register, which he had formerly held, was again

appointed to that position, by President Roosevelt, upon the retirement of Mr. Whitehead. On the same date Hon. D. M. Amsberry was appointed receiver, by President Roosevelt, to succeed Judge Reese, who had just vacated that position to assume the office of register. On the expiration of the official terms of Judge Reese and Mr. Amsberry, on June 24, 1910, they were both reappointed by President Taft. By this appointment Judge Reese received his fourth commission to a four-year term in the Broken Bow land office and Mr. Amsberry his second commission. They served together as land office officials until May 1, 1916, when Mr. John P. Robertson, of Broken Bow, a son of former receiver Robertson, entered upon his duties as



PRESENT CUSTER COUNTY COURT HOUSE



From Butcher's Sod House, Booklet

The land opening in Broken Bow, Nebraska, in 1904, shortly after the passage of the "Kinkaid act," allowing the settler to file on a 640 acre homestead. The militia were used to preserve order. In the lower left-hand corner is the picture of Daniel Sage, of Callaway, known as Nebraska's long-haired poet.

receiver to succeed Mr. Amsberry, to which office he was appointed April 10, 1916, by President Wilson. On June 24, 1916, Hon. M. C. Warrington, of Mason City, who was appointed register by President Wilson to succeed Judge Reese, assumed the duties of office, that date being just two years to a day after the expiration of Judge Reese's last four-years term. In passing it may be noted that from May 1, 1916, until June 24, 1916, Judge Reese and John P. Robertson held the offices of register and receiver, respectively, this being the first instance in the history of the Land Department of the United States where a grandfather and grandson held the offices of register and receiver in the same office at the same time, one being a Republican and the other a Democrat. Judge Reese has the unique distinction of having held the positions of register and receiver of the United States land office under the administrations of five presidents for a period covering almost eighteen years in the same office. It is doubtful if this record has a parallel in the history of the land department of the United States. During this eighteen-year period, more than three millions of acres of government land have been taken by settlers as homesteads in the Broken Bow land district. Many hundreds of contests have been decided, involving the settler's title to his home, and on appeal not to exceed ten cases have been reversed by the department. Judge Reese and his associates in the land office have reason to be proud of the prominent part they have taken in the development of central and western Nebraska as federal officers in charge of these greatly responsible positions. For the distinguished gentlemen who have so worthily succeeded to these responsible positions, namely, Hon. M. C. Warrington as register and J. P. Robertson as receiver, their many friends, with a confidence born of a knowledge of their merits, bespeak a continuance of the splendid record of honorable service that has been made by their predecessors in the land department of the federal government.

KINKAID BILL GOES INTO EFFECT

As a result of the passage of the congress-

sional measure known as the Kinkaid bill, more than two million acres of land were thrown open to homesteads under provision by which entryman was entitled to 640 acres of land. A ruling of the general land office at Washington provided that any homesteader already on land entered prior to June 28, 1904, was entitled to adjacent land enough to make 640 acres, and to such holders a thirty-day preference was allowed in which to make filing. All the rest was open to the entryman first coming.

This caused a land stampede that is still remembered by the people of Broken Bow and also by all who secured land at that time. The following from the *Custer County Chief* gives a faithful account of the event:

Broken Bow already shows unmistakable evidence of a big rush which is to be on in this city next Tuesday, when the time arrives for making homestead entries under the new Kinkaid bill. There have for the past several days been from fifty to one hundred strangers in the city constantly, to get pointers in regard to the grand rush. The land office has been unusually busy preparing for the work that is coming, and reports from the county clerks of adjoining counties show that a very large number of entries will be made. There is considerable speculation as to how the crowd will be taken care of by the land office, and what method will be adopted in regard to making entries. It is expected that there will be at least one thousand people in line when the land office opens next Tuesday morning. In nearly all land rushes of this kind a large number of pickpockets and thugs make their appearance, and on this occasion our people will be protected by government detectives and an increased force of deputy sheriffs and deputy police. The town will be well policed from now on until the rush is over. In the meantime, however, it would be well for our citizens and visiting people to take a little extra precaution.

NEW LAW TAKES EFFECT

Hundreds of people clamor to make entries under the new homestead law. Broken Bow displayed considerable activity for some days prior to June 28th, at which time the Kinkaid homestead law took effect, under which law it is possible for one man to acquire 640 acres by homestead right. As early as the fore part of last week strangers from all parts of the country began to arrive in town. Many of

them would make inquiries in regard to the workings of the new law and would then go into the district where the vacant land was situated, make their selection, and then wait for the grand opening. Those who had preference rights, by which they had thirty days to take land adjoining their present homesteads, were resting easy, but those who were after sections of land where they knew about half a dozen parties more were endeavoring to get filings on the same piece were, of course, uneasy and endeavoring to get what advantage was possible. On Monday morning people began to get their entry papers made out and until the early hours of Tuesday morning every attorney in Broken Bow was snowed under with business. As early as five o'clock on Monday evening people began to form in line at the foot of the land office stairs and started in on the long wait until the land office opened at nine o'clock Tuesday, that they might be in line to make early entries. In this they were disappointed, for at eight o'clock Register Whitehead and Receiver Reese gave out the word that no line would be recognized until eight o'clock the next morning, and it was with reluctance that the hundreds of people who had maintained the line for two or three hours gave way.

A QUIET AND ORDERLY CROWD

By daylight on Tuesday morning the crowd began to gather and by eight o'clock nearly two thousand people, attracted there through curiosity or through a desire to make entries, congregated about the land office, eager to have the line formed. In the meantime Governor Mickey was asked to permit the militia company to assist in maintaining the line of march. While no trouble was experienced and the crowd was nothing but a great big, good-natured, jolly lot of people, yet it was difficult to handle them without plenty of assistance, and for this reason it was that the militia could be of material help. Governor Mickey, after some delay and a good deal of telegraphing, gave his consent to the militia boys assisting, and after a half-hour's work in lining the people up, the filings commenced, the first one going over the counter at promptly nine o'clock. It was a curious sight, old men, old women, some of whom were eighty years of age, young men and young women, just past their majority, cowboys, farmers, business and professional men, ladies in plain dress and ladies in silks, waiting for their chance to take a section of Uncle Sam's land. As the day wore away, many people became tired and would grasp at chances to buy

boxes to sit down on; many of them were fortunate enough to have umbrellas, but most of them did not, and could not leave the line to procure these comforts unless they had a friend who could hold their place for them. The city officials furnished the crowd with water and the restaurant people sold sandwiches, pies, lemonade, pop, cigars, etc. It was an interesting sight to go down the line. Some people were playing cards, others arguing politics, others making burlesque stump-speeches, and many of them singing old familiar hymns.

CROWD GETS A REST

At three o'clock in the afternoon numbered cards, each bearing the name of the holder and countersigned by the register and receiver, were issued, and the people broke ranks, and were admitted to the land office as their numbers were called. When the people found that they were to be turned loose with numbers one enthusiastic gang started up "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow." The first hour about twenty people were taken care of, after that an average of twenty-five entries were made per hour. While the line was being formed an occasional favorable position would command five or ten dollars. It seems strange to some that people should be so anxious to secure this land which has been open to settlement for years past. If it had any particular value it would have been taken long ago in the same manner that other government land was taken. Some of it is of value, owing entirely to its location in connecting land owned by an individual or company on either side. It is the general impression that more land was entered in this grand rush than will be proved up on. The vacant land in the Broken Bow land district at the time of the passage of the law comprises about two million acres, the amount in each county being as follows:

Blaine	219,912
Brown	141,856
Cherry	515,920
Custer	20,843
Grant	178,149
Hooker	316,158
Logan	140,804
McPherson	275,991
Thomas	245,266

THE LAND ENTRIES

During ten days over one thousand applications for homesteads under the new Kin-kaid law, were filed in the land office at Broken Bow. Six hundred of these were made

at the land office and four hundred were received by mail. The land officers and their force of clerks have been putting in long hours checking over these entries, and have passed on about five hundred and fifty of them. Of this number one hundred and fifty have been rejected. From now on the work of checking entries will be slower, owing to more complications arising, and it is expected that it will take ten days to complete the work. The land officers are to be congratulated in handling this work as rapidly as they have.

OPENING OF THE MILITARY AND FOREST RESERVES

In October of 1913 the government land in the military reserve of Niobrara and the forest reserve of McPherson county were opened to settlers, and Broken Bow in this county was one of the land offices at which registrations were made. The following from the local newspaper gives a good description of the event:

The Saturday and Sunday preceding the opening of the registration was one of unusual activity about town. People had begun to arrive early in the week and by Saturday night there were over five hundred strangers in town. The night trains brought in more, as did also those of Sunday morning, so that there must have been fully one thousand strangers in town during Sunday. By the time the last train load was emptied Sunday night, a few minutes preceding the opening, the number of people waiting to register probably exceeded fifteen hundred. The first estimate placed the number at twelve hundred, but later figures proved this to be too low.

Sunday was a beautiful day and the people passed the time by strolling about, lounging in the park and going sightseeing. Many viewed the fair grounds and viewed the wreckage caused by the tornado of last Thursday. In fact there were several hundred who paid their respects to the defunct buildings and carried away souvenirs in the shape of splinters, small pieces of board or any other odds and ends they could find. The crowd was quiet and orderly and appeared to have no inclination to indulge in boisterous conduct. Early in the day some interest was taken in a lady who planted herself in a chair in front of the registration booth and gave out that she intended remaining there until the doors opened, at twelve o'clock that night. There seemed to be some mystery attached to

her at first, especially as she appeared reticent about giving her name, excusing herself with the plea that she was not seeking newspaper notoriety. Her reticence, however, was finally overcome and she turned out to be Dr. Allie B. Weiner, a prominent suffragette from Lincoln. Later in the day Dr. Weiner was persuaded to vacate her post and, during the evening she favored the waiting crowd with a spirited lecture on the suffrage question, which was well received.

In the meantime, the crowd kept growing larger and hundreds of people were endeavoring to locate the best points of vantage. The police were kept busy trying to form a regular line and keep the people in it. As the hour of midnight approached, the excitement grew intense, although there was little or no disturbance. At intervals the crowd would relieve its emotions by joining in a popular chorus someone had started; at other times it would roar forth some well known hymn. Many women were scattered among the ranks and joined their voices with the others.

Within the registration booth the notaries were placing themselves behind the long counter and preparing for a busy night. Over all Judge Humphrey kept a fatherly eye, and thoughtfully chewed the end of his cigar as he looked through the glass doors at the sea of faces on the outside and speculated on just how many twenty-five cent pieces would jingle through the cashier's window during the night's rush. Sheriff Joe Wilson perched himself on the railing within the entrance, while several burly officers spread themselves across the entrance on the outside to keep the crowd in order.

A small clock belonging to one of the notaries chimed the hour of twelve, Judge Humphrey gave a last word of instruction, Sheriff Joe Wilson shouted: "Let her go," and the rush was on. The first to register was Dr. Allie E. Weimer, of Lincoln, the lady who had occupied the chair for the best part of the day; the second was Miss Emily Robertson, a Broken Bow young lady. Both of these ladies were registered by Miss Emma Scott, secretary of the notaries' association.

The first men to enter the door were two veterans of the Civil war, their names being respectively Almond Burgess, of Johnson county, Missouri, formerly of the Second Iowa regiment, and James Clayton, of Hamburg, Iowa, formerly of the Twenty-fifth Missouri regiment. Both of the veterans were extremely hopeful and signified their intentions of becoming sturdy homesteaders if they were so

fortunate as to make a winning. The third man to register was Dr. A. N. Horn, a dentist of Exeter, Nebraska. The last named registered quickly and was really the first of the trio to drop his envelope in the box.

All night long the stream of people kept up, the applicants entering by the front door, selecting any disengaged notary, registering and passing out the back door into the alley. By the time the first rush was over the morning trains arrived bringing in another batch and it was the same story over again, with this exception, that there was a change of shifts among the notaries and the tired ones had a chance to go home and sleep.

Nor were the trains the only conveyances bringing in landseekers. Autos galore glided into town all hours of the day and night and from all parts of the country. Up to the date of this issue, over three hundred and fifty cars have brought people to Broken Bow for the purpose of registering. One citizen taking a trip east of here Wednesday forenoon, counted in two hours, 102 autos headed in this direction, and he missed a few at that, when he turned his head to spit. Let all come who want; Broken Bow has ample accommodations and can feed and shelter an unlimited number of people. The Burlington took care of the traffic in a manner that called forth the highest praise, and between it and the excellent town facilities there was no discomfort at any period of the rush.

During the twelve days the registration lasted, the Broken Bow authorities handled over 32,000 applicants. For the protection of the crowd, most of whom were strangers, every precaution was taken. The eating houses did not advance the price of meals and every private house in town contributed one or more rooms. The train service was so organized, however, that no one was required to remain in town over night unless they so elected. A large tent office was erected in the street and maintained as a bureau of information. W. L. Gaston had charge of this bureau and organized an able corps of assistants, who were on duty day and night and left nothing undone for the comfort of the strangers.

PERSONNEL OF THE NOTARIES

The splendid organization of the notaries, by which they handled the crowd as fast as they arrived, can not be too highly praised. They were accommodating and very efficient. Their names are as follows: I. A. Reneau, Broken Bow; M. M. Leonard, Anselmo; M. M. Runyan, Mason City; W. B. Eastham, Broken

Bow; Emil Gschwind, Broken Bow; Robert Farley, Milburn; Dale P. Stough, Broken Bow; Mabel Darnell, Broken Bow; H. H. Andrews, Callaway; J. C. Moore, Broken Bow; James A. Kirk, Broken Bow; E. House, Broken Bow; A. R. Humphrey, Broken Bow; John S. McGraw, Broken Bow; A. J. Watkins, Oconto; Ross G. Moore, Broken Bow; Frank P. Knox, Arnold; J. Thull, Ansley; J. M. Fodge, Broken Bow; Charles H. Holcomb, Broken Bow; Emery F. Bush, Broken Bow; Arthur W. Holcomb, Broken Bow; E. S. Holcomb, Broken Bow; B. C. Empfield, Broken Bow; E. Taylor, Broken Bow; Charles L. Gutterson, Broken Bow; Willis Cadwell, Broken Bow; C. L. Bennett, Broken Bow; R. D. Pickett, Broken Bow; H. F. Hanson, Broken Bow; J. E. Ferguson, Broken Bow; A. B. Cornish, Lodi; Frank Kelley, Merna; Emma Scott, Ansley.

The land office was represented by Register John Reese; Receiver D. M. Amsberry; W. L. Lovelace, and Leo Poole.

LET UP, STOP, OVER, AND REST

From the beginning of settlements post-offices were in demand and, as noted elsewhere, were located in an early day so as to give best possible service to the scattered settlers. Some of the names selected for early post-offices were so peculiar and seemed to have been arranged with so much of design that we stop to record a few of them. In 1880 was established in the present vicinity of Callaway a postoffice which was named "Letup." In June, 1884, on what is to-day called the Stop Table, a postoffice was established called "Stop." In August of the same year another postoffice was established and called "Over." In November, 1890, on the West Table, a postoffice was established and given the delightful name of "Rest." Taken altogether these four postoffices, in the order in which they were established, read, Letup, Stop, Over, and Rest.

None of them is in existence to-day. Ira Graves was the postmaster of "Letup." He had the name changed to Delight. Later it was changed to Grant and then, in August, 1886, it was changed to Callaway. "Stop" was discontinued ten years after its establishment. "Over" was discontinued in 1907. "Rest" lasted until August, 1906.

CHAPTER V

THE COMING OF THE SETTLERS

NO SETTLEMENT IN THE COUNTY — THE BUFFALO BILL TREE — THE FIRST HOME — WHO WAS THE FIRST HOMESTEADER? — LEWIS R. DOWSE FIRST SETTLER — FRANK OHME WAS FIRST MAN TO FILE — THE FIRST COMERS — MORE FOR DOUGLAS GROVE — NEW HELENA HOMESTEADERS — DISCOVER CEDAR CANYON — ESTABLISHES FIRST POSTOFFICE — THE BEGINNING OF LEE'S PARK — A FINE STOCK BREEDER — A SIGNAL SERVICE MAN — SPENCER'S PARK — MAUK WAS A GAY BACHELOR — NOW THEY COME TO LILLIAN — SETTLING IN MERN VALLEY — A BUNCH OF IOWANS ARRIVE — AN IMPROMPTU RECEPTION — SETTLING IN CUSTER CENTER — DOWN IN ASH CREEK VALLEY — HOW CUSTER COUNTY GOT BOB HUNTER — THEY FILL UP THE TABLE — FIRST OF THE DEEP WELLS — SETTLERS COME TO DALE — LOHR RUNS SOME STORE — MORE ABOUT LILLIAN — DOWN ON THE REDFERN TABLE — PLENTY OF ROOM IN A SMALL HOUSE — AN ACCOMMODATING ENGLISHMAN — TOO MANY ROOSTERS FOR REAM AND JEFFORDS — SETTLEMENT OF GEORGETOWN — HELP YOURSELF — "GETTING IN BAD" — CUSTER COUNTY PIONEER HONORED — PELHAM STRETCHES THE QUILT — A FLOCK OF BACHELORS — GIBBONITES ON THE LOUP — FIND AN OLD DUG-OUT — TWIN FAWNS AT THE CENTENNIAL — WOULD NOT STAND FOR THE NAME — THE HAUMONTS — WHERE BROKEN NOW STANDS — EARLY DAYS: HARD TIMES — ONE OF THE OLD SETTLERS

The transition period between the white man and the Indian is always a very interesting period in the development of a new country, but it is one that affords little comfort to the historian who covets accuracy. Records are scarce if, in fact, there be any at all; treacherous memories and conflicting statements are about the sum total of obtainable material. The best that can be done is to give the general narrative and let the old settlers supply the details.

NO SETTLEMENT IN COUNTY

The present state surveyor, Robert Harvey, who with his party surveyed the principal lines of this county in 1872, says:

"There was not a settler in Custer county that we observed, and the only evidence noticed of an intention to settle was in section 26, township 18 north, range 17 west, in the south end of the Oak Grove, close to Rock

creek, where we found four logs cut and laid up for the foundation of a cabin, and on a blazed oak tree nearby was the notice in pencil of 'Buffalo Bill's' claim of intention to file. It was dated in June and my recollection is that it was on the anniversary of the battle of Bunker Hill."

In 1873 and 1874 the first settlements were made. During that period several parties came up from the Grand Island country, or perhaps a little farther east, and settled in the Middle Loup valley,—Lee's Park and the present New Helena. Other families came up from the south, filtering through Kearney, Lexington, then called Plum Creek, and made settlement in the South Loup valley. It was in these localities that Custer county settlements began. Some of the settlers were married men who brought their families with them and were therefore ready as soon as possible to establish some kind of a home. Whether a

dugout, a log house, or sod house, it didn't matter. If four walls could be erected or dug out, and a roof constructed over them, it was home and in it home life began.

THE BUFFALO BILL TREE

A tree in the vicinity of Douglas Grove bore for years the name, "William Cody, 1869," cut deep into its shaggy bark, showing that "Buffalo Bill" had camped here on some of his hunting or scouting trips. Opposite the grove were three large pine trees, standing four miles back from the river. Two of them



BUFFALO BILL WHEN A HUNTER IN NEBRASKA

were cut in the winter of 1873, taken to Loup City and sawed into boards, which were taken to Omaha and Lincoln as an advertisement for Kountz county pioneers. In 1880 the last of the three pine trees disappeared. They had stood for years, faithful sentinels in the dreary sand hills—a guide for the weary hunter to his camp. All the early settlers miss that last lone pine, which could be seen for miles on either side of the river. None but a tender-foot could have destroyed the last remaining relic of early times. Owing to the fact that Cody's name was found carved on this tree, the story became current that Cody had located a claim within the boundaries of the county. There is nothing to substantiate the claim.

THE FIRST HOME

Who had the first home in Custer county? That is one of the many interrogations no historian can answer. During the early '60s trappers and hunters often visited the country but it is not known that any of them had permanent stopping places. Perhaps some of them put up rude shelters, but they were nothing more than shelters. Out south and west of Callaway, on the old Finch-Hatton ranch, was located what is probably the first white man's abode of any kind ever established in the county. Old settlers tell us that in 1872 the remains of a demolished dugout were discovered in this locality and at that time it gave evidence of having been abandoned at least ten years. The excavation and side wall were clearly demarked and no mistake could be made concerning the fact that it was made for a human occupant. Beyond doubt, then, this was the first home in Custer county. As the proprietor was never at home to any of his neighbors, or rather did not wait until his neighbors moved into the country, his name will never be recorded in these pages.

WHO WAS THE FIRST HOMESTEADER?

There has always been more or less dispute concerning the first homesteader who filed on land within the boundaries of Custer county. Both the South and Middle Loup countries have, with more or less insistence, laid claim to the distinction. Both Douglas Grove and the New Helena district make claims to this distinction, and it has been rather hard to harmonize all these claims and assertions. Butcher's history gives the honor to Edward Douglas, of Douglas Grove, to whom this volume gives third place. Great pains have been taken to ascertain the facts in the case. The different claims have always been maintained, no one took the trouble to search records and ascertain when these different parties filed.

LEWIS R. DOWSE FIRST SETTLER

The honors of being the first bona-fide settler belong, without doubt, to Lewis R. Dowse, who came into the county and settled in the

Middle Loup valley in August, 1873. He brought with him his breaking plow, reaper, and mower. He put up hay, did some breaking, and settled on the homestead where he now resides. He did not file on his land at the time he located, but held it by squatter's right until such time as he had the money to make homestead entry. Accordingly Dowse is the first settler but was not the first to file on Custer county land. Before he could make entry of his land several others had filed homestead claims.

FRANK OHME WAS FIRST MAN TO FILE

Frank Ohme, who settled over on the east county line and whose address is Arcadia, in Valley county, is beyond doubt the man who filed on the first claim in Custer county and the second place goes to Edward Douglas, who is championed by the Douglas Grove people, and for whom Douglas Grove was named. As a matter of fact, there is only three weeks' difference between the times of their filing. Frank Ohme filed January 26, 1874, and his filing number at the land office was serial 4728.

Edward Douglas filed February 16, 1874, and his serial number was 4972. This puts twenty-one days between the entry of Frank Ohme and that of Edward Douglas, and we believe it definitely settles the question of priority.

The next entry found in the land office records is that made by Joseph A. Woods, March 21, 1874. Ten days later he was followed by Daniel Wagner, who filed May 1, 1874. The next name on the land office record is Patrick Kelly, May 5th of the same year, and this is as far down the column of entries as it is profitable to go.

THE FIRST COMERS

We quote W. D. Hall as authority for first Douglas Grove settlements and they were among the first, if not the first, in the county.

The third claim taken in what is now Custer county was in what is known as Oak Grove, and was entered February 16, 1874, by Edward Douglas, who died the following summer, at Loup City. For him the town was

named. W. H. Comstock settled here in the spring of 1874, with D. J. Caswell, Sam Wagoner, B. D. Allen, James Oxford, E. D. Eubank, C. A. Hale, A. E. Denis, and Thomas Darnell. A. A. Higgins came in the spring of 1875 and brought with him a family of twelve, which greatly added to the population of the little settlement. Mr. Higgins was a patriarch of the gospel, a staunch upholder of the teachings of Wesley, and it was under his roof that Elder Lemin, the pioneer of Methodism in Nebraska, preached the first Methodist sermon and held the first quarterly conference in the county.

Frank Ingram bought from the heirs of Edward Douglas the Oak Grove claim in 1875. Oak Grove is a beautiful place. The country around is rough and rugged in the extreme, and is well known to all the old settlers on the Loup.

MORE FOR DOUGLAS GROVE

Douglas Grove received its full share of the pioneer inflow until 1884, when practically all government land was occupied. The first settler in Dry valley was James Wagoner, who settled on what is now the Len Town place, in 1878. Frank Muthic took the next claim, followed by N. W. Alberts, Dewitt Konklin, W. Bener, J. W. Scott, John Campbell, the Amos family, Brumbaugh family, Joe Armour, J. Roth, John Jems, the Twombly family, Worley brothers, Mr. Mattox, Swanson brothers, C. Gollier, A. Kohn, W. Newcomb, L. L. Wood, James Boggs, Mr. Bowers, and others who have made Dry valley a neighborhood of permanence and thrift.

M. E. Vandenberg located at the mouth of Sand Creek in 1878; the Payne ranch was located in Dry valley in 1880 and has been since 1884 the property of S. L. Glover and sons; Charley Hill located in 1880 on Wagoner creek.

To do justice to those who helped to make the history of Douglas Grove in its first decade, we mention the three Mickle brothers and their families, the Glazier family, I. C. Buck, John Stewart, the Stevens family, the Cleveland family, W. Hudson, Dewitt Com-



[Placed by D. Buchanan]
 WILLIAM COMSTOCK AND WIFE IN FRONT OF THEIR OLD LOG HOUSE, BUILT IN 1875

stock, W. S. House, H. H. McIntosh, H. G. Stockes, J. A. Kenyon, G. E. Whitcomb, W. D. Hall, J. H. Walton, W. C. Gaddish, and W. P. Higgins, who twice has represented the county in the state legislature.

Captain Comstock, B. D. Allen, and Sherman Wagoner homesteaded in the Douglas Grove country in the spring of 1874. Captain Comstock remained in the country till the time of his death, a few years since, and became one of the noted characters of the community, — one whose life history is interwoven with the story of Custer county and its development.

NEW HELENA HOMESTEADERS

In the spring of 1874 C. R. Mathews, who still lives upon his homestead in the New Helena district, organized a party of Virginians for the invasion of Custer county. The party consisted of himself, C. R. Ma-

thews, Amos Broughan, Watts Sifford, Harv Andrews, George Snyder and wife, William King, W. P. Tolley, J. H. Withers, and a man by the name of Circle, whose first name is not recorded. They came by way of Omaha, Kearney, and Loup City into the Middle Loup country, fording the Middle Loup river where the old town of Wescott now stands. There were no roads, no lines of any kind, no bridges, so they pushed their way over the prairie. At Lillian creek they encountered a snow storm, which before the night was over became a blizzard. They had difficulty in crossing the stream, which was almost bank-full at the time, but they managed to reach the western bank, took off the wagon box and braced it up for protection from the storm.

Harv Andrews "shinned" up a cottonwood tree, broke off dead limbs, and soon had a roaring camp-fire. The next morning, after the blizzard had subsided, they moved up to the mouth of Victoria creek, where they met trappers who described to them the Victoria valley. They followed the creek until they came to the present site of New Helena. Here too they found many evidences of trappers and Indians.

DISCOVER CEDAR CANYON

Fortunately they found enough cedar logs and poles, which had formerly been used by

trappers, to make bridge enough to get the wagon across Victoria creek, after which they headed for the breaks and the hills in a north-westerly direction. In about three miles and a half they struck what is known in Custer county at the Big Cedar



HISTORIC RESIDENCE OF JUDGE C. R. MATHEWS, NEAR HELENA
Buildings constructed of cedar logs

canyon. The canyon was a dense forest of cedar and other trees. This timber was very valuable, and has furnished cedar logs for most of the early homes within a radius of twenty-five miles. Judge Matthews' present dwelling is made of cedar logs from this canyon, and consists of two log cabins place side by side with the doors facing each other in old Virginia style. At the present time the logs in Judge Mathews' house, if sawed into lumber and sold for market value, would bring money enough to build as fine a home as could be found in Custer county, but the Judge prefers the old home and the old logs with which all the memories of early days are associated. The undergrowth in the canyon was so thick that it could hardly be pene-

trated, but pushing their way through they came to a clearing in the center of which stood an Indian wigwam. They experienced cold chills in the region of the spine, but their fears were groundless for the wigwam proved to be empty and in it they spent a very comfortable night. After a few days spent in exploring the country they returned to Loup City and proceeded to equip themselves for starting life on the Nebraska claim.

Their return was the starting of the settlement. These settlers consisted of H. B. Andrews, Edward Nelson, Judge C. R. Mathews, George E. Carr, and O. A. Smith. The next winter Ezra A. Caswell and Thomas Loughran took claims further down the creek, near the Middle Loup. About this time Jacob Ross, with a large family of grown-up daughters, made a welcome addition to the community. In the next spring, 1875, N. H. Dryden and family, J. R. Forsythe, and J. P. Bell settled in the neighborhood.

ESTABLISHES FIRST POSTOFFICE

During the winter of 1874-5 C. R. Mathews, circulated a petition asking the authorities at Washington to establish a postoffice at New Helena, to be served by a post route from Kearney, via Loup City, Arcadia, and Douglas Grove. New Helena received the first mail by this arrangement on the 15th day of April, 1875. Aaron Crouch brought the first mail and subsequently served as mail carrier for several years. The mail came but once a week, arriving and leaving on Saturdays. Mathews' commission as postmaster bears the date of February 9, 1875, during President Grant's administration. It locates New Helena in Kountz county, Nebraska.

THE BEGINNING OF LEE'S PARK

In September, 1874, James Lee, discovering a fertile valley in the eastern part of the county located on a central quarter-section, and made it his home. The following summer he entered the quarter on which he lived as a pre-emption, and also the adjoining quarter as a tree claim, under the old law which required forty acres of trees planted.

This gave the name of Lee's Park to the valley. Although parties often passed through the park, no one seemed inclined to locate. Mr. Lee kept bachelor's hall in a sod house, and began to subdue the native soil. He evidently succeeded, as his first wheat crop of one acre testified. He obtained from it forty bushels of wheat, which is supposed to be the largest yield ever raised in the park.

The following spring he continued his operations on the farm, and planted some trees on his timber claim, but the grasshoppers again found him, and ate up his corn crop, as well as his little trees. During these years, as hunters and adventurers passed through, they occasionally stopped at the bachelor's mansion, and the fact of his being the only settler, and working with his trees on his timber claim, caused the travelers to name the valley "Lee's Park." Here then this settler dwelt, year after year, in solitude — farming, planting trees, and doing his sewing, cooking, and washing. He tried to get others to locate, but no one volunteered. Nearly four years had passed by, and his courage, which had remained firm for years, began to wane, with the result that he at last decided to leave his beautiful half-section of land.

About this time, however, Frank Wright offered to locate in the park, providing Mr. Lee surrendered to him his pre-emption, on which was his house and well. This Mr. Lee agreed to do, and soon afterward Mr. Wright started to claim his new possessions. On his way he fell in with some land-seekers who seemed to be headed for Lee's Park, so they went together, and on arriving at Mr. Lee's, Wright asked for the papers, which were immediately surrendered. Soon afterward, however, this Mr. Wright sold the place for twenty-five dollars to F. E. Morrison. These land-seekers were William and Joseph Murray, who, in February, 1878, took claims in the park, and their families arrived in May the same year. Soon after this, in March, Benjamin Knight located in the park. He then returned to his Wisconsin home to claim the hand of his "best girl," and together they journeyed to their frontier home. From this time on, settlers

flocked in rapidly, and James Lee, no longer solitary, decided not to leave. His pre-emption right, however, being gone, he proceeded to the extreme end of the park and filed a 160-acre piece as a homestead, on the bank of a little stream afterward known as "Lee's creek."

In July Messrs. Overton, Chandler True, Jay Hamlin, George Hamlin, Jr., E. Stephens, and William Van Alstine settled. In August T. J. Johnson and Amos Smith; then followed Parish Freeman and his son Charles, William Hall, Joseph Peacock, and James Thompson. In 1879 Edward Knight, Philip Lynch, James Wisely, N. Mehrhoff, Nelson Potter, Sam Minchell, and Mr. Abel located here. In 1880 Thomas, David, and Archie Tod, F. E. Morrison, and James Bradford, also Thomas, John, and Sam Berridge, who afterward commenced the importation of English shire horses, under the firm name of Berridge Brothers. They made three importations, among which were some very choice specimens of the breed.

A FINE STOCK BREEDER

In 1881 J. L. H. Knight settled permanently here with his father, Edward Knight, and as this youngster was a lover of fine stock, he early sought an opportunity to obtain some thoroughbred hogs. His first purchase was in 1885, and was a Poland-China pig, which cost him thirty dollars. Two years after this he purchased three head of Shorthorn cattle, and from that time he continued to show his belief in good blood by frequent purchases. He purchased 520 acres of his father and brother in the southern end of the park and named it "Pleasant Hill Stock Farm." Here he had choice specimens of Shorthorn cattle, Poland-China hogs, and the Plymouth Rock fowls. Although not confining himself exclusively to hogs, he made the raising of fine pigs a specialty and was often spoken of as the "hog man."

A SIGNAL-SERVICE MAN

In 1883 the fine section of school land in Lee's Park was put upon the market, and two brothers, C. A. and W. A. Forbes, energetic young men, were fortunate enough to obtain

160 acres. At the same time, J. L. H. Knight purchased the remaining 320 acres for W. S. Delano, who was then in the signal service and who was one of Mr. Knight's classmates in the Michigan Agricultural College. In 1886 his term of enlistment expired, and very willing was he to leave the service of Uncle Sam to engage in farming. He at once commenced raising seeds for D. M. Ferry & Company, of Detroit, Michigan. His two brothers, F. E. Delano and Milton Delano, shortly afterward entered into partnership with him, under the firm name of Delano Brothers.

SPENCER'S PARK

Spencer's Park, located in township 16, range 19 west, is comprised of about 3,600 acres of level land surrounded with hills, and opening in the Muddy valley by a narrow neck one and one-half miles northeast of the town of Berwyn, in Berwyn precinct. Its greatest length is three miles and its greatest width two miles, and it comprises some of the finest land in Custer county. The soil is of a black loam from three to six feet deep, underlaid with a fine light-colored clay from thirty to fifty feet in depth, and is particularly adapted to hold moisture in extreme drought, besides taking moisture readily.

Probably the first home-seekers that looked over the park with a view of locating were George Early and Clark Wellman, who came from near Lincoln, in the fall of 1879. The former entered the southwest quarter of section 10 and the latter the east half of the northeast quarter of section 9, and west half of northwest quarter of section 10, but they did not make permanent settlement on the above land.

The first permanent settler was Ira D. Spencer, with his family, in whose honor the park was named. They came from Jefferson county in the usual way, with prairie schooner, driving their cattle with them and having some thirty head. The family consisted of wife and three sons. On reaching Seneca, which is now called Westerville, on Clear creek, Mr. Spencer made his first stop and began looking around for a location. When he viewed Spen-

cer's Park he said, "This is good enough for me," and in the summer of 1880 he staked out a claim which was nearly in the center of the park, on the southeast quarter of section 10. He began to break the same and put up hay for the winter. The family lived on Clear creek during the winter, until the necessary preparations were made for their new home, which was a large sod house, the latch string of which was always on the outside for weary travelers who chanced to come that way.

I. E. Spencer, son of the above, entered the west half of the northeast quarter and the east half of the northwest quarter of section 10, in May, 1881. Later he built a sod house, furnished it with a stove, bed, table, and a couple of soap-boxes for chairs, and began a bachelor's life in his sod shanty on his claim.

In the fall of 1880 an old man by the name of Gaskell entered the northwest quarter of section 14 as a timber claim, and his son-in-law, H. Dornen, entered the northeast quarter of section 15 as a homestead. They moved their families on their claims. But being unprepared for the hard winter that followed, after losing all their stock, they abandoned their claims and sold their relinquishments, for twenty-five dollars apiece, to W. H. Mauk.

MAUK WAS A GAY BACHELOR

Mauk entered the northeast quarter of section 15 as a homestead, the other as a timber claim, in May, 1881. In the following fall he made a dugout about eight by ten feet, covered with poles, brush, and sod, and began house-keeping in earnest, as a bachelor. His furniture consisted of a stove, bed and bedding, one dishpan, one skillet, one breadpan, one coffeepot, two plates, two knives and forks, and one spoon. The sheet was spread over the bed in a slanting position to run the water and mud off when it rained. His time was about evenly divided between farming, going to the canyons for wood, and thinking which neighbor he would call on next to get a square meal. But the place to-day does not look like it did then. It has increased in value at least one hundred fold and a frame house has taken the place of the old sod. This was

erected in the spring of 1888 and was the first frame house in the park.

In the summer of 1881 H. J. Dupes settled on the northwest quarter. On December 15, with his wife and six children, he came from Jefferson county, Nebraska, and began improving his farm, which is a very good one. He also entered the southeast quarter of section 9, as a timber claim, which he sold in 1887, to Charles Kemp.

Miss Julietta Wellman moved from Lincoln in 1881 and located on the east half of northeast quarter of section 9 and the west half of northwest quarter of section 10, as a homestead. Later she built a sod house on it, made other improvements, and lived on it until she perfected her title. She went through all the hardships of frontier life, a great deal of the time living alone, which shows the grit and determination of the ladies who were among the first settlers of the park. She also filed on the southwest quarter of section 2 as a timber claim and improved both claims.

Clark Wellman bought of George Early the relinquishment on the southwest quarter of section 10 and entered the same as a timber claim, in 1883, and later sold it to G. B. Greenwood.

In the summer of 1882 Nathan Davidson came here from Tama county, Iowa, with his wife, three sons, and two daughters, and located on the southwest quarter of section 14. His oldest son, James, who also had a family, entered the southeast quarter of section 15 which is to-day well improved and valuable land. His second son, Henry, homesteaded the northeast quarter of section 14, in the summer of 1883 and began "batching" on his claim, which added another settler.

In the summer of 1883 R. W. Barton settled on the northwest quarter of section 4. He brought his family from Hamilton county, Nebraska, and settled on the northwest extremity of the park, which is mostly table land. Overlooking the park, it commanded a beautiful view of the surrounding country. Barton was a veteran of the Grand Army of the Republic and later was elected justice of the peace. He was among the foremost in or-

ganizing schools, laying out roads, and improving and building up the country.

In the spring of 1884 Peter Rapp moved with his family from near Lincoln, Nebraska, and settled on the southeast quarter of section 4, as a timber claim. He came with horses, machinery, and a herd of cattle and has made very rapid improvements. His first residence was a dugout. The stables were built of sod.

In the spring of 1884 C. Coswell located on the northwest quarter of section 3 and led a bachelor's life, made some improvements and then sold out, in 1889. The place has changed hands a good many times.

NOW THEY COME TO LILLIAN

Probably the first men who ever looked upon this valley with a serious idea of possession were J. M. and H. A. Goheen and William H. Gwinn. They located their claims, made a "dugout," cut some hay, and prepared for winter. Some time during that fall John W. Goheen, a brother of the first arrivals, came with their parents, quite old people, who had been pioneers in the settlement of western Pennsylvania. The aged couple, full of the fire of youth, were delighted with the new-found earthly paradise and soon filed on a homestead, which they occupied until the death of the aged James Goheen, which occurred in August, 1887.

The greatest obstacle to the settlement of these table-lands as yet, was the great depth to good water. Many of the first settlers along the streams had seen and admired this valley, but they did not dare venture too far from the running water. The Goheen boys were fortunate enough to secure the services of two settlers north of the Middle Loup river, Charles Bishop and Burton Gates, who owned a rig for putting down tubular wells. They were successful in obtaining a bountiful supply of good water at a depth of eighty to one hundred feet, piercing a soft manganese rock and finding water in gravel just beneath. During the summer of 1881 the Goheen boys built comfortable sod houses, preparatory to moving their families to their new homes.

The next settler to make his appearance

was J. E. Gwinn. William Gwinn had returned to Nemaha county to remove his cattle to the rich grazing grounds of the west, and, uniting their little herds these two, accompanied by D. H. Gwinn, on his tenderfoot exploring expedition, started April 17, 1882, with forty head of cattle, an emigrant wagon and a herd of ponies. They were twenty-two days making the journey.

Some idea of the seclusion of this valley at this time may be gained from the fact that while J. E. Gwinn was engaged in breaking fifty acres on his claim in the summer of 1882 he saw only two travelers, and one of these had lost his way.

In October, 1882, came J. O. Bates with his son, J. M., and daughter, Susie, all prospecting for land that they found to their liking adjoining the new settlement. The next spring J. M. Bates removed from Omaha with all his effects, to his future home. A. G. Page and wife, from Vermont, also the parents of Mrs. J. M. Bates, arrived with the Bates family, and settled in section 19. Mr. Bates provided himself with a large tent, sufficient to shelter the whole party. On their arrival it was pitched on the claim of Susie Bates and became the temporary home of the party, while more permanent buildings were being erected on their respective claims. All went merrily enough in their Arab-like mode of existence until the latter part of May, when one day there came the most furious rain and wind storm ever yet seen in this locality, and when the storm was at its height the tent was lifted from over their heads and left them to the mercy of the raging elements. Bedding, pans of milk, wearing apparel, and sundry other unmentionables suddenly sought wonderful affinity for each other, and uniting, attempted to form a new compound. Bedrenched, bedraggled, and almost drowned, the occupants thus suddenly rendered homeless, dodged and cowered, and grasped at straws in the way of shelter until the brief deluge was over. Then, with more haste than grace, they sought shelter, bag and baggage, in the bachelor quarters of William Gwinn, a single room, about ten by twelve feet. One end of the room was

devoted to a range of trunks, boxes, and bedding from the ceiling to the floor, a stove in one corner, a table and some chairs,—and where could the eleven animated beings find a resting place for their wet feet? Picture the inter-family dinner according to your imagination. As for sleeping arrangements, they consisted of the airy apartments on wheels, in which the men folks sought nightly repose.

C. E. Bates, a young son, reached his majority some time later, and filed on a pre-emption in section 27.

Two young Englishmen, E. E. Bird and Arthur Clark, built their sod houses in the autumn of 1882. Clark soon tired of homesteading and returned to England. Bird also sold his claim and removed to another part of the neighborhood, a few miles distant. The purchaser of the claim was T. A. Leisure, who resided there for years, and if Clark should return he would hardly recognize the farm which has taken the place of the raw prairie he bartered away.

Clark had, also, a tree claim which was purchased from Jabez Bowman, from Cass county, Nebraska, and Bird had one which was bought by A. G. Bowman, Jabez's father. Clark received a horse from this quarter, which is now valued at eight thousand dollars. Charles Bowman purchased E. E. Bird's homestead and converted it into a fine farm.

Some of the settlers who did not prove to be permanent ones were Charles and Amos Meeker, David Daniels, and E. B. Bartlett. During 1884 came also Joseph Pickner.

Thomas Maupin, a worthy old gentleman from Iowa, came with his family the same spring and filed on a part of sections 27 and 34. On the western extremity of the little settlement had happened a great event which must not be overlooked.

In the spring of 1883 F. M. DuPray and wife made their appearance with a large family of grown-up daughters. It seemed like the advent of full civilization to the wilds of Lillian Park. Lonely bachelors hung up their flapjack pans, scraped the dough from their pantaloons, and hastened to see if Mr. DuPray was, as reputed, a blacksmith, and to con-

sult him about breaking plows, other farming implements, etc. The result was that several of the bachelors were made happy and several new homes were founded instead of the mere staying places, as formerly. Among these were H. A. Goheen, on section 31, and Fred Frances, on section 30, where he began the task of redeeming 160 acres of land from the power of the "Great American Desert."

Joseph Chrisman, the patriarch of another large family of sons and daughters, and Abraham-like, a keeper of a large herd of cattle, with complete gypsy outfit, began in the spring of 1883 a gradual progress toward the "Loup country" from Nemaha county. He found a large, fine stock location about the headwaters of Lillian creek, section 3—18—20. It is not likely that he or his family will ever forget the trials of their first winter here, a severe one, and, being inexperienced in the usages of Custer county blizzards, the shelter and feed provided for their stock were insufficient and many head perished, though since then prosperity has smeared itself all over the old pioneer in great dabs, and a large increase has blessed his efforts.

Mary E. Howard, a widow lady, with her daughter, settled in section 32, and bravely went to work to make a home. She succeeded in bringing thirty acres under cultivation, mostly her own labor.

Rasmus Schritsmier located during 1884 and began industriously to conquer the prairie sod and fit the soil for crops.

SETTLING IN MERNA VALLEY

Some time in the year of 1882 a prairie schooner camped for the night on the site where afterward the town of Merna was built. The travelers attached to the one-wagon caravan were a young lady by the name of Villa Ong and her cousin, a young man from somewhere in the east. The next morning they hitched up the team and drove about six miles up the valley, where one of their horses lay down and died. This compelled the two travelers to proceed on foot to where Mr. Ira Ong, the young lady's father, had a cattle ranch, in what is now the Keota district.

W. G. Brotherton, who was destined to be one of the pioneer spirits of Custer county, had settled in Merna valley early in 1882, and in his sod house on the night referred to in the paragraph above, Gilbert Hogue and Joseph A. Kellenbarger were all-night guests. Kellenbarger and Brotherton had been acquaintances in Iowa previously to the exodus to Nebraska. Kellenbarger and Hogue were in quest of land, and the next morning Brotherton and his team were at their disposal. Both were young, with ambitious dreams of life, and the job of tackling raw prairie and transforming it into an improved farm and comfortable home meant little to them. They made their land selections and put back to Iowa for their families and other friends.

A BUNCH OF IOWANS ARRIVE

On the ninth day of April, 1883, late in the afternoon, a small train of prairie schooners pulled up at the old town of Merna, where W. G. Brotherton was both postmaster and merchant. D. O. Luce, who was a proprietor of a wood yard, was the rest of the town. The schooners were loaded with Iowa people who had come to stay. They were after land, and in that day there was land for everybody. The party consisted of O. G. Gordon, Warren Gordon and his three small children,—Lelia, who is now Mrs. W. G. Brotherton, of Fora, Arthur county, where they are still pioneering and conducting a postoffice, and Lee and Arthur, who are now prominent citizens of the new town of Merna,—John Cosner, wife and one small child, a Mr. Graham, wife and three small children, Gilbert and Edward Hogue, Ben Kellenbarger and family, Joseph Kellenbarger and his family of four small chil-

dren. They did not all hail from the same place, but they had arranged to come together, and when they reached Merna, which was to be their stopping place, they had been nine days on the trail. During that time they formed acquaintanceships that bind them together still and will never be forgotten.

AN IMPROMPTU RECEPTION

As soon as the wagons were sighted by the few settlers of the vicinity of the little village they began to come in from all directions upon some pretext or other. The principal object, of course, was a pardonable curiosity to find out who the newcomers were, and in open-

hearted western fashion extend them a reception, which for simplicity and elegance of stage-setting could hardly be surpassed. Dick Strong and Mr. Morrison wanted to borrow flour to put them through until a fresh supply could be secured from Kearney. John Pollard came to invite the Graham family and the Ben



[Photo by S. D. Butcher]

C. P. FOOTE'S OLD PIONEER HOUSE AT MERNA
Mr. Foot, at this time, was sheriff of Custer county

Kellenbarger family to be his guests for the night in his new "soddy." Pollard was a little homesick at the time and he needed the company to cheer him up and replenish his "pep." The Thomas boys wished to see if any of their relatives were in the crowd. W. H. Reader, having no other excuse, came after a barrel of water. "Paddy" Kilfoil, seeing the wagons lined up by the postoffice thought possibly someone might have a plug of tobacco to spare, so he walked down from where the Dale church now stands. "Paddy's" habitation in those days was a dugout. It was early in the spring but "Paddy" rushed the season enough to appear in a straw hat and linen duster. His salutation to the new-

comers was, "Ye's have come to a moighty foine place."

The next day the settlers located on their respective homesteads and began active operations. The most of them lived in their wagons until they could build sod houses.

SETTLING IN CUSTER CENTER

On the 28th day of November two young men, Omer M. Kem and Martin F. Blankenship, boarded the train at East Lynn, Vermilion county, Illinois, and came to the grand state of Nebraska for the purpose of homesteading land. On their arrival in Kearney they met with C. D. Pelham and John DeMerritt, two freighters from Custer county, who spoke highly of this country. The young men came with them to Pelham's store, then located northeast of the present site of Broken Bow, about one mile from the public square. There was no Broken Bow at that time as far as the town is concerned, but Mr. Pelham was postmaster of a very small postoffice called Broken Bow. After a few days' prospecting they selected claims near the present Custer Center and went back to Illinois. They returned to Custer county early in March of 1882 and located on their claims,—Mr. Kem three and one-half miles northwest of Broken Bow and Mr. Blankenship about five miles northwest. There were no churches or schools and their neighbors were few, but what they had were very friendly. H. C. Reyner, Charles S. Raymond, James D. Ream, and James Courtney with themselves constituted the number. During the following fall and winter others located near them and by the spring of 1883 they had a lot of new neighbors, and good ones.

DOWN IN ASH CREEK VALLEY

In 1886 C. W. Prettyman pre-empted land in the Ash creek valley down near where the Ash creek empties into the Loup. He tells that he was preceded in that neighborhood by several other pioneers, among whom was his father, G. F. Almendinger, C. H. Landreth, and James King. The Prettyman claim was

only one-half mile from the King place, which made the King family his nearest neighbors. Ash creek is to-day one of the best localities in the county and gives no indication of the dugouts, sod houses, and log shacks of the early day.

HOW CUSTER COUNTY GOT BOB HUNTER

History of a country is made oftentimes by seemingly insignificant actions and experiences in the daily routine life of its inhabitants, which experiences are many and varied in the lives of its pioneers. Betimes a very trivial event leads to the location of a home. Sometimes the very name of a city impresses those looking for a new location, as does the name Broken Bow, county seat of Custer county, which at once implies romance and commands interest: at least such was the case of the Hunter family—which consisted of father, mother, and two small daughters—who had moved from a rich agricultural country in Illinois to Buffalo county, Nebraska, in 1885. As the summer of 1887-8 wore on, long wagon trains of freighters on their way from Broken Bow and vicinity, in Custer county, to Kearney, in Buffalo county, passed and repassed the modest prairie home of Robert A. Hunter and family.

Many stormy wintry nights the plain home, typical of western homes in hospitality, was filled to overflowing with the freighters, who always before leaving their own homes, provided themselves with sufficient food for themselves and provender for their horses for the journey and return. Kearney, about seventy-five miles from Broken Bow, being the nearest railroad town, was the shipping point for all Custer county, and furnished an enormous supply of all building materials and provisions for the inhabitants of the north country, as it was called by the residents of Buffalo county. These materials and provisions all had to be delivered to Custer county by freighters, who formed long wagon trails, sometimes as many as fifty wagons being in one trail, each wagon being mostly empty on the way to Kearney, as the settlers then had little to take to

market but much to return with for themselves and for the little inland town of Broken Bow.

To these wagons were hitched from three to five horses, mules, or bronchos, sometimes abreast and oftentimes tandem. In pleasant weather the freighter camped by the roadside wherever the night found him, but in case of storms or sudden blizzards he sought the refuge of shelter in the sparsely settled homes along his route. These homes almost without exception were always hospitably open to them at any time, day or night.

Thus it was that the Hunter home was often the shelter of many freighters, and many and interesting tales were told by them of the north country, and of the many different drawbacks and advantages, which often sounded to their willing and interested listeners like tales of romance and adventure. Whether just or otherwise, all countries are to a certain degree judged by strangers according to the people representing them.

So impressed was Mr. Hunter by these descriptions of Custer county advantages that he became convinced that it must be a splendid stock country, and the summer (August 9, 1889) found the family headed for Broken Bow, where they at least hoped to be able to live six months in order to pay out and prove up on a homestead of 160 acres, for the right for which he had traded a broncho and sulky and harness.

THEY FILL UP THE TABLE

One of the first settlers on the west table-land was J. B. Klump, who took a homestead and timber claim in section 12, township 17, range 23, in March, 1883. D. W. Wediman and B. F. Cole were the first settlers on the northeast part of this table. Samuel High also located about the same time that Klump did, and dug a well 350 feet deep, but it was not a success. Within the same year there arrived three brothers by the name of Lang, with their father and mother, and John and Moses Truesdale. In the spring of 1885 came Peter F. Forney, Charles Blakeman, Charles

Zachary, Daniel Sweeney, and John Wehling. These settlers dug cisterns near the lagoons and cemented them, which held water from the melted snow and rains for some months. When the cisterns became dry the only recourse was to haul water in barrels from the valley two or three miles distant, and anyone who is acquainted with the steepness of the ascent up to the table-land can imagine what a task it was. In addition they often had to pay five cents per barrel for the water. As they not only had to haul water for their household use, but also for whatever stock they had, Mr. Forney started in to haul water in two barrels, but he soon found that process too slow. He had four horses, four head of cattle and some hogs, and as it took over half of his time hauling water, he almost begrudged the poor beasts what they wanted to drink.

FIRST OF THE DEEP WELLS

Peter Forney was the first man to put down a gravel well on the table. It was an iron-casing well, 444 feet deep and cost him six hundred dollars. For two years this well supplied the families of Wediman, Cox, Maupin, Hill, Blakeman, Taylor, Cooney, and Pike. Mr. Forney had to mortgage his farm in order to put down this well, and by the time it was paid for the interest, added to the principal, amounted to \$1050.

At this writing this table-land is thickly settled. It has won the reputation of being the best wheat-producing portion of Custer county, and contains some splendid farms. Most of the sod buildings have given way to fine residences of wood, and the commodious barns and outbuildings impart a most prosperous appearance to the table. Windmills are seen by the score and the water problem no longer troubles the people of the community. The table is fifteen miles long and has an average width of four miles. From its edges, which rise almost abruptly from the valleys below, a magnificent view of the surrounding country can be had. The soil is exceedingly rich and fertile, and in favorable seasons very large crops are raised.

SETTLERS COME TO DALE

J. J. Downey writes as follows concerning Dale settlements:

"About the 10th day of June, 1889, in company with R. D. McCarthy and family and two of his teamsters, we started for our future home in Custer county. We arrived at Seneca, where we found the beginning of a rising young town, it being one and a half miles up Clear creek from the present town of Westerville. We stayed over night at the house of George Copsey, one of the old pioneers of the place. We were now within one day's travel of our destination. We crossed over to the Muddy the next forenoon. We camped for dinner near the present site of Broken Bow. The only settlers we found close by were Wilson Hewitt and Dan Lewis. Mr. Hewitt was the proprietor of a blacksmith shop, which we afterward patronized. That evening we obtained our first view of the Muddy

Flats, as it was called at that time. We paused on the brow of the table and the male portion of the company descended and threw up their hats with a "hurrah," for lo, and behold! there it lay in full view—the promised land. Descending from the table we arrived at the first settler's cabin, which, by the way, was not of sod, but cedar logs, the only one of its kind on the flats as far as I know. There we got some water and a kindly greeting from the proprietor, Sam Dunning. On our way from Dunning's place to our present location we passed the dugout of A. Thomas, a genial young bachelor. There were several other young men staying with him who had not yet erected their future mansions. It was now about sundown and four miles to the end of our journey. At about dusk

we arrived at our claims and found there, on land adjoining, William Couhig, who had preceded us by ten days. He had made considerable progress with his work, having put down a well, which proved to be a great convenience. The well was dug by C. R. Krenz, an expert in that line of business, who still resides in Dale valley, and was the father of the first child born in Dale.

"Among the settlers that came in that summer were the following: William Corcoran; Patrick Kilfoil, after whom Kilfoil precinct was named; William Walsh and family; Joseph Sitler, another young bachelor; George

W. Hartley, who was the first settler in Ortello valley; Andy Sommer, Charles Foote, Lenn Thomas, Charles Johnson, and John Jacquot, all of whom built residences out of prairie sod, with some of Uncle Sam's cedar for rafters, which at that time was comparatively plentiful in the canyons from



[PHOTO BY S. D. BUCKLEY]

EMIGRANTS HEADED FOR CUSTER COUNTY

ten to thirty miles west of here. There was no corn raised close by, except a small amount down on Victoria creek, in 1880, and that was held at fifty and sixty cents per bushel, and could be had for no price in the spring. Crops were good in 1881, and those who had ground broken out and raised corn were all right, having plenty for feed and a good home market for the balance, at a price ranging from fifty to seventy-five cents per bushel.

LOHR RUNS SOME STORE

"Several other settlers came during the year 1880 and took up claims, but did not permanently locate here until 1882. J. J. Joyner was the only settler that moved in during 1881, and he located in Ortello valley. In 1882 the following came: Conrad Fleischman, Christo-

pher Nichols, James Daley, James Wood, G. N. Thompson, Charles Fodge, S. H. Reed, James Stanford, G. W. Land, Samuel Trout—all with their families. About this time the Dale postoffice was established, with James Daley as postmaster. Mr. Daley afterward resigned in favor of D. S. Lohr, who went into the general merchandise business at Dale, getting quite a trade from fifty to seventy-five miles west and north of here. In fact it was a typical frontier store. The town of Dale was laid out the previous summer. Dale tried hard for the railroad, but the company could not see it in that way. Dale, however, is admirably located in regard to railroad towns, Merna being five or six miles southeast and Anselmo eight or nine miles northwest.

"The next two or three years the following named settlers moved here: William Moore, Charles Michele, Frank Michele, C. H. Cass, G. D. Grove, C. C. Grove, Henry Sweeney, Dan Foley, A. Glidewell, P. B. Riley, Jason Lucas, A. C. Towle, Henry Barratt, William Brookman, I. A. Coleman, Dr. L. L. Crawford, James Phillips, Thomas Kelley, Joseph Vessels, and R. J. Kelley, the last named being a pioneer merchant—a member of the later firm of Kelley & Duncan, who in 1886 moved to Merna, where he has been in business ever since. Nick Jaquot came about the same time, or perhaps a little before. He is a man of great enterprise, being largely interested in farming, stock-raising, and feeding, also proprietor of one of the Merna elevators, and a hog buyer. C. D. Pelham, the pioneer merchant of Broken Bow, afterward moved to Dale, where he did business for several years, finally moving to Anselmo."

MORE ABOUT LILLIAN

[The late E. N. Bishop tells the following story about early settlements on the Middle Loup in the vicinity of Lillian creek]:

In 1875 James L. Oxford made the first settlement in what is now Lillian township. He built log buildings and established a ranch on the east bank of Lillian creek, near where his frame buildings now stand. His father-in-law, John Henderson, and family, came from

Missouri and settled near him in 1878, until the spring of 1879, when the level and fertile plains became so attractive to those seeking homes that they began to wend their way up the south side of the Middle Loup river. During this season Perry Lyle, J. E. Ash, J. C. Hunter, J. M. Ash, S. Gates, with their families, and David McGuigan, A. C. Ash, and Ervin Ash, old bachelors, settled on the river bottom and J. O. Taylor, Ole Johnson, N. K. Lee, S. K. Lee, John Lee, and Nelson T. Lee, with their families, settled in Round valley. As if by magic the sod houses arose one by one, and dotted the valley and plain in every direction. In the spring of 1880 Jesse Gandy started a ranch at the place afterward known as the Hartley ranch, and the following named settlers, with their families, if they had any, and with good digestive organs, if they were bachelors, made their appearance on the scene of action and became permanent residents, or homesteaders as they were then called to distinguish them from ranchmen: Thomas Lampman, Frank Luse, E. N. Bishop, Frank Doty, Hugh M. Goheen, John Goheen, J. M. Goheen, Austin Goheen, James McGraw, D. O. Luse, Jarvis Kimes, A. W. Squires, O. S. Woodward, Charles Griffiths, J. E. Gwinn, J. N. Peale, A. N. Peale, and Samuel Oxford. The winter of 1880-81 was what has been since known as the "hard winter." To convey some idea of the difficulty of traveling where a track was not broken out, I will endeavor to give a short description of a trip I made one day of but two miles and back, which took me from early morning until after dark. The layers of sleet cut the horses' legs so that instead of wading through the snow they would jump upon it as if climbing on top of ice, which kept breaking and letting them through. In a few minutes they were so exhausted that I had to stop and let them rest. Their legs were cut and bleeding so badly that they left a crimson trail behind them in the snow. To make matters worse, the grass was very short and entirely covered by snow, so that one could not tell what was under the drift ahead. The first thing I knew the horses dropped down into a draw about five feet deep, where

they floundered about, unable to get out. I went to work with a scoop shovel I had brought along with me, and by noon had the team out on the level ground. Although it was dinner time and I was somewhat hungry, yet I had no dinner to eat, as I was on my way with a sack each of wheat and corn to be ground in a feed grinder that was owned by one of our neighbors, T. J. Butcher, where I arrived about four o'clock, having had to dig my horses out of draws four times on the way. It took but a few minutes to grind my feed and as I had broken the road on my way over pretty thoroughly, the return trip was made with comparative ease and without incident.

During the winter of 1880-81 S. Gates and the writer circulated a petition for the formation of Lillian precinct, this territory at that time being a part of Victoria precinct, with the voting place at New Helena. As some of the citizens had to go twenty-four miles to vote, the county commissioners readily granted our request and established Lillian precinct, with nearly the same territory as the present township of Lillian embraces. From this time forth, public improvements were made as fast as the financial condition of the county would permit. Among these were three bridges across the Middle Loup river on the northern boundary of Lillian precinct.

On February 16, 1880, Eri postoffice was established at the residence of J. E. Ash, with his wife, Alice Ash, as postmistress. It was named Eri, after Mr. Ash's brother, and was located on section 14, township 19, range 20. It was on the route to New Helena, and connected with the Kearney and New Helena mail at the latter point. The mail was carried twice a week, by way of Westerville and Round Valley, the latter office being established some time in 1880. Mrs. Ash resigned in favor of Frank Doty and recommended the removal of the office to his residence, three miles distant, which appeared to meet the approval of the authorities at Washington. The office was removed and remained there until it was discontinued, when the Walworth postoffice was removed to the bridge, by W. H. Predmore,

1885. Mr. Gates sent in a petition for the establishment of Gates postoffice, with himself as postmaster, which was granted, and the first mail was delivered there July 4, 1884. Soon after this Mr. Gates put in a small stock of groceries, added hardware and dry goods, and in 1886 he built a good frame store building. For several years, during the prosperous seasons, he kept a good store and did quite an extensive business. But in 1893 it had all evaporated except the postoffice. But like everything else in this western country, it could not be stopped entirely. Another small store was started by Joseph Beckwith, the new postmaster, who in about two years sold out to S. M. Hinkle. Mr. Hinkle kept the store and postoffice about a year and then sold out to Peter Fackley. When the railroad was built to Ord, the mail route was changed, and came from there to New Helena instead of from Loup City, and ran tri-weekly until the B. & M. Railroad was built through Anselmo, when the route was changed and ran from Anselmo to Sargent, daily, via New Helena, Lillian, Gates, Walworth, and West Union, giving to all this section, as at present, a mail service that it may well be proud of, especially since the railroad was completed to Sargent.

DOWN ON THE REDFERN TABLE

For the following statement of the settlement in Redfern Table we cull from the writing of James Whitehead.

Up to 1880 cattle men had undisputed possession of thousands of acres of land that in the three years following its occupancy yielded an average of twenty bushels of wheat per acre. But the settler came, and he came to stay. Many were veterans of the Civil war, in the prime of vigorous manhood, and held life as cheap and could shoot as straight as the dare-devil cowboy, and not unfrequently "got the drop" on those who had heretofore boasted of having things pretty much their own way. Thus, in part, the problem of settlement had become adjusted and the way made easy for those who in 1883 and 1884 were pioneers in the settlement of the southwestern part of Custer county.

The way of approach in those days was from Kearney along the Wood river valley to its confluence with the South Loup, at a point near the present site of Callaway. Further west were Plum creek and Cozad, points on the line of the Union Pacific,—the former about thirty miles from the south line of Custer, the latter fifteen miles nearer. At this point there was a gently undulating tract of country then known far and near as "Buffalo Table," located in townships 13 and 14, ranges 22 and 23, being within the twenty-mile limit. Every odd-numbered section of this entire table land was included in the grant of the Union Pacific. Inviting as it was, with its deep, rich soil, none of its lands were appropriated until the latter part of 1883. The first entry made in this locality was by no less a personage than Patrick Egan, of Lincoln. It was on section 34, township 14, range 23. No breaking being done the first year, by contest it passed into the hands of Ernest Schneider. The first homestead entries were made by Harvey Stockham and Otto Jaster, November 14, 1883, and by Charles B. Drum, December 13th, which comprised all entries made during that year. February 11, 1884, James Whitehead made homestead entry for lands adjoining Charles Drum, and with the opening of spring, Ernest Schneider, John Helmuth, Charles W. Redfern and his son Frank, with Henry, Chris, and John Miller, appeared upon the scene, selected and settled upon their lands and immediately begun improvements.

PLENTY OF ROOM IN A SMALL HOUSE

It was the purpose of the writer to secure by purchase a half-section of railroad land adjoining or as near as possible to his homestead; this he supposed he had done, but on reaching his home in Wisconsin he was apprised by Hon. J. H. MacColl, of Plum Creek, agent for the railroad company, that the lands selected by him had passed into other hands. This necessitated his immediate return to Nebraska. Accompanied by J. A. Mahaffy and George Healy, we reached Plum Creek about the 10th of March. The morning following our arrival we started for the table-

lands accompanied by Mr. Huey, surveyor of Dawson county. It was after night when we reached the divide. The weather, which had been warm, had turned cold and snow began to fall. It had been our intention to pass the night upon the prairie and we had come prepared, bringing robes and blankets and a supply of provisions to last us several days. The increasing cold and falling snow, which Mr. Huey, who was an "old timer," assured us might develop into a regular blizzard, made the outlook anything but encouraging. After traveling some distance in the darkness we saw a glimmering light and heard the barking of a dog; this led us to the claim of Ernest Schneider. Though he had arrived but a day or two before, he had a frame dwelling partly erected, which, with his own and other families, and belated travelers like ourselves, seemed full to overflowing; notwithstanding this we received a hearty welcome. The building was but partly roofed and through the night the snow descended upon those who stretched themselves upon the floor and sought rest and forgetfulness of discomforts in sleep. Beneath a pile of blankets, in one corner of the room that was better protected from the storm, lay the sick wife of our host. She never recovered, but died shortly afterward and was buried nearby,—the first death and burial that marked the early settlement of that vicinity. In addition to those I have named, William Greenfield, Joe Malson, Ezra Wright, R. E. Williams, J. W. Bissell, John Matz, William Gibson, Chris Helmuth, the Wysharts, were pioneer settlers of the table or its environments, followed in time by John McGuigan and the Armours, also Joe Gilmore, A. P. Cox, Oliver Whitehead, Willis Hines, the Langes, David and William Bain, John Runcie, and John Berwick. The all-absorbing question that presented itself to every settler was water, and how it might be obtained. Away to the east in Wood river valley, Van Antwerp and Thurman had wells, but they were from six to ten miles distant; there were none nearer and the combined means of all was not sufficient to put one down. To meet this exigency cisterns were dug on the edge of draws or bordering lagoons, the

supply depending upon the rainfall and their ability to secure and conserve it. All that was met, endured, and overcome, the difficulties and obstacles to success in the way of those early settlers will never be known or written. Water there was in abundance,—the best, purest, and most wholesome that could slake the thirst and gladden the heart of man or beast, but it was from four to five hundred feet below the surface and the means of securing it an unsolved problem.

AN ACCOMMODATING ENGLISHMAN

Among those who had come into this locality were two men, Mr. Edward Crewdson, a wealthy Englishman who had purchased three section of railroad land and was engaged in stock-raising, and Mr. Gregory J. Campau, of Detroit, who had purchased a large tract of land and was also a man of considerable means. These men put down hydraulic wells and secured a never-failing and abundant supply of water to which the settlers had free access. The last-named even put down a large cistern into which a stream of water was pumped continuously for the use and accommodation of those who had no other means of securing the life-giving beverage. On several occasions Mr. Crewdson deprived his cattle of the water they craved, in order that the wants of his neighbors might be satisfied. These men have passed away; but monuments have been raised to perpetuate the deeds and memory of many whose claims to remembrance were not so well founded. But their names are cherished and their unselfish generosity remembered by those whose gratitude could alone compensate for their kindness.

TOO MANY ROOSTERS FOR REAM AND JEFFORDS

The first settlers in the vicinity northwest of Broken Bow were J. D. Ream and C. H. Jeffords. J. D. Ream settled in the neighborhood now known as Custer Center, in the spring of 1880. To show the innocence of those two unsophisticated bachelors, who had only just enough farm education to be able to drive a yoke of oxen hitched to a farm wagon, which contained all of their possessions, the old settlers tell this story at their expense:

As they began to leave the settlements on their journey west into the wilderness, they thought it would be a fine thing to have fresh eggs during the summer, in their new home, and in order to be able to enjoy this luxury they struck a bargain with a thrifty housewife for a dozen fine young chickens, the flock being shortly afterward increased by the addition of six hens which they got at an astonishing bargain from another housewife along the way. When they arrived near the present site of the city of Broken Bow they camped with Wilson Hewitt, and as that kind and accommodating pioneer invited the wayfarers to make their headquarters there until they got their claims located, they turned their chickens loose, inviting Mrs. Hewitt out to inspect the flock. Mrs. Hewitt looked them over with the eye of an experienced housewife and then fell into such a fit of laughter that the boys thought she had gone crazy. When she recovered her composure she informed the young poultry fanciers that their flock consisted of eleven young roosters, one pullet, and six old hens that had probably come over in Noah's ark and that had long since passed the period of their usefulness as layers of eggs. The boys were of course very much crestfallen as their visions of fresh eggs were thus suddenly dashed to the ground, and also very indignant at the unfair advantage that had been taken of their ignorance by the women who had sold them the chickens. They promptly made Mrs. Hewitt a present of the whole flock and did not again attempt to embark in the poultry business until after they were married.

The next settler to locate in the vicinity was H. C. Reyner, with his wife and one child. He also imported two mules and one cow, and from the latter Mrs. Reyner supplied the whole settlement with butter during the following summer, churning it in a half-gallon crock. The baby, Paul, grew to manhood and served as a soldier in the First Nebraska Regiment in the Philippine Islands. These settlers celebrated the Fourth of July, 1880, in a canyon south of the table-land which lies east of Merna, together with a number of others from the vicinity of Broken Bow, among whom

were Wilson Hewitt, C. D. Pelham, Moses Lewis, and others, with their families.

Mr. Jeffords located just east of what is known in Broken Bow as the West Table, in a section of country known at that time as South Muddy Flat. Among the next settlers in the vicinity were R. M. Longfellow and Sebastian Neth, the latter widely known for his energy and business capacity, having served the people ably several times as a member of the county board of supervisors. The neighborhood was also favored in the acquisition of a couple of school teachers from Ohio, named Mary E. and Agnes A. Price, but they soon ended their career as school teachers and formed partnerships with two bachelors, Jeffords and Brown, and the result of these partnerships is a number of young bug-eaters who will probably figure in Custer county history long after their parents are forgotten.

SETTLEMENT OF GEORGETOWN

In June, 1872, W. A. George, then a boy of eleven summers, with his father, mother, brother, and four sisters, bade adieu to his New England home and friends near the old witch town of Salem, Massachusetts, and started westward by rail. Their destination was Nebraska. The boys, of course, had to shrink considerably in size and age whenever the conductor came around, in order that they might get through on half-fare tickets, but it may be remarked right here that they took full rations whenever the grub basket was passed around. At Omaha they saw their first Indians, robed in their red blankets, as they sold their trinkets alongside the train and through the car windows. They arrived at Gibbon, their destination, tired and hungry, and being turned loose on a box of sweet crackers, W. A. George ate so many of them that he has never had an appetite for that form of bread since. Gibbon was at that time an ideal western town, being the county seat of Buffalo county and surrounded by as fine land for homesteaders as the most exacting could wish. The sound of the hammer was heard from early morning until late at night. Many

people were living in box cars and tents until they could erect something to call a home.

W. A. George made his first trip to Custer county in 1875. They had some horses stolen and his father thought he had a clue to their whereabouts. He and his son started to hunt them up. They traveled about fifteen miles to the north the first day and stayed all night with a settler whom the father hired to go with them the next day as a guide. They struck the South Loup river about where Pleasanton now stands. From there they worked up the river for several miles, seeing but a cowboy with a fine deer strung across his saddle, and a little further along they met another cowboy, who was carrying a saddle over his shoulder. He said that his horse had broken its leg and that he had to kill it and walk into camp.

HELP YOURSELF

In a short time they came to a lone dugout, but no one was at home. On the door was a card which read "help yourself but for God's sake shut the door." The "shut the door" part was in a good deal bigger letters than the rest of the sentence. They had not yet been educated to the point of walking into a man's house and helping themselves to whatever they might find, so they passed the invitation up. They did, however, dig some potatoes, which came in very handy at the camp-fire that night.

The next trip W. A. George made into Custer county was in 1878, when he came to visit a sister living near where Berwyn now stands. He made the trip on horseback and was so pleased with the conditions in the county that he made a resolve to locate permanently. Accordingly, he became a Custer county citizen some years later. In 1901 he wrote an account of his early experiences, mentioning some of his neighbors who were among the early-day landmarks, and from his writings of that day we gather the following:

In 1887 W. A. George returned to Custer county and located permanently. He leased land of his uncle, H. W. George, and launched into the stock and farming business very extensively. Later he was able to buy the land

and also additional territory, until at one time he owned 1550 acres of good deeded land and held a lease on 640 acres more of school land, all on the South Loup river.

The next year he bought out the small store at Georgetown, then operated by a firm named Sterk & Means, and for the next five years George ran the store as a side proposition while still improving and developing his ranch. The ranch kept growing, quarter-section after quarter-section was added until when Mr. George sold the place he had in all nearly 5,000 acres, on which were more than forty miles of fence with all kinds of barns, sheds, and outbuildings which go to make up good farm equipment.

"GETTING IN BAD"

It was in May, 1882, after the first pioneers had made a dim, shadowy trail over the border into Custer county.

John M. Morrison and J. D. Strong left the main road leading from Kearney to this upper country at a point in Buffalo county, in Pleasant valley, and went north through the hills, following a very dim trail which persisted in growing dimmer, and which, as darkness came on, disappeared altogether. Their hope was to reach McEndeffer's, on the Muddy, that night, so they pressed on, over high hills and down long, winding canyons, one of them walking in front of the team to figure out the trail, and the other driving as directed by the guide.

A more gloomy and desolate prospect could hardly be imagined than that presented to them as the shades of night began to come down over the brown prairie, tumbled and piled about in the most haphazard manner,—high hills, long and terraced ridges, each line seeming higher than the other,—two "tenderfeet" alone amidst all this waste, was enough to make them wish they were back in civilization again.

After some hours—or ages, they could hardly tell which—they began to see cattle and horses on the range, which gave them hope. They soon struck a broader trail, made by the stock, leading to the ranch, and had less difficulty in keeping the way. After a time they

saw, just ahead of them in the darkness, something that they took for a post, and, believing they had come to a fence, Strong walked up to it and felt on both sides for the wires, but finding none, he put his hand on top of the supposed post and discovered to his consternation that it was a stovepipe, and still warm.

By the time his investigations had resulted in this warm discovery, Morrison had driven the team up quite close to him and demanded a reason for his stop. He explained the nature of his find, and suggested a careful backing up of the team for fear of a tumble through the roof, which would be likely to disturb the sleepers below. He had seen enough of "dug-outs" to know that they had discovered one, but just how to get inside they did not yet know. After getting the team out of all possible danger, Strong started on a voyage of discovery. The problem of the lay of the dugout was soon solved to the satisfaction of all concerned. Of course it was dug out of a bank, but just where the bank ended and the house united with it he could not make out in the darkness; but he soon discovered that there was a space of about four feet between the end of the dugout—which had a wall of logs at the end—and the bank which sloped towards the house. The way he discovered this opening was by the happy one of falling into it; the way he gained admittance into the house was by rolling down the sloping bank and in at the window, and the way he aroused the household was by alighting on a promiscuous collection of tinware, which made noise enough to stampede a bunch of plow horses.

From the time he had started across the hills with the intention of asking the hospitality of Mr. McEndeffer's roof and board for the night, it had been with misgivings, if not with fear, as it will be remembered that he had been in some measure connected with the Olives in their fight with Mitchell and Ketchum. He was a cattleman, and his interests were not enhanced by the settlers. What were Strong's feelings to find himself precipitated in that fashion into the house and finding himself clawing and kicking around among the dish pans and milk pails, while a gruff voice was

demanding: "Who's there?" "Get out!" "Scat!" "Get a light!" "Get the gun!" and like exclamatory remarks, interspersed with more or less profanity and a chorus chiming in from other members of the family?

Had a team fallen through the roof it would have raised no greater row than did Strong's plunge through the window. But he finally extricated himself from the tinware, kettles, and frying pans, and beat a hasty retreat under cover of the darkness and the excitement of the enemy out through the window and around to the door, where he gave a loud rap, more in accord with civilized ways. When a light was procured and explanations made, and an inventory taken of the kitchen utensils to find what actual damage was done, they were made welcome, and as the ceremony of "breaking the ice" was not necessary after breaking his head and a milk crock, McEndeffer's cob pipe, and several other articles of less importance, they were soon comfortable and quite at home.

CUSTER COUNTY PIONEER HONORED

The next morning Strong and Morrison started for Merna, and at noon of that day they stood upon a hill that overlooked the beautiful valley that was to be their future home. Merna at that time consisted of one small sod house, with an annex of one room. The sod house was filled with sundry articles of merchandise, such as tobacco, soap, codfish, buttons, and thread. A cubby-hole in the wall served as the postoffice, which was kept by W. G. Brotherton. The annex was occupied by Mr. Brotherton and his wife as a living room, and was presided over by Lizzie, whose chief business seemed to be looking after the wants of new arrivals and making them comfortable and happy.

One-half mile north of Brotherton's store, and the site of the future lively little railroad town of Merna, they struck their tent on claims previously bought of Samuel N. Dunning and Floyd Field. Mr. Dunning had located farther north, on the Dismal river, going into the cattle business. When the B. & M. Railroad was extended through the Black Hills, a town was located near his home and given

the name of Dunning, which perpetuates the name of one of Custer county's pioneers. Floyd Field also located on the Dismal river, or on the Loup, and from a modest beginning in the cattle industry, he and his brother, Fred, have grown into two of the wealthiest ranch owners in this part of the state. The post-office of Merna was first kept by Mr. Dunning and the name of Merna was that of his youngest daughter. After the railroad had been built, and the town finally and for all time located by the Lincoln Townsite Company, it was quite natural that the infantile city, struggling for life and metropolitan honors, should be given the name of the original post-office, so that Merna became a fixed geographical landmark.

PELHAM STRETCHES THE QUILT

The next day the journey of Mr. Strong and Mr. Morrison was uneventful, and they put up for the night with C. D. Pelham, at or near where the present city of Broken Bow stands. Pelham kept the postoffice and a small stock of groceries, and the first hotel in Broken Bow. They had often seen the puzzle of the innkeeper who could put thirteen men in twelve rooms, but Pelham could discount any such Cheap-John mathematical problem as that. He could easily stow away thirteen men in one small room. It is related of him on good authority that he had a most ingenious way of making six blankets suffice for a dozen or more guests. When late arrivals were ready to retire they were tucked snugly away under a blanket that was deftly removed from some guest who had gone to bed earlier, and who, being fast asleep, would never know the difference. Of course if the weather was very cold the uncovered sleepers were liable to wake up after a time and make a roar, but before this stage was reached the other fellow was sound asleep and the covering was restored to the original sleeper. By shifting the covering judiciously and systematically during the night, Pelham always succeeded in keeping all of his guests as warm as a pie in the coldest winter weather, although in cases of a rush of business every one of them would be un-

covered two-thirds or three-quarters of the time.

A FLOCK OF BACHELORS

Standing at Brotherton's store in May, 1882, and looking out over the valley spreading to the west and north, one could see a few marks that indicated the beginning of a small settlement. A group of "old bachelors" off to the northwest were holding various claims in various parts of the valley, but were mostly "batching" together in Al Thomas' dugout, where they discussed the future greatness of the country, and studied the faces of the four queens they usually held in their hands, while they mentally cogitated upon an improbable consignment of femininity to be shipped out to supply wives for this miscellaneous assortment of masculinity.

It is only justice to these men who cut such a sorry figure at stag housekeeping, to say that they were all men of liberal education and refined tastes, and to leave behind them the influence of eastern homes and the society of women were the worst hardships they had to endure in the wild west. Most of them in time found good wives, who have helped them to make comfortable and happy homes. In this bachelor dive were Al Thomas, Joe Sitler, A. Sommers, John Jacquot, Len Thomas, Charles Thomas, Scott, Hanna, McWorthy, and others whose names are not now recalled.

At this time had one looked inside all of the houses within a radius of five miles from Brotherton's store, he would have found but three women within the entire circle — Mrs. C. P. Foote, Mrs. Brotherton, and Mrs. Dunning. What they lacked in quantity, however, they made up in quality, for no new settlement was ever blest with better women to mother the community than this trinity of maternal excellence. They have all gone on before to another country, but the blessings of all early settlers in this vicinity will follow them.

GIBBONITES ON THE LOUP

[This volume is indebted to Miss Marguerite George, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nc

George, for this account of the settlement on the East South Loup.]

In the spring of 1875 many settlers left their homes at Gibbon, Nebraska, on account of the grasshoppers. Among the first to leave was Nc George and family. They took a little band of cattle and a lumber-wagon load of household goods and started for the Loup. Will Trew and Nc's sister Cora (the late Mrs. A. L. Morgan) helped to drive the cattle. They were three days on the road, making the journey without any unusual event except a little trouble with one old cow. The men left Mrs. George in the wagon with her baby, seven months old, and went ahead to help Cora drive the cow. They were gone so long that Mrs. George became greatly worried, thinking that they had been made way with by desperate characters, perhaps. She made up her mind what she would do if they did not return soon. She climbed down from the wagon and went to the top of the hill to see if she could see anybody, and when she looked back to her team they had turned around and were headed towards Gibbon. Not daring to set her baby down she held him in her arms and ran as fast as she could to the team; managing to reach one of the traces, she finally got to the bridle and stopped them. In a little while the men returned and the journey was resumed without further mishap. They reached their destination on Deer creek May 21, 1875. There was not another settler in that vast expanse of prairie. Only a few transit cattlemen, with their small camps here and there, were their companions.

FIND AN OLD DUGOUT

An old hunter's dugout was found in the bank along Deer creek and this became the home of the new settlers until another dugout, with more room in it, could be made. The cattle were allowed to roam at will, grazing on the prairie but staying near the water.

The country abounded in deer, elk, and other wild game. The men spent a great deal of their time in hunting and trapping. Often trappers spent much time in this locality

and when they had secured a good supply of skins they would come to Plum Creek, now Lexington, where they received a good price for them.

TWIN FAWNS AT THE CENTENNIAL

One day when Mr. George was out hunting he found two little fawns hidden in the cat-steps, while their mother was away feeding. He took them home and made pets of them. They were about a week old, he thought. They were red in color, like a calf, with white spots on their sides but were not as large as a calf. They lay in the brush until called to their lunch, when they would come bounding towards the house like two rabbits. They drank milk from a pail, sticking their noses clear to the bottom of the pail, even if the milk covered their eyes. Mr. George kept them until they were a year old, when he sold them to the Fairmont Park Association, Philadelphia, receiving fifty dollars for the two. They were one of the unique attractions at the Centennial exposition at Philadelphia, in 1876.

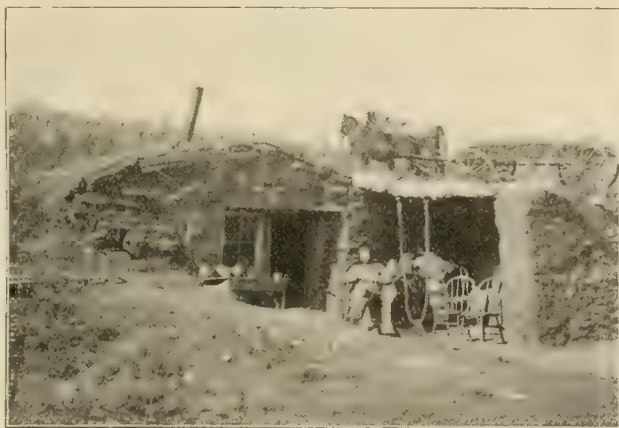
In the spring of 1877 a fierce storm came up which developed into a cloud-burst. The rain fell only twenty minutes but in that time, the level prairie was covered with water. A hole as big as a stove pipe was washed in the roof of the dugout where Mr. George lived, and the water swept in in torrents. Luckily the door was directly opposite the opening and the water had a straight course through the house. After this the dugout was abandoned and a small log-house built. Later Mr. George moved this house two miles further down the river to the place where he now resides. An election was held in 1878 in which this log cabin was used as a polling place. Josh

Woods, Coe Kilgore, Frank Young, and L. D. George were the only ones present.

WOULD NOT STAND FOR THE NAME

A mail route from Plum Creek to Loup City passed near the George homestead. Ne George applied for the appointment of postmaster but the officials demanded his full name and could not understand his explanation of a name consisting of two consonants so Ne failed to be appointed. Mr. Kilgore received the appointment and the postoffice was called Georgetown.

In the meantime many settlers had come to the Loup. Most of them lived in hunters' dugouts. Those arriving during the years 1875 and 1876 were John E. Myers, John Mahon, and Christopher Hazelbaker.



[Photo by S. D. Butcher]

A TYPICAL DUGOUT

THE HAUMONTS

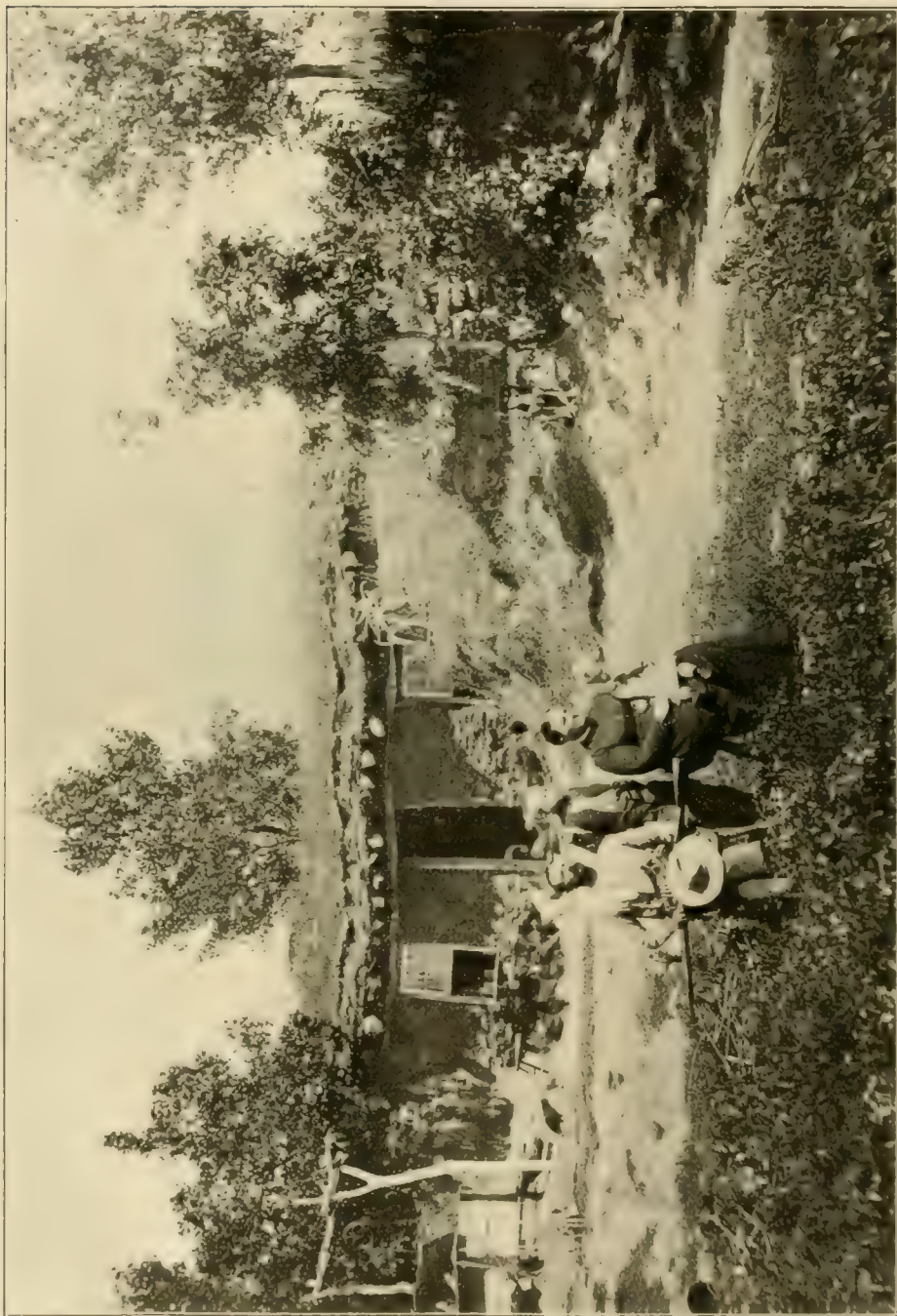
Belgium gave Custer county a contribution in the early '70s when Ed. and Jules Haumont settled in the coun-

ty and located claims northeast of Broken Bow. During the first winter they endured many hardships, but managed to look after a small flock of sheep.

One of the unique achievements was the building of a two-story sod house with shingle roof, sod kitchen annex, and round-tower corners. This was the most aristocratic building ever constructed of prairie marble in the county. Edward Haumont is now deceased. His widow still lives on the place and is very resourceful in reminiscences of early days.

WHERE BROKEN BOW NOW STANDS

The first settlers on the Muddy in the vicinity of where Broken Bow now stands were Wilson Hewitt, who had moved up from the South Loup country, and Dan Lewis, who



[Photo by N. D. Butcher]

JACOB COVER'S SON HOUSE ON THE MUDDY, 1886

came with a wife and two children. Mrs. Lewis' step-father, Henry Graham, came at the same time with Lewis. Lewis found a bachelor named Jesse Garringer holding by squatter's right a claim on which he had a dugout. Lewis bought the right and settled in the dugout. This place is now the Willis farm, just west of town. Graham filed on the Cornelius Tierney place, east of the present town. Later C. D. Pelham, Moses Lewis, Ed and Mark King moved in. Mrs. Dan Lewis, who is now Mrs. Tuttle, had her experience in the dugout. It was a common experience for her to go out at night and wave a sheet to scare the cattle away. Her second daughter, Ida Lewis, born June 14, 1881, was the first child born in Broken Bow or vicinity.

Mrs. Eliza Graham, the mother of Mrs. Lewis and wife of Henry Graham, died August 10, 1880, and was

buried down on the Tierney place. This was the first death in this part of the county.

EARLY DAYS — HARD TIMES

[The following paper, read by Mrs. Alice Dowse Sims at the old settlers' picnic in Broken Bow, 1903, contains enough of historical value to entitle it to a place in this chapter. While some statements are duplicated on other pages, the article, nevertheless, presents the viewpoint of the first white person born in Custer county and one who was reared to womanhood amid the scenes and in the times she describes.]

Much of what I have written for to-day is sketches of life among the early settlers of this

county, which have not found their way in the published history of this county. Also what I have written is from direct dictations from some of these old settlers. Therefore they will vouch for its veracity.

Thirty years ago, in the summer of 1873, my parents, Lewis and Sarah Dowse, with two little babies — Willis and Eliza — came to Loup City. There they made their acquaintance with Mr. and Mrs. B. D. Allen. My mother stopped there while my father and Grandpa Wagner came on up into the Middle Loup valley in August, 1873. My father picked out his land and went back after his

tools. He came back and put up hay during September and October. He left his tools and things and returned for his family, but had to make two trips to Grand Island for provisions before he brought his family up.

To his knowledge there was only one claim taken in all Custer county, and that was what is known as Douglas Grove, taken by Ed Douglas, an old soldier. Next Mr. Ohmes picked out his land and sent men up to begin building. In January, 1874, my parents moved from Loup City to Douglas Grove. Father came first with a load. In those days the Middle Loup had no bridges above the one they had just erected at Loup City. By the time he reached the banks of the river on the opposite side of the Grove it was very dark. He was uncertain as to the safety of the ice for crossing his team, so he unhitched and left it there. He then crawled across to Douglas Grove on his hands and knees. Mr. Doug-



EDWARD HAUMONT'S SOD PALACE—THE ONLY TWO-STORY SOD HOUSE IN THE COUNTY

las had not moved up on his claim yet, but a man by the name of Henry Snell had arranged a kind of a dugout, a little above the Grove, the way of entrance being a small hole at the top to slide down through. It was nicely arranged, so as not to be easily discovered by Indians — my father thought by white people as well, before he was able to find it. He beat up and down the river, yelling and hallooing to awaken Mr. Snell, but the resounding of his echo was the only response. Finally he gave it up, came back to the Grove, built a rousing fire to keep away any wild animals that might be lurking about, and rested as best he could till morning.

He returned immediately for mother and the children. From oft repeated stories I have formed a little picture. I see my mother, then only twenty years old, glance over that lonely valley and note the wild herds of deer and elk grazing on the hillside or roving up and down the valley. I see her survey that insignificant little dugout, and imagine her heart beats wildly as she clasps those little ones close to her bosom, praying that God would protect them in that wild and lonely place. She has often told me of the lonely hours and days she spent in that solitary hut, during the greater part of the next four months. Day after day she was alone with the babies and her little sister, Clara.

In the month of February my father had gone to Loup City after a load, leaving his family in the care of Henry Snell. The evening they expected him home, supper was prepared and waiting. It was a very dark night and little Willie was fretful and began crying. Clara tried to think of something to say to keep him still. Jokingly, she said,

"There's some Indians at the door; let's go and see them." At this the little fellow hushed and started with Clara to see the Indians. A small door to this little dugout had been made since the arrival of the family. As Clara and the baby slipped outside, there stood four large Indians right in front of them. Poor, frightened Clara darted back into the dugout, leaving the baby to entertain the Indians as best he could. They pushed their way into the room. The scent of the cooking supper had guided them to the dugout. Mr. Snell was sitting reading. They demanded supper, by grunts and motions. Mother seated them at

the little table and placed before them all the victuals she had prepared. While they were filling themselves my father arrived. Mother had on the stove a very large tea-kettle, full of boiling water. When they had drunk all the coffee in a large coffee pot, they grunted for more. Father kept filling the coffee pot, from the

kettle of boiling water and pouring it in the large coffee cups, until the water in the tea-kettle was exhausted, then they seemed satisfied. They were not hostile Indians, however, but were some poor Pawnees whose ponies had been stolen by the Sioux Indians up on the North Loup river. After they had eaten all they could get they wanted to pile down on the floor and go to sleep, but father would not let them.

Mr. Connell was then living in the Grove in Ed Douglas' house. Henry Snell took the Indians down and left them with Mr. Connell. Before they would leave him the next morning, they grunted and motioned for him to take them through the settlement down by Loup City. So he wrote a pass and gave



[Photo by S. D. Butcher 1886]

J. A. WOODS, FIRST SETTLER IN WOODS' PARK, MIDDLE LOUP RIVER

them. The papers stated that they obtained fourteen square meals by presenting that pass, which read as follows: "These are four good Pawnees. Grease them and let them slide."

The following March, 1874, Grandpa Wagner came up again, accompanied by Mr. Will Comstock, Mr. Caswell, and Mr. Allen. They selected their land and returned for their families. (Mr. Comstock filed on his claim April 15, 1874.) A few days later Denio, Eubank, and Darnell come up, looked at land, and then they returned east for their families. About the latter part of April Grandpa Wagner, with Mr. and Mrs. Allen and their little baby, Jennie, came up and father boated them across the river. Then father hitched his team to the wagon and they all went just a short distance above the present site of Westcott, and began making garden. Grandpa Wagner said while they were making garden he would go and find something for dinner. He took his gun and strolled off across the hills. Shortly he returned with a piece of antelope, built a fire and soon had a roast prepared for dinner. Mr. and Mrs. Allen went back and soon returned in time to tend to their garden, stopping with my parents at the time. In a few days Grandpa Wagner brought his family up. Father's little slab house couldn't hold them all, so Mr. and Mrs. Allen moved in with Ed Douglas for a few weeks.

Soon following came other men with their families — Mr. Ed Eubank, Darnell, and Oxforde. About the last of May, Mr. Allen and his family moved from the Grove into their new house, which was just one-quarter of a mile north of Captain Comstock's present dwelling place. Immediately Mr. Comstock and wife came, and they stopped with Mr. Allen till their little dugout was completed. Later other families came, but moved east again on account of the Indian scares.

No new story is so fascinating as are the oft-repeated stories of the early events as given to me by these old settlers. Mrs. Allen says she thought then, and she believes to this day, that the best bread she ever ate in her life time was made out of wheat ground in

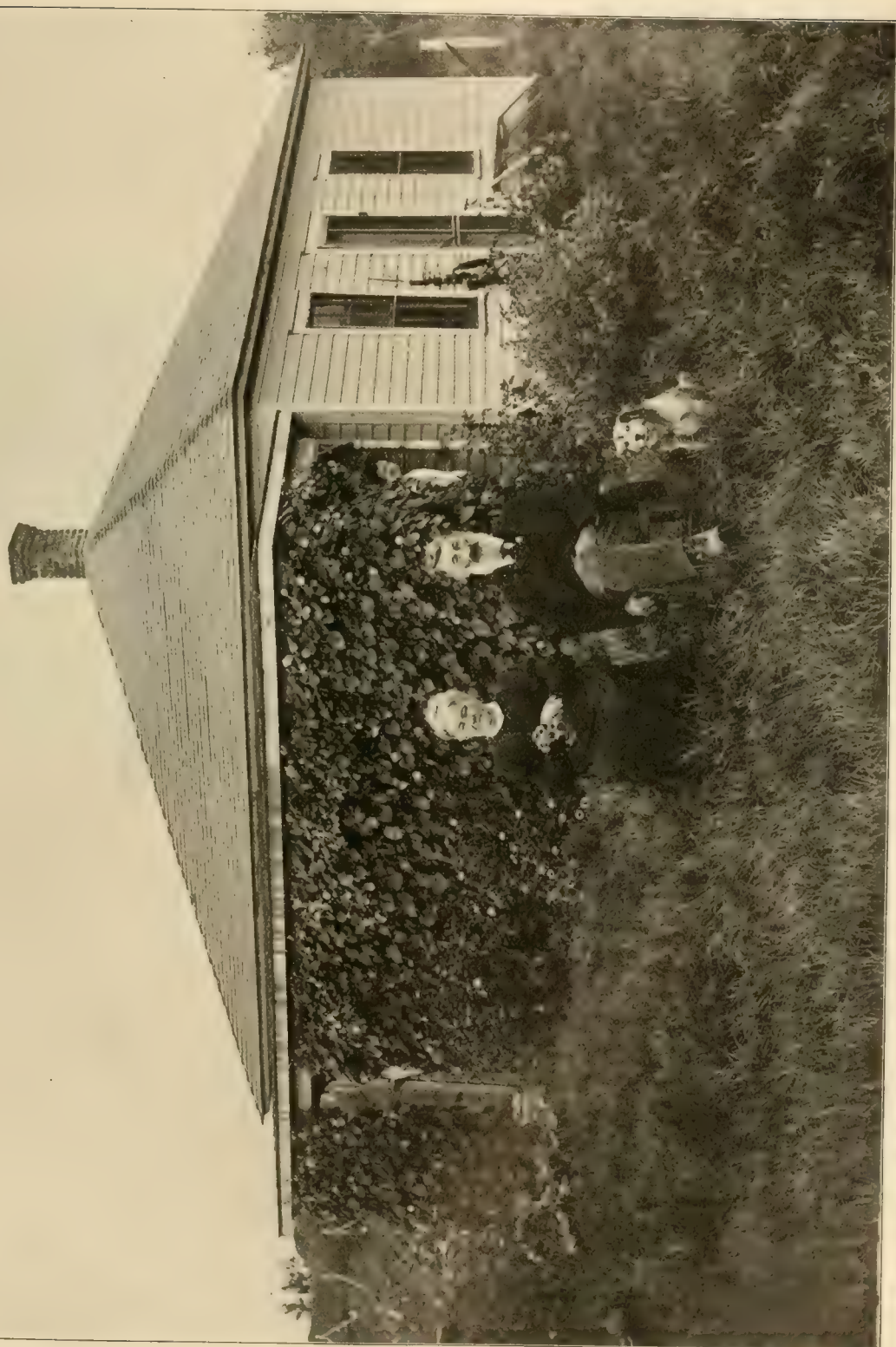
my mother's coffee mill. She verily declares she would gladly exchange her present luxuries for the happy days she spent in those little dugouts, with her neighbors — Mrs. Wagner, Mrs. Comstock, and Mrs. Dowse. One sweet little story is connected with Mrs. Allen's little Number 7 cook stove. Grandma Wagner's and Mrs. Comstock's stoves had no ovens to them, and they would carry their bread to Mrs. Allen's little Number 7 to bake it. "And," says Mrs. Allen, "many a nice loaf of bread did that little stove bake. I would look out the door and see Mrs. Wagner and Mrs. Comstock both coming, carrying their bread — then I'd think: 'Well, Mrs. Comstock will have to bake her's first, for she makes salt-rising, then Mrs. Wagner's turn.' And such a nice time we had." Mr. Comstock declares yet that the best biscuit he ever ate were baked on top of their little stove, and he still likes them best baked that way.

Mr. Darnell and Grandpa Wagner ever kept broken the monotony of life, by their quaint lives among their old neighbors. Mr. Darnell spent most of his time killing snipe and catching fish, and, says Mr. Comstock, "When the snipe all left, and the fish wouldn't bite, Mr. Darnell left too." He also said he was going to start a town while he was here. He sent his neighbors up the river to cut cedar trees and float them down the river. They tried it but the trees wouldn't float; therefore Mr. Darnell's town never got started. And the old neighbors all still express their deeply felt gratitude to Grandpa Wagner for his abundant supply of deer, elk, and antelope, which kept many families from starving. Mr. Comstock tells of once when they crept up on four deer; of course the deer ran as soon as they saw them, but by Mr. Comstock handing him cartridges, Grandpa shot them before they were out of range. He never missed his game when it was in range of his old rifle, and his marksmanship was still remembered long after the large game had left the country. About the latter part of August, 1874, the sun began to darken, and within a few days the air and every nook and corner were alive with grasshoppers. Most of the settlers had some kind



Son Residence of THOMAS J. BUTCHER, ERRECTED IN 1880

This picture is a reproduction of a photograph taken in 1886 and shows Mr. and Mrs. Butcher with their children and grandchildren.



[Photo by S. D. Butler, 1894]

NEW RESIDENCE OF THOMAS J. BUTCHER, WHO CAME TO CUSTER COUNTY IN 1880 AND SETTLED ON THE MIDDLE LOUP RIVER, IN TOWNSHIP 20, RANGE 20

of crops nicely started, and fair prospects, by close management, of raising enough to carry them through till the next summer. But now, what could those poor families, who had toiled so hard through the summer months, do to save their small crops, which were all they possessed? Must they stand, as it were, and see the food taken from the mouths of their little ones? My father thought he would save a little corn by shocking it up, but as soon as he would complete a shock it was covered with millions of grasshoppers. And thus everything was almost entirely annihilated.

February 22, 1875, I was born, and as far as we know I was the first white child born in Custer county. The following summer was a little more prosperous. The small crops that were put in grew nicely and unmolested. 1876 brought again those dark and gloomy days. Innumerable millions and millions of grasshoppers came. The hardships and privations of the previous years of drought in Custer county would have seemed luxurious and plentiful to those poor settlers during the following winter of 1876. Dear mothers and fathers who have come to Custer county in later years, feeling discontented because your children have not the luxuries and accommodations of life that you desire they should, let me lead your minds back to Custer county's earlier days, and that gloomy winter of 1876. Drifts and drifts of snow blocked the roads between our little settlement and Loup City. I should have mentioned before that Loup City consisted of a few small families living close together, and one little store in a little sod building. No provisions could be obtained short of there and Grand Island.

When I hear my mother tell of the cold

winter nights that she placed the little ones in bed crying for something to eat, (she had nothing in the house to give them, and her only consoling words were that papa would come soon with something to eat) it makes me feel that we are very ungrateful for the blessings that we enjoy at the present time.

ONE OF THE OLD SETTLERS

Before the buffalo was the coyote; before the Indian was the coyote; before the white hunter and the trapper was the coyote; before the cattlemen was the coyote; before the settlers was the coyote; before the yellow-haired scrub cur of former and latter days was the coyote; before the deer-hound, fox-

hound, greyhound, Russian wolf-hound, was the coyote. When the coyote first settled in the county, records fail to disclose. He was here before the first and hangs to his location with a tenacity that prophesies he will be the last. If he has been



ROUNDUP OF A COYOTE HUNT IN JANUARY, 1916

credited with priority, he deserves it. He is fleet-footed enough to maintain his advance position when pursued by fastest horse or hounds. Consequently it is perfectly proper to describe him as being "before" all the rank and file of his enemies. He has been the object of every pursuit—the phantom of every chase. He is the fastest member of Custer county society and has but little difficulty in maintaining his lead, no matter what is after him. Velvet-footed, willowy-formed, Gibson-necked, keen-scented, he comes and goes without advance agent or press comment by the society editor. No matter where he goes or how he goes, he carries an appetite for chicken that outrivals the combination of a colored Methodist preacher. His habits have gotten him into ill-repute with the sheepmen

and cattlemen. His fondness for lamb for Sunday dinner is in a measure offset by his fondness for small pigs during the week. He has always possessed a latent propensity that entitles him to be called a "sport." If there is a circle hunt staged in any portion of the county, he is sure to be there and likely to be one of the leaders.

Whether he deserves it or not, the versatile



RUINS OF OLD JEFFERSON POSTOFFICE, 1887

quill of George B. Mair pays him the following tribute and prophesies his "nunc dimittis." It is far easier to subscribe to the Mair description and tribute than to swallow his prophesy and hopefully await its fulfillment. Mair says:

"The coyote is quite a large animal, although some of them are not so much so. They do most of their rustling nights, when honest folks are supposed to be in bed, and attend to

their sleeping in the daytime. Once in a while he stays out until after daylight. On such occasions he may be seen making a sneak across the prairie in the direction of his hole, with his tail between his hind legs, looking about to see if he has been discovered, and trying to invent some story to tell his wife when he gets home.

"What he lacks in beauty is more than made up in ugliness. The knowledge that he is no beauty has undoubtedly soured his originally sunny disposition and caused him to shun society and look out of the corners of his eyes.

"The crowning glory of the coyote is his magnificent voice. We have heard the roar of the fierce Numidian lion in his den at Forepaugh's circus and the melodious ya-hoo of the jackass, but we never realized the weird and sublime power of music until we attended a moonlight rehearsal given by a pack of coyotes the first night we struck Custer county.

"But civilization and poisoned meat are getting in their deadly work for him. Some day the last gray-headed patriarch will sit on the brow of yon beetling cliff, with his form silhouetted against the rising moon, and then he will be seen no more. And a weatherbeaten pelt hanging on the end of an old corn crib will be the only remaining relic of a vanished race."

CHAPTER VI

OLD SETTLERS' STORIES

ENTERTAINS BOB OLIVE — A WILD NIGHT FOR HANS — BOB HUNTER HAS CLOSE CALL — MRS. HUNTER LEARNS THE WAY OF THE WEST — "A WISE COW TALE" — TERRIBLE FALL IN A DEEP WELL — A THOUSAND ELK IN ONE HERD — MADE HIS OWN POWDER — WON BY A NOSE — A BACK-ACTING WEDDING FEE — A PLUCKY CUSTER COUNTY WOMAN — WAS A JUSTICE ALL RIGHT — GOD AND BOBLITS — A COURTSHIP IN THE COURT'S OFFICE — EXPERIENCES OF A "SCHOOL MARM" — LIFE TOO SHORT FOR A SOD ROOF — ENTERTAINED THE PAWNEES — ALL READY FOR INDIANS — MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF TRAPPER — A FIGHT FOR "DEER LIFE" — SAVED ONE BED — J. D. HASKELL'S PERSONAL EXPERIENCE — DOUGLASS FINDS RELICS — JESS GANDY JOINS THE ELKS — MRS. GANDY ENTERTAINS A STRANGER — JESS GANDY RIDES A BUFFALO — THE MASONS BURIED HIM — THE FIRST GREAT FLAG POLE — THE FIRST COUNTY SEAT CONTEST — A HOSPITABLE ROOF — A LITTLE SPORT WITH GUNS — LASSED AN ELK — LOST IN THE SAND HILLS — HUNTERS FIND GAME IN THE BED — HAD NO RELIGION — ONE OF THE COUNTY "DADS" — A PRAIRIE FIRE — TWIN TRAGEDIES — A WATERMELON STAMPEDE — IT KILLED THE TOAD — DAN GOT THE LOGS — INDIAN SCARES — THE GRASSHOPPER A BURDEN — A LAND QUARREL — GRASSHOPPERS CHEWED TOBACCO — THE SENATOR WAS NOT HANDSOME — BURLIN AND KELLENBARGER HAVE SOME EXPERIENCE — A RACE THROUGH THE STORM — SOMETHING OF A "MIXUP" — NEARLY RUINED HIS EYE

The sum total of all history is the recital of events just as they occurred, by those who were actors in the scenes, and had a chance to see and hear. First hand, or personal, knowledge is the authority of final appeal. Thousands of things happen in every country that by the very nature of conditions could not be recorded, in accessible files. If these things are ever unearthed and published the old settlers must recite them. Matters of personal experience, hand to hand struggles with early conditions, incidents both humorous and tragic, views of private life, and countless other things, told by the old settlers, have been collected and grouped in this chapter.

Each story is complete in itself and has no relation to any other in the chapter. In each case the truth is vouched for by the one to whom the story is credited. In the aggregate they cover the entire range of county history and will give to any reader a realistic view of

the conditions which have prevailed in the county during the developing years. Read the stories of the settlers and you will see the settlers, their homes, their farms, their schools, their churches, their difficulties, their defeats and triumphs, and with all you run the gamut of the years through which they have passed. The humorous vein which runs through the entire collection is a fine tribute to the heroic actors, who cultivated the spirit of cheerfulness under the most trying circumstances.

ENTERTAINS BOB OLIVE

[C. R. Mathews gives the following account of a visit paid him by Bob Olive and some of his cowboys. The judge was at home to his visitors and furnished plenty of corn and hay while the neighbors furnished plenty of camphor, as the narrative discloses.]

I had been contemplating a trip to Douglas

Grove late in November, and had gathered ten or twelve bushels of corn to leave at the house to feed my stock while I was gone. It was in sacks in a wagon, and I intended to start the next morning. That evening Bob Olive, alias Stevens, rode up with about a dozen of his cowboys and twenty-five or thirty ponies. He walked into the house without going through the formality of knocking at the door, and remarked that it was "awful d——d cold." He kindly told me that if I would give him enough corn to feed his herd of ponies that he would not turn them out to help themselves. I told him that I hoped he would not turn the horses out, as they would tear down my stacks and that he could have all the corn he wanted if he would go out in the field and husk it.

"What is the matter with this corn in the wagon?" he inquired. "That is corn I brought up for my hogs while I am gone to Douglas Grove," I explained.

He made no further remark, but deliberately emptied the corn out on the ground, where it was soon eaten up by the horses. The outfit concluded to stay with me all night without asking my permission, helped themselves to my coffee and anything else they could find, wrapped themselves up in their blankets and went to sleep. Olive was taken sick during the night with cholera morbus and routed his men out to see if anything for his relief could be found in the settlement. There was no doctor within eighty miles, so they went to Mr. Boley's and came back with a bottle of camphor. Mrs. Ross also let them have a bottle of camphor, and Mrs. Forsyth, for a change, sent another bottle of camphor. Mrs. Loughran and Mrs. Merchant, having no other kind of medicine in their houses, also sent a bottle of camphor apiece. As the men came in one after the other with the camphor, Bob got as mad as a hornet and smashed the bottles on a saddle that hung in a corner of the room. During the same night our neighbor, Smith, had the honor of entertaining two or three of the cowboys. They piled into the bed alongside of him, with their clothes on, and enjoyed a good night's rest.

A WILD NIGHT FOR HANS

Early in the '80's the pioneers on the Middle Loup put in most of their time in winter hauling wood from the canyons and getting out cedar for posts. They also went on the islands in the river and cut white willow for making corrals. There was a fine willow island about ten miles above the settlement, near the Rankin ranch, which the ranch people rather laid claim to, but for all this the settlers hauled a great portion of it away, especially a German, whom we will call Hans. He would go up and get his load, pull to the ranch for supper and lodging and breakfast. Of course, no charges were made by Mr. Rankin for such trifles.

It finally became an old story. One night Hans came as usual and it happened on this particular night Billie Erickson (better known among the cowboys as "Bill America"), Charles Austin, and Wright Rankin were at the ranch, and all you have to do after twenty years have elapsed to get a hearty laugh out of the boys is to say "Hogs in the ranch." It seems it was a put-up job to have some fun at Hans' expense. Rankin was to play crazy, and after supper the boys very confidentially told Hans that Rankin was crazy, and no difference what he did he musn't make him mad. Presently Rankin took a fit, chewing soap to make foam run out of his mouth, grabbed Hans and danced him all over the room until he almost wore the poor man out. There was a red-hot cook stove in the room and Rankin in his grand right and left would try to force Hans on top of the stove, which he avoided by nimbly jumping over it, taking the whole thing as a huge joke rather than get the crazy man mad. Finally they unrolled their beds on the floor, and Austin and Rankin occupied one bed, while Bill and Hans took the other. In a little while Rankin took another fit and declared there were hogs in the ranch. "Listen, Charlie; can't you hear 'em breathe?" "No, Wright," responds Austin, "that's Hans and Billie." "But I say it is not and, I am going to kill one and we will have some meat. Hand me my Winchester, easy, so as not to scare 'em."

Charlie tries to reason with him, while poor Hans is scared till he daren't hardly move. At last Rankin makes a grab for his Winchester, while Charlie shouts to warn the boys to look out, Rankin has his gun. Bang! Bang! goes the gun, shooting just over their heads. Billie jumps up and yells like a Sioux and he and Charlie grapple with Rankin to get the gun, while Hans fairly splits the wind to get out at the door. The boys finally get Rankin back to bed and succeed in convincing him there are no hogs in the ranch. It is a bitter cold night and Hans did not stop in his flight even to secure his clothes. After a while he knocked timidly on the door, when Rankin jumped up and wanted to know who was there? "It's Hans." "Why, sure enough, Hans, it is you; come right in; have you fed your horses? Of course, you haven't had any supper; the coffee is warm yet, and I will have you a bite in a jiffy." "Oh, no; Mr. Rankin," replied Hans, his teeth chattering with the cold; "I will just go to bed."

After a while Rankin again imagines there are hogs in the ranch — Bang! Bang! Bang! goes the old Winchester in that direction. Another scuffle with Rankin by Billie and Austin to get his gun, while poor Hans darts out into the chilly night very thinly clad, and after a while manages to slip in without disturbing the crazy man who sleeps quietly till morning. While Hans is out next morning caring for his team, Charles Austin bored a hole about six inches above Hans' pillow, blackening it so it would appear like a fresh bullet hole, and to this day Hans thinks his life was spared only by a miracle.

BOB HUNTER HAS CLOSE CALL

Bob Hunter was one of the early-day cattle buyers and went through the usual experiences of cattle buyers at that time. He says, "I have been in the saddle buying cattle, a head or two here and a few more at another place, for days and weeks at a time. We had to drive through heat and cold, fording frozen rivers and generally at night had to camp out on the prairie without very many camping accommodations. Houses were very

few and far between, and with a tired bunch of cattle you generally had to stop where night overtook you.

"I remember one night especially, when my men and I were driving a bunch of white-faces which we were bringing to the home ranch. We camped near a deserted sod house and as soon as we could round up everything, we turned in for the night. Toward morning we were awakened by shots which we thought were altogether too close for comfort. On investigation we found the house surrounded by a posse who were after a Mexican and an Oklahoma white man who had been committing stock depredations and were wanted down in Oklahoma for horse stealing. If I hadn't been a smooth talker they would probably have taken us along with them, but as it was, I succeeded in convincing them that they were mistaken."

MRS. HUNTER LEARNS THE WAY OF THE WEST

The present generation will never know the peculiar conditions and privations under which the pioneers began life in Custer county. These experiences were especially hard on the women. Mrs. Martha A. Hunter, who with her husband, pioneered in the vicinity of Broken Bow, and who is a very versatile writer, gives us this glimpse of early sod house life:

"Ere long the little sod abode was ready for occupancy and as the family brought little or no house furnishings, two beds were improvised by nailing split saplings to the rafters above and to the floor below and the same across, upon which were placed bed ticks filled with dry hay and above all feather beds, making a very comfortable resting place.

"Fuel was an object of much concern to the family as the winter drew near, but corn, which was the principal fuel used by the neighbors, could be obtained readily for eight cents per bushel, and the supply of buffalo and cow chips to be had for the gathering, added to the supply, which proved adequate for the winter.

"In the summer of 1890 occurred the first of the only two complete drouths in the history of Custer county. The second followed

four years later, in 1894. The first drouth was especially hard on the Hunter family and others who had stock. They had not been long enough in the country to know the rich food properties contained in the short, curly buffalo grass that covered the hills like a thick mat and which was abundantly rich in food properties,—so much so that stock turned loose upon it during the winter time not only lived but also kept in good condition. But this we did not find out until after this hard winter, because we had to drive the cattle up into Cherry county for the winter.

"I worried much about the education of our two small daughters, and felt that it was not right or fair to them to keep them in the hills, but God opened the way not only in providing for their education, but in furnishing a support for the family, which in those days was very welcome and much appreciated. I was appointed teacher in a school district seven miles from our home. We drove these seven miles to school each morning and returned in the evening, but thought that no hardship. Even though we faced many a storm and blizzard yet we always got through; and in the end had the pleasure of seeing our daughters graduate from the Broken Bow high school."

"A WISE COW TALE"

Al Wise of the South Loup country tells this one:

"At the time of the Olive trial most of the men connected with that ranch were absent as witnesses, help was very scarce at the ranch, and the few that were left there were principally engaged in 'tailing up' cows that were so poor that they got stuck in the mud along the river and were not able to get up without assistance. Did you ever attempt to 'tail up' a spirited, ambitious cow? If not, you have missed a whole lot of fun—and so has the cow. A little experience of mine in that direction may be entertaining—it was to me. I had been down at the corral attending to some horses when I noticed a cow on the bank of the river trying to get on her feet, but falling back after each attempt. Not

wishing to take the trouble to saddle a horse, I went over to her on foot to assist her out of her difficulty. I soon saw that there was fight in her, but concluded she was too weak to make me any trouble. Grabbing her tail, I passed it over my shoulder and gave it several twists around my arm, getting as much of it in my hand as possible. The old cow puffed and shook her head in protest. I paid no attention to her objections, but bent my back and lifted. The cow did likewise, and the way that old heifer got on her feet took the breath out of me. I saw that she was on the warpath, and that my only hope of safety was to keep hold of her tail. With a bellow she turned her glaring eyes around on me and took after me, spinning around like a top. By keeping a firm hold on her tail I just managed to keep a few inches ahead of her long horns. After a few turns to the right she tried it a while to the left, but with no better success. The waltz was becoming awfully monotonous to me, and as we worked toward a bank about ten feet high, by the edge of the river, I dropped her tail and jumped over the bank with one bound. The cow was a little dazed by the performance, but as soon as she realized the situation she made for the bank, probably with the intention of following me, but gave it up when she came to the foot of it, pawed the ground and bellowed her defiance, and walked away shaking her head, probably hooking me in her mind. Two days after this, as I was riding along the bank of the river, I saw the old lady down again, but I concluded to leave her to her fate, and for all I know her bones are buried in the mud where I last saw her."

TERRIBLE FALL IN A DEEP WELL

The depth to water on the table-lands of Custer county entailed many hardships on the early settlers. None of them had the means to sink modern wells to such a depth, and had consequently to resort to the laborious method of hauling water in barrels from the lower lands, often having to go as far as six miles for it. Some of the settlers on the tables dug wells from 200 to 300 feet in depth and hauled

water out of them by horse power. The existence of these fearful holes in the ground, mostly without curbing, resulted in many accidents, some of which will be found described in others parts of this work. In the fall of 1895 F. W. Carlin fell into a well 143 feet deep, and in the *Custer County Beacon* of September 5th of that year, he thus describes the manner in which he climbed out:

"While driving through the country about fifteen miles northwest of Broken Bow on the evening of August 14th, it became quite dark and I found I had taken the wrong track and driven up to some old sod building. I turned around and started down what looked to me like a good road into the draw, when one of my horses seemed to step down into a place. I got out of the wagon and started alongside of the team to be sure that the road was all right, when without a moment's notice I became aware of the fact that I had stepped into an old well and was going down like a shot out of a gun.

"I placed my feet close together, stretched my arms straight over my head and said, 'Oh God, have mercy on me!' and I honestly believe that saved my life, but I went down, down, and it seemed to me I would never reach the bottom. The further I went, the faster I went and never seemed to touch the sides at all.

"I supposed, of course, it would kill me when I struck bottom, but God had heard my prayer. I struck in the mud and water, which completely covered me over. I was considerably stunned, but was able to straighten up and get my head above the water. I scrambled around, gradually extracting my legs from the mud, and finally stood on my feet in the water, which came just up to my arms. It was very cold, and I tried a number of times to get out of the water only to fall back. The curbing was somewhat slimy. I finally managed to break off a small piece from the curbing and found a crack in which I managed to fasten it and perched myself upon it until morning. While sitting there I heard my team running away. In them was my only hopes of rescue. For I was aware of the fact

that I was at least a mile and a half from the nearest house, and that no one knew that I was there.

"There I sat till morning. It was about nine o'clock when I fell in, and I was drenched with water and plastered with mud. The only serious injury I received was a badly sprained ankle, which gave me great pain. I also had a sore place on my back, which I found a number of days afterward to be a broken rib. As soon as daylight appeared, I began to look around and take in the situation. In looking up, it seemed to me at least 100 feet to the top. But I learned afterward that it was exactly 143 feet deep.

"The well was curbed in places with curbing about three feet square. There would be a place curbed for about six to sixteen feet and then there would be a place that was not curbed at all. The curbing was perfectly tight, not a crack between them that I could get my fingers into, and covered with a slimy mud. I at once concluded that my only chance for rescue was my knife, if it had not fallen out of my pocket while floundering in the mud, so thrusting my hand into my pocket, there it was, and a good one too. I took it and began cutting foot-holes in the sides of the curbing; it was very slow but sure. I never went back a foot after I had gained it. When I would get to the top of the curbing, I took the boards that I had cut out and made me a seat in one corner, and in this way I think I got up about fifty feet the first day. Some time in the afternoon I came to a curbing which I thought I could not get through; it was of solid one-by-six boards closely fitted together and not less than sixteen feet to the top of it. So I made myself a good seat, fixing myself as comfortable as possible. I concluded that I must stay here and await assistance, or die there.

"I stayed there all the next night and slept one-half of the time, for the night did not seem very long. I would have been quite comfortable had I not been so wet and cold, and my feet pained me terribly, which was the greatest drawback. I had to do most of my climbing on one foot.

"I remained at that point the greater part of the next forenoon, calling often for help. One thing was in my favor; I was neither hungry nor thirsty. I began to give up all hopes. I thought of my wife and little boy, who were always so glad to see me when I came home from a trip. I thought how the little fellow would never see his papa or run to meet him when he returned home again. That was too great. I made up my mind that I would get out or die in the attempt. So I took a piece of board and put some sand on it and got the point of my knife good and sharp and began cutting away the curbing and making one foot hole after another. I cut, climbing higher and higher, and was at last on top of the curbing. From there I would have been comfortable if my feet had not hurt me so badly. But I cut holes in the clay for my hands and feet with my knife and finally I got within about sixteen feet of the top. Right there I had the worst hindrance I had met yet. It was a round curbing four feet high and perfectly smooth on the inside. It was washed out around it until it was only held from dropping by a little peg on one side. I knew if I tried to go up through it, it was pretty sure to break loose and go to the bottom with me. So my only chance was to go up between the curb and the wall. This I was fortunate in doing. By going to work and digging away the wall, in half an hour I had a hole large enough to let me pass through. After that it was but a short job to reach the top, which I did, and I lay for some time exhausted.

"I then knelt down and thanked Almighty God for sparing my life, as I had prayed for him to do, time and again during the past two days and nights that I had been in the well.

"But my trouble was not at an end yet. I was one and a half miles from a house, with a foot I could not step on. I cut some large weeds and made out to hobble and crawl to the road, about four rods distant, and there I lay until nearly sundown, looking for a team which never came. After getting out in the sun, I became very thirsty. At last I gave up

looking for any one and started to crawl on my hands and knees to find a house, but I soon gave out and had to lie out another night. In the morning I felt somewhat better. Starting out again I finally arrived at the home of Charles Francis just at daylight, where I was given food and drink, after being without for two days and three nights.

"My team was found the next day after I fell in the well, by a man by the name of Green, with the doubletrees and neck yoke attached to them. To Mr. Green great credit is due. He took them to a justice of the peace, filed an estray notice and turned them into the pasture, thus complying with the law and taking away my last chance for being discovered."

A THOUSAND ELK IN ONE HERD

A thousand elk in one Custer county herd—that sounds extravagant, yet State Surveyor Robert Harvey says he saw a herd that large on Victoria creek. He also notes a death battle between two elk bulls. The following is Mr. Harvey's story:

"Custer county was a magnificent game country. Antelope on the hills and deer and elk in nearly every canyon, especially where there was brush. My party was not out of fresh meat for more than a day or two at the most. Returning from the completion of the work in Custer county, we crossed the county line and traveled down the old military trail made by Lieutenant G. K. Warren, in 1855 or 1856. We noticed small bands of elk moving from the bluffs to the south across the valley, in direction of the Victoria, and when we came opposite that stream we saw perhaps a thousand elk gathered on a plat of flat, clay ground, south of the river and just east of Victoria creek, visiting, grazing, and fighting. For miles we could hear the clear ring, like bars of metal, when the horns clashed together. That was the largest herd of elk I ever saw.

"One evening while hunting in a large cedar canyon, now known as Cedar canyon, with numerous side pockets containing berries and plums, I came upon two pair of elk antlers,

still attached to the skulls, securely locked together around a small ash tree, perhaps five or six inches in diameter. They had become locked together in conflict around that tree. The sod had been worn away and was then overgrown with small weeds. They had fought up and down the tree until the bark was all peeled away as high as they could reach on their hind feet, down to the ground. Locked to the tree, they died there. I intended to have returned that day and cut the tree out at the roots, lop off the limbs and carry home the trunk with skulls and antlers still locked, as a trophy of a remarkably strange and rare occurrence. But I had lost so much time, I concluded that they could safely wait until winter, when I would be able to return. I heard that a party of Iowa hunters had found them and carried them away. I have heard or read of only one other similar occurrence and that was of two deer that became entangled in each others' horns."

MADE HIS OWN POWDER

Prominent among the interesting relics shown to visitors when calling upon the hospitable old-timer, Judge Charles R. Mathews, of New Helena, is a bottle of gun powder that the Judge keeps as a relic of former days, when ammunition was scarce and good powder very hard to obtain. The powder is some that he manufactured himself. He gave to his visitors in this instance a very interesting description of how the powder was manufactured, together with its formula, effectiveness, etc.

It is said to be a very powerful explosive. The granulation is rather coarse, and the appearance almost white. It must not be imagined that because we are talking about white powder that we are giving a description of ladies' face powder, for Judge Mathews has been a bachelor all his life and it is altogether probable that he knows nothing about the face powder in general use by the ladies. It is gun powder, pure and simple, and chickens, quail, rabbit, or any other denizen of the canyon that got in front of the Judge's gun loaded with this explosive about the time he pulled the trigger,

found out what the powder was for and could generally bear witness to its effectiveness. Accordingly credit the Judge with being the only manufacturer of gun powder in Custer county.

WON BY A NOSE

James Lindly, who came to Custer county in the springtime of 1880, arrived at New Helena with twenty-five cents in money and with a cheerful disposition which enabled him to overcome all difficulties and remain in the country up to the present time. The first year after his settlement in Victoria precinct he was elected justice of the peace, in which capacity he served six years. He relates the following incidents which occurred while he was administering justice in these early days, and they may not be out of place here. Upon one occasion two Irishmen had some difficulty about the boundary line between their claims, and the result was a collision. The one who came out second best in the row came to Mr. Lindly to get justice, his face covered with blood and his nose in a very demoralized condition. The justice issued a warrant for the arrest of his antagonist, handed it to him and directed him to the home of the constable. In due time the constable appeared at the home of the justice with both of the men. After reading the complaint the defendant pleaded not guilty, and a trial was had without counsel or witnesses, each man pleading his own case. The plaintiff alleged that defendant had come to his place and commenced the row. The defendant promptly denied that he had commenced the row, but admitted that he had gone to the plaintiff's house, and said that the plaintiff had attacked him with a pitchfork. The plaintiff then turned toward the defendant, laid his index finger on his nose and asked: "How was that done?" "Ye did it yerself whin I was takin' the pitchfork away from ye," replied the defendant.

The plaintiff then offered his nose in evidence by turning to the court and saying: "The court knows very well that nose was chewed." And sure enough it had that appearance—and well chewed at that. The plaintiff was fined one dollar and costs and the

two departed together, apparently satisfied with the result of the suit.

A BACK-ACTING WEDDING FEE

Upon another occasion Mr. Lindly had occasion to go to the sod house of three bachelors, when one of them, in a joking mood, asked him how much he would charge him to perform a marriage ceremony. Not being rushed with business of that sort, Mr. Lindly replied that he would do it for half price. The second bachelor then spoke up and wanted to know how much the justice would charge to marry him. The accommodating justice said he would marry him free. Then the third bachelor was anxious to know what the charge for marrying him would be. "O, I'll marry you for nothing, and board you and your wife free for a week," laughingly replied Mr. Lindly. The first two never called upon Mr. Lindly to assist them into wedlock, but not very long afterward number three appeared with a fair maiden and insisted that the justice fulfill his agreement, which Mr. Lindly did, and the groom being of a generous disposition, the couple boarded with the justice two weeks instead of one. From the small capital with which Mr. Lindly commenced business in Custer county he has accumulated an independence. He is the owner of 1,580 acres of land, 600 under cultivation, twenty acres of trees and all free from incumbrance.

A PLUCKY CUSTER COUNTY WOMAN

In the crowd that assembled to witness the execution of Haunstine for the murder of Roten and Ashley, Mrs. Roten was in the crowd. When it became known that the governor had granted a reprieve which would stay the execution for thirty days, there was considerable commotion in the vast assemblage and a few leaders tried to incite the mob spirit. At this time, in an excellently written account of the exciting events that followed the announcement of the governor's reprieve, the *State Journal* thus alludes to the presence of Mrs. Roten, wife of one of the men murdered by Haunstine: "She is a splendid-looking woman, but twenty-six years of age, and the

mother of four children rendered fatherless by Haunstine's crime. She stood in the very midst of the thickest part of the struggle with a nerve that excited the wonder of all who witnessed the spectacle. The leaders of the mob circled around her, whispering to her for counsel, as if she were their queen, and if she had finally insisted on Haunstine's execution, no power at the command of the sheriff could have prevented them fulfilling her command. The peacemakers besought her earnestly, with every assurance of the justice of the outcome, to ask the men to disperse, but she called attention to the fiendishness of the crime and to her fatherless children as an excuse for refusing to say a word in the culprit's behalf. Failing in this aim, the peacemakers turned their endeavors toward preventing her from giving encouragement to the mob, and succeeded."

Old-timers say that the city reporters catered to the spectacular and gave their descriptions more of the thrill and red paint than the facts merited.

WAS A JUSTICE ALL RIGHT

In the olden days T. B. Buckner, of Oconto, was a justice of the peace. A case was brought before him, and Judge Sullivan and Judge Humphrey appeared as the attorneys. At the beginning of the case Sullivan questioned the jurisdiction of Justice Buckner. "Buck" listened to the argument on both sides until weary, then pulled out a big six-shooter and laid it on the table, and said, "Gentlemen, the decision of this court is that I am a justice of the peace and a hell of a good one." The case proceeded without further interruption.

GOD AND BOBLITS

Judge Boblits, who was the first judge of Custer county, married a couple of youngsters during the first day in his office and closed the ceremony with this remark, "Whom God and Boblits hath joined together, let no man put asunder."

A COURTSHIP IN THE COURT'S OFFICE

In the *Nebraska Pioneer Reminiscences* is

found the authority for the following story:

Dates seem to be lacking, but it was probably some time in the year 1888 that an attractive young lady who had just finished a term of school in the Berwyn district accepted a position as assistant in the office of the clerk of the court, J. J. Douglass, who was the first clerk of court in Custer county. In speaking of her four years' experience in that office the authority relates that many famous cases were tried during that time, such as the Demerritt case and the Haunstine case, and many others. She had to work in an office from the window of which she could watch the erection of the scaffold upon which Haunstine was to be executed. Relating the experience in her own words:

"As the nails were being driven into the structure, how I shuddered when I thought that a human being was to be suspended from that beam. Early in the morning on the day of the execution people began to arrive from miles around to witness the only execution that ever occurred in Custer county. My heart ached and my soul was stirred to its very depths in sympathy for a fellow-being who was so soon to pass into eternity. Yet I was utterly helpless so far as extending any aid or consolation. And now the thought comes to me, will the day ever dawn when there will be no law in Nebraska permitting men to take the life of another man to avenge a crime?"

Notwithstanding the varied and exciting experiences in the clerk's office the young lady remained during the entire four years of the term, after which she and the ex-clerk were married, and they have ever since been foremost among the prominent citizens of Custer county. They have a beautiful home in Callaway.

EXPERIENCES OF A "SCHOOL MARM"

In July, 1881, Mrs. J. J. Douglass arrived in Broken Bow. That village looked strange to her, with not a tree in sight excepting a few little cuttings of cottonwood and box-elder here and there upon the few lawns. After having lived all her life in a country where every home was surrounded by groves and or-

namental shade trees, it seemed that she was in a desert.

She had just completed a course of study in a normal school, prior to coming to Nebraska, and was worn out in mind and body, so naturally her first consideration was the climate of the country and its corresponding effect upon life and health. She wondered how the people stood the heat of the day, but soon discovered that a light breeze was blowing nearly all the time, so that the heat did not seem so intense as it did in her Iowa home.

After she had been in Broken Bow about two weeks she was offered a position in the mortgage loan office of Trefren & Hewitt. The latter was the first county clerk of Custer county. She held this position a few weeks and then resigned to take charge of the Berwyn school, at the request of Charles Randall, the county superintendent. Berwyn was a village situated ten miles east of Broken Bow. It consisted of one general merchandise store, a postoffice, depot, and a blacksmith shop. It was not daylight when the train stopped at the little depot and a feeling of loneliness came over her as she watched the train speed on its way behind the eastern hills. She found her way to the home of J. O. Taylor (who was then living in the back end of his store building), informed him that she was the teacher who had come to teach the school and asked him to direct her to her boarding place. Being a member of the school board, Mr. Taylor gave her the necessary information and then sent his hired man with a team and buggy to take her farther east to the home of Ben Talbot, where she was to stay.

The Talbot home was a little sod house consisting of two small rooms. On entering she found Mrs. Talbot preparing breakfast for the family. She was given a cordial welcome, and after breakfast, started in company with Mrs. Talbot's little girl to the schoolhouse. The sense of loneliness which had taken possession of her on her way to this place now began to be dispelled. She found Mrs. Talbot to be a woman of kind heart and generous impulses, the mother of two little girls, the

older one being of school age. She could see the schoolhouse up on the side of a hill. It was made of brush and weeds and some sod and was twelve by fifteen feet in dimensions. The roof was of brush and weeds and some sod, and she could see the blue sky by gazing up through the roof at almost any part of it. She looked out upon the hills and valleys and wondered where the pupils were to come from, as she saw no houses and no evidence of habitation anywhere excepting Mr. Talbot's home. By nine o'clock about twelve children had arrived from some place, she knew not where.

She found in that little, obscure schoolhouse some of the brightest and best boys and girls it was ever her good fortune to meet. There soon sprang between them a bond of sympathy. She sympathized with them in their almost total isolation from the world, and they in turn sympathized with her in her loneliness and homesickness.

On opening her school that first morning, great was her surprise to learn how well those children could sing. She had never been in a school where there were so many sweet voices. Her attention was particularly directed to the voices of two little girls, as they seemed remarkable for children of their years. She often recalled one bright, sunny evening after she had dismissed school and stood watching the pupils starting out in various directions for their homes, her attention was called to a path that led down the valley through the long grass. She heard singing and at once recognized the voices of these two little girls. The song was a favorite of Mrs. Douglass and she could hear those sweet tones long after the children were out of sight in the tall grass. She will never forget how charmingly sweet that music seemed to her.

LIFE TOO SHORT FOR A SOD ROOF

The roofs on the early sod houses were made by putting up small logs for ridgepoles to support cross poles and upon these was placed a thatch of brush and hay and then over the hay, a layer of sod or clay. This kind of a roof was often open to both storm and

criticism. Mrs. H. C. Stuckey relates her experience:

"From hardly any rain we soon had more than we needed. Our roof would not stand the heavy downpours that sometimes continued for days at a time, and it would leak from one end to the other. We could keep our beds comparatively dry by drawing them into the middle of the room directly under the peak of the roof. Sometimes the water would drip on the stove while I was cooking, and I would have to keep tight lids on the skillets to prevent the mud from the roof falling into the food. With my dress pinned up, and rubbers on my feet, I waded around until the clouds rolled by. Then we would clean house. Almost everything had to be moved outdoors to dry in the sun. But I never complained much. It has been said that a spirit was given us to stand all these trials—for they were indeed trials, and hard ones, too. Would I again go through with what I then did? No, indeed! A thousand times, no! Life is too short to be spent under a sod roof."

ENTERTAINED THE PAWNEES

On one occasion the home of H. C. Stuckey and wife was visited by a band of Pawnee Indians. Mrs. Stuckey gives the following account of the way they entertained them:

"We had but one Indian scare. One day fourteen big, ugly fellows came in, squatted down on the floor, and, as usual, wanted something to eat. We stirred up corn dodgers for them and gave them syrup. I can see them yet, licking and daubing their corn cakes with many grunts of satisfaction. They played with my baby and called him 'heap good papoose.' I was very much frightened and could stand their presence no longer, so I took my baby and went into the other room and got a large revolver and held it in my hand until they went away. I do not know what I intended to do with the revolver. The Indians were Pawnees and very peaceful. They were on a hunting trip, and before leaving showed my husband a piece of well worn, dirty paper, written at the reservation and signed by the agent, requesting settlers to

give the Indians food,—dead dogs and chickens, or anything else that would serve to fill up their capacious stomachs. These were the only Indians that ever came to our ranch.”

ALL READY FOR INDIANS

In the fall of 1878, while Uncle Swain Finch and John Finch were at Brady Island, on the Platte, after supplies for their South Loup ranch, a dispatch came from the commander at Fort McPherson that three hundred well mounted Cheyenne Indians had broken away from the southern reservation and were headed north, and that having barely enough soldiers to protect the fort, the settlers would have to look out for themselves. From the way the Indians were headed it was thought they would probably cross the Platte river at the old Indian crossing east of Brady Island. The boys had no arms with them except one rifle, which Uncle Swain generously left with the little settlement of four families at Brady Island with which to protect themselves in case the savages came upon them. Shortly after dark they started out for their home on the Loup, thirty-five miles across the prairie, without even a trail to go by. It was intensely dark, and raining a part of the time, but occasionally a little patch of blue sky, with a star or two shining through it, could be discerned. When about eighteen miles out, the darkness increased and the rain also, until the travelers began to think they had lost their course. John asked Uncle Swain if he thought they were on the right track.

“Well, I don’t know, boy; it’s so dog-goned dark I can’t tell if we are right or not; but if we are we ought to come to the water hole where old Sailor died, about half a mile ahead.”

Soon they stopped, and while John held the horses, Uncle Swain felt around in the darkness and a few moments later returned with some of old Sailor’s bones in his hand. Old Sailor was a dog belonging to Uncle Swain which had died there a year before, while chasing a deer, and this incident shows with what unerring accuracy an old frontiersman could find his way over these trackless plains,

even in the darkness. They had proceeded about five miles further, and were on what is now known as Tallin Table, when they saw a flickering light some distance ahead of them. They halted, held a council, and decided to steer clear of the light, as there was no telling whether the makers of the fire were friends or enemies. The detour which they were obliged to make in order to avoid the light threw them off their bearings and bewildered them to such a degree that they thought it best to stop and wait until the morning began to dawn. As soon as it was light enough for them to get the direction they resumed their journey and arrived at the ranch before any of the occupants were astir. The boys at the ranch were immediately routed out of bed and set to work molding bullets and loading cartridges, while Uncle Swain and John lay down to snatch a little sleep. A few minutes later John Woods, who had been outside of the ranch house trying to see if he could discern any Indians, came rushing in, his hair on end, and his face as white as a sheet, shouting: “The Indians are coming! The Indians are coming!” It is needless to say that Uncle Swain and John were soon out of bed and that the whole ranch was in a commotion; but as the moments passed away without any blood-curdling war whoop, they began to feel a little easier and sent a scout out to reconnoitre. He reported that it was a false alarm. Woods had seen a bunch of cattle coming out of the hills single file and his excited imagination had formed them into Indians. The relief, however, was but temporary. The Indians would no doubt be along sooner or later, and all went to work to prepare for the worst. The horses were rounded up in a log corral, and a rifle pit dug, in which John and his uncle David slept to watch the horses, while Uncle Swain and Woods guarded the house. John was only eighteen years of age at that time and very averse to having his hair cut by the red devils, an operation which he felt, however, was likely to be performed at any time. While he and Woods were digging the rifle pit he remarked to the old man: “I wouldn’t be surprised if we were diggin’ our

graves." The old man replied, "Well, John, I have been thinkin' the same thing."

Fortunately no Indians troubled them. They really experienced a sense of disappointment and were inclined to regret that the affair had ended so tamely.

MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF A TRAPPER

In 1875 a trapper by the name of Bly came over from North Platte into Custer county to ply his vocation. One day an Indian outfit of cattle came to his camp and he bought some animals that were sore-footed and not able to travel. After a while the cattle became rested and ran away, followed by a yoke of oxen belonging to the trapper. Bly took after them on foot, having no horse, but after pursuing them over the prairie for a day he gave up the chase. He came over to the South Loup, striking the river at the Lovell and Sheety beef camp, near where Arnold now stands. This outfit had moved further down the river, and had sent John Finch and E. S. Slater, two boys, up to the old camp after a rawhide rope that had been left behind. While the boys were at the old camp they saw Bly approaching in the distance, and as he was dressed in moccasins and leggings and had a red blanket over his head they took him for an Indian. They hid their ponies, got behind an old dugout, and waited for him to come up, which he did, the boys discovering their mistake before he reached them. Bly cooked his breakfast and ate it. He then went on down to the new camp, where he bought a horse, after which he returned and rounded up his straying stock. He then worked for the Lovell and Sheety outfit until August, 1876, when he left to go to North Platte to visit his family, driving his yoke of oxen, which were hitched to a wagon. He stopped the first night at the ranch of Swain Finch. Among other things he told Mr. Finch that he had sold his rim-fire Winchester for twenty-three dollars in cash and that he was going to buy a new gun when he got to the Platte. He resumed his journey in the morning, but was never afterward seen alive.

About a week afterward Sam Ritchie, of

the firm of Ritchie & Arnold, was returning with his men from Pawnee Creek when they came across the wagon, with the dead body of Bly in it. The oxen had become detached from the wagon in some manner and were afterward found on the Loup river. Some thought that the trapper had been shot. His hat was found a few yards away, with one side badly torn. There were no marks upon the body except a small hole at the butt of the left ear and another at the back of the left heel. Word was sent to North Platte and the sheriff of Lincoln county came out and buried the body, wrapping it up in some tanned elk skins and putting it only about two feet deep in the ground, not wishing to be to any more trouble than actually necessary. The coyotes soon dug the body up, and for many years the bones lay bleaching in the sun.

Twelve years afterward John Finch, while passing through, about twelve miles southwest of Arnold, picked up the skull by the shallow grave where the unfortunate man had been buried. The locality is known to this day as Bly's Flats. David Finch was present when Bly was buried, and knowing that the trapper had received twenty-three dollars for his gun, he searched the clothing, but could not find any money. Mr. Finch noticed that the clothes on the body were not the same as those worn by the trapper the night he had stopped at the ranch. The wagon was then searched and the money found in his old clothes. It was afterward sent to the trapper's widow by Mr. Finch.

A very careful search was made to see if any indications of foul play could be found, and the conclusion was that the man had been struck by lightning. It was remembered that a dark cloud had been seen in the direction the trapper took on the day he left the ranch. The tracks left by the oxen and the marks of the wagon which had been dragged about when the animals were becoming detached from it, indicated that the ground was in a muddy condition at the time. Finally an examination of the skull found by John Finch proved beyond a doubt that the man had not been shot, as no bullet hole was found in it.

A FIGHT FOR "DEER LIFE."

Uncle Swain Finch, a pioneer character whom all the early settlers remember, was somewhat of a deer hunter in the early days. The following incident is constructed from his own writing.

One day in 1883 he started out on a deer hunt. He was not feeling very well that day, and was creeping along rather slowly until finally he discovered two deer just around a point of a hill a short distance ahead of him. He crept up to the top of the little hill behind which they were standing and blazed away at them, the distance being about 200 yards as he thought, but he afterward found that it was 300 yards.

As soon as he fired they jumped up and ran, followed by another shot from him, which apparently took no effect. A third shot was sent after the one he had picked out, and he thought he could see him stagger, but they ran about three-quarters of a mile, stopped for a few minutes on the top of a hill, and then went off on a lope about a quarter of a mile further. All this time he had been standing on the spot from which he had fired his first shot. After stopping again for a short time, the deer commenced feeding and walking down over the top of the little knoll on which they had been standing, disappearing from his sight. He followed, and when arriving at the place where they had disappeared he again saw them walking and feeding some distance ahead of him. As soon as they saw him one of them ran about 250 yards to his right, but the other was not to be seen. He proceeded on down the hill, saw the other deer about seventy-five or eighty yards ahead of him, near the bottom of the hill. It was a big buck. He gave him a shot and he rolled over on his back. He threw in another cartridge, walked down to him, opened his knife, took him by the horns, and placed the knife at his neck to cut his throat.

Before he could do it, however, the buck jumped up as if he had been shot out of a cannon, sent the knife whizzing through the air, and in order to save himself and keep the deer he grabbed hold of the other horn. The

buck doubled himself up and kicked Swain, and jerked him down the hill, and they had it hot and heavy for some time. Sometimes the deer was on top and sometimes Swain, but at every turn the deer gave a vicious kick, and Swain had to keep a death grip on him to save his life. Every little while the deer would stop to get his wind, then go at it again harder than ever. Swain's clothes were literally torn to shreds, about the only whole thing on him being the collar of his shirt.

The situation was serious, and he dared not let go, for the deer would have made a lunge at him, and there did not appear to be any way out of the difficulty except to hang on and worry him out. He looked over his shoulder to see how far they were from the gun, and found that it was not less than twenty-five yards away. The only hope he had was to get the gun before turning the buck loose. In their struggles they worked down the hill, of course, and Swain started in to pull the deer back in the direction of the gun. Whenever he made a lunge he would pull with all his might and move him up a little, every time he lunged getting a little nearer to where the gun was lying. It was a slow and laborious job, but they were getting there by degrees, and at last Swain had the satisfaction of seeing the gun within six feet of him.

The next question was could he let go of the deer, grab his gun, and shoot him before he came down on him with his sharp hoofs? It was a dangerous experiment, and the slightest hitch in the operation might cost him his life. At this particular moment he thought, for the first time during the whole adventure, of the Lord, and he is not sure but that he prayed just a little bit as he suddenly let go of those horns, grabbed his gun, and shot his antagonist dead before it had time to regain its feet.

SAVED ONE BED

The late Captain W. H. Comstock is the authority for this story. He says:

"In company with D. J. Caswell I started from Moingona, Boone county, Iowa, in March, 1874. In due course of time we arrived at

Loup City, the metropolis of Sherman county, which consisted of a log hotel kept by C. Y. Rossiter, and a general store of which Frank Ingram was the owner and proprietor. About this time Frank had some friends who had come to make him a visit. His family consisted of himself, wife, one child, and a hired man and hired girl. The house was small and sleeping rooms scarce. But Frank's mind was active, and he soon had a plan to help himself out of the difficulty and provide sleeping apartments for the visitors, without seriously inconveniencing the family. He went to the room of the hired man and told him that it would be necessary for him to vacate his bed, as he had company that would have to be taken care of. He then went to the room of the hired girl, woke her up and laid the situation before her. He said either her bed or the hired man's must be given up for the company. He didn't like to make one of them sit up all night, but he thought as the hired man and the hired girl had been keeping company, and intended to get married, anyway, they might just as well get married then and there and thus settle the whole difficulty about the beds. This seemed to meet with the approval of the two parties most interested, and Mr. Ingram, being the county judge, immediately issued a license and married them on the spot.

J. D. HASKELL'S PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

"In February, 1874, an acquaintance, who had just returned from an excursion trip to Nebraska, told me in glowing colors of that wonderful western country. He wanted me to go to Cozad and handle the butcher business. I was then twenty years old, and being full of a boy's love for adventure and fired by the glowing tales of the west, I did not ask many questions. In March, 1874, I was on my way west, having chartered a car for my one horse, two milch cows, four sows, butcher tools, and a bulldog—every real butcher had to have a bulldog. The freight on the car was \$200. The different railroads passed me to Omaha, but there I was obliged to pay twelve dollars and fifty cents for a ticket to

Cozad, a distance of 250 miles. When I reached my destination I was a discouraged lad. My aircastles collapsed like a balloon. There was no depot, and only five buildings in the town. The first question was how to unload my property. I got some planks and the stock slid down them from the car to the ground. We had landed in Nebraska. In a short time things looked fairly prosperous. Excursion trains were coming in every month bringing new settlers, we were getting the spring rains, more houses were being built in the town and country, and the prairie was being plowed up and put in crops. People had to eat, and being the butcher, I commenced business. My business as a butcher lasted about sixty days. In July we had hot winds and grasshoppers, the latter in such number as to shade the sun when passing over the country. Everything was eaten by them. I bought flour to make slop for my pigs, and there being no mowing machine in the country I bought a scythe and cut grass in the sloughs to winter my horse. That winter we had lots of snow, with the mercury thirty degrees below zero. The new settlers were short of fuel, clothing, and provisions. The latter part of that winter the government sent out a lot of army shoes and clothing that was out of date for the soldiers, and flour and beans were issued to the settlers. No clothing was issued for the women, but you would often see a woman wearing army shoes and a blue army overcoat. We had the grasshoppers and hot winds again the summer of 1875, and times were harder than ever that winter. The spring of 1875 I went to the Ozark mountains of Missouri, and an Ohio boy (Lew Williams) met me there. We bought 600 head of sheep, which we trailed across the country to Cozad. We had a good deal of trouble in crossing the numerous streams. At night we slept on the ground or in our wagon, and made a corral out of muslin to pen our sheep in. We sold the sheep soon after reaching Cozad. That same summer we made two trips to eastern Kansas, by wagon, and on each trip brought back milch cows, which we sold to settlers from Hastings to Cozad. The

spring of 1876 I went to Ellis, Kansas, on horseback, and when the Texas cattle drive came in I bought 100 yearling heifers for \$700. I put my cattle in with a herd that came to the Loup valley. We located about eight miles this side of Callaway. I worked for my board and furnished my own saddle horses and bed. We hauled our supplies from Cozad and Lexington (then Plum Creek). This county was not organized. There were no mail routes and we got our mail only when we went to the railroad. That fall I wanted to cast my first vote for president, consequently, I made a fifty-mile ride to Cozad and voted for R. B. Hayes. The spring of 1877 I hired out to Gassman and Dufree, ranchmen, for thirty dollars per month. That fall (1877) I took charge of a ranch as foreman. The owners lived in Illinois. I had the whole responsibility of managing the ranch in all its details. I have ridden all night to get to the railroad to send out important mail to the ranch owners. The spring of 1878 I was appointed county commissioner, and I held the office continuously until township organization went into effect. During 1881 I moved to my present home, in Arnold township. My first house was a log cabin. In 1882 I hauled lumber from Lexington (seventy miles) to build a house. In December of the same year I went back to Ohio, my home state, and was married. When my wife and I reached Cozad, the sleeping room at the hotel was a large room containing six beds, no stove. About midnight a drunken man came stumbling in, looking for a bed. The next day we started for our home on the Loup with a span of ponies and a buckboard. It was dead winter and deep snow covered the ground. That night we stopped with a farmer in the Platte valley, fifteen miles from Cozad. The house was not plastered and we could look out through the holes in the roof and see the stars shining. The second day we started bright and early. We had to break our road through the snow. There was no house between our own home and the Platte valley, a distance of thirty-five miles. When we reached home, Grandpa Hughey had supper ready, with some

of his good hot biscuits, coffee, and beefsteak. As we had gone without our dinner, we did full justice to that supper, and here we have been ever since, wrestling with the ups and downs of western life."

DOUGLASS FINDS RELICS

J. J. Douglass says: "Relics of unusual interest have at different times been found in this country. In the summer of 1880, while riding on the Middle Loup, with others, we came to a bed of charred wood near where the Milburn bridge now crosses that stream. A number of beads were scattered about, and upon closer examination we found among the coals the under jaw of a man, and also a silver medal, two and a half inches in diameter, with a hole in it. On one side was the bust of a man, with the name, 'Pierre Choteau,' under it, while on the other side were the words: 'Upper Missouri Outfit.' Our supposition was that some Indian trader had been in that country trading beads and other trinkets to the Indians for furs, that they had gotten into a quarrel and that the savages had killed and burned the trader."

JESS GANDY JOINS THE ELKS

Once during the summer of 1881, while Jess Gandy still lived near West Union, he and his wife were out gathering wild fruit. Jess was a short distance from the wagon. He heard a shot, and rushing out, found his wife had shot a four-pronged buck. But he proved to be only stunned. What was to be done must be done quickly, as the buck was liable to jump up and get away at a second's notice. The suddenness of the thing rather rattled Jess. He had no more ammunition, and not even a jack knife to cut its throat. He was indeed in a dilemma. A dozen different plans flashed through his mind in a few seconds as to the best way to kill the buck, and he saw with alarm that it showed signs of reviving. Jess was so excited he forgot he could take off his neckyoke and dispatch him, but what he did do was about as funny as Judge Kilgore is said to have done in the winter of 1880. The judge packed water two miles for

several weeks through two feet of snow, till some one suggested that snow, when melted, made water. But we left Jess with the buck showing signs of returning life. All at once a bright idea occurred to Mr. Gandy, and quick as a flash he had acted on it, and had dumped Mr. Buck into the wagon and tied him with his halter ropes. Then, sitting astride its head and neck, he yelled, "Let 'em go," and Mrs. Gandy did "let 'em go," for Jarvis Kimes' farm, a distance of half a mile east across the prairie. They had gone but a short distance when the buck came to his senses, and finding Jess astride of him, a struggle for life ensued between the two. It was just about an equal match, and for some time it was a matter of doubt which would come out on top. The buck had free use of his hind legs and when he brought them down on the sides of the wagon box it looked as if he would soon kick the wagon to pieces. The noise frightened the ponies and away they flew, up hill and down hill, over the rough ground, Mrs. Gandy holding them straight ahead and letting them go. The sharp feet of the deer tore Jess' clothing into ribbons and bruised his body fearfully. He had a veritable white elephant on his hands, and when the ponies dashed up to the door of Mr. Kimes he was about exhausted, panting and gasping for breath, his face flushed and perspiration rolling down in big drops. Kimes helped him to let go the buck.

MRS. GANDY ENTERTAINS A STRANGER

In September, 1881, Mr. Gandy was making hay with a neighbor, Mr. Lyle, three miles west of the river, coming home only on Saturday nights, Mrs. Gandy being left at home to look after the cattle. One Saturday evening a man came to the house and got his supper, telling Mrs. Gandy that he had eaten nothing for two days. He was a pitiful-looking object. He had a blanket rolled upon his back and carried a pair of shoes in his hand, his feet being so swollen that he could not wear them. After he had eaten his supper he requested of Mrs. Gandy the privilege of staying all night. She told him that she was alone,

and that he would have to seek accommodation elsewhere. As he had come down the river in a boat, and there was a settlement at West Union, two miles further on, he started off and Mrs. Gandy got her pony and proceeded to round up her cattle. She returned, attended to her milking and other duties, and went to the house, it being by this time quite dark. When she entered the house, what was her consternation to discover the stranger sitting upright in bed, with two huge revolvers lying by his side and a number of papers scattered about him. When she came in he remarked to her that he was making himself at home. She replied: "I should think you are," and left the room. As it was Saturday night, she knew that Jess would be home about eleven o'clock, so she took her horse and started for Mr. Lyle's, meeting her husband on the way. When they returned to the house they found the man still sitting up in the bed, groaning with the pain in his swollen limbs. He begged so piteously to be allowed to remain that they had not the heart to turn him out, and he was allowed to remain until morning, although they suspected that he was a criminal. The supposition proved to be correct, as it was afterward learned that he had robbed a postoffice at Stem's ranch.

JESS GANDY RIDES A BUFFALO

A funny incident is related of the experience of Jess Gandy in trying to ride a buffalo. He had made his boast that he was going to ride the first buffalo he saw. Shortly after that, while out hunting one day, he came across four or five of the beasts. He fired at short range and shot an old bull through the lungs, which dropped down on his haunches and dropped its head, the blood coming out of its nostrils. Jess thought this would be an excellent opportunity to mount and to make good his boast. He succeeded in getting on the back of the dying buffalo, but soon found that he had mounted a very lively corpse, as the old fellow came to his feet with a bound and started off at a rapid pace. Dave Hickman, who was an eye witness of the performance, declares that at the second jump of the

scared buffalo Jess was thrown about fifteen feet into the air. He came down on his feet and lost no time in making for a tree about a hundred yards distant, into which he climbed while the buffalo was flying in the opposite direction.

THE MASONS BURIED HIM

Eber Barber, who came to Custer county a little while before the buffaloes got out of it, has had some experiences that do not fall to the lot of every pioneer. He was here before he was married, and as a cowboy and an all-round utility chap was in much demand on the big ranches. He was here in time to kill a buffalo in the county. In speaking of his experiences he tells the following:

A young Englishman by the name of Dan Todd died at the "White House," down on the South Loup, in the winter of 1882. It was very cold at the time and two feet of snow covered the ground. It was impossible to dig a grave and nobody seemed disposed to take the initiative in the obsequies. Barber says he knew that Todd was a Free Mason and accordingly he resolved to take the body to Lexington and turn it over to the Masons there for burial. He loaded the body on to a sled and with a yoke of oxen hauled it down to the head of Wood river, where a man named Marve Henry hitched on his mules in the place of the oxen and accompanied Barber and the dead man the rest of the way. All day long they wallowed through the deep snow with their uncomplaining passenger. It was as gruesome as it was tiresome and hazardous. All day they bucked the snow and encouraged the mules. Early in the morning, as they started out from Henry's place, they had a chance to send word to the Masons in Lexington, by the mail carrier, that they were coming. Along with this announcement went a description of their bill of lading. When within six or eight miles of Lexington, and nearly exhausted, they met two teams with eight men, all Masons, coming to meet them, and help them into town. Barber says, "Jimmy crackey, but I was glad to see them."

He adds that the Masons took care of Henry and himself while they were in Lexington, gave them every comfort, besides holding funeral services over the remains of Todd and paying the entire bill for Christian burial.

THE FIRST GREAT FLAG POLE

In the summer of 1880, as the Fourth of July drew near, the people of Westerville were desirous of celebrating the day. Mr. Westervelt had a red-cedar log which he said he would give for a liberty pole, but it was not long enough, and Mr. Baker was patriotic enough to go to the cedar canyons and get another. The two were spliced together and raised, so that "Old Glory" waved above the people upon that eventful day. The pole stood in the middle of the main street, which was named Loraine, in honor of Mrs. Westervelt.

For years afterward this pole stood proudly erect, ready to receive the old flag and float it upon the winds in full view of all the surrounding country upon the occasion of every natal day or time of every public celebration. The pole is gone now, but other poles have been erected all over the county to take its place, and in these war times the patriotism of Custer county people keeps the flag floating all the time.

THE FIRST COUNTY SEAT CONTEST

The first contest over the county seat in Custer county, was over the removal of the county seat and postoffice from Custer, Nebraska, to Broken Bow. This was in 1881. Custer was on Frank Young's ranch, near the mouth of Spring creek.

The far-sighted ranchmen saw that the logical place for the county seat was in the center of the county. Mr. Young and his neighbors were for keeping it at Custer and argued that it might have to be brought back if moved, and that would mean a big bill of expense. This argument prevailed with the board of county commissioners until John E. Myers, then chairman of the board, said if it had to come back he would pay the bill. Then it went through with a whoop.

A HOSPITABLE ROOF

J. J. Douglass gives the following account of two early settlers, one famous for his hospitality and the other equally as famous for his hostility.

"One of the interesting characters of this region at that time was Louis Wambsgan, one of the very earliest settlers, who located near where Oconto now stands. His house was the only stopping place for a number of years between Plum Creek and the South Loup, and there was hardly a night the year around that two or three cowboys could not be found at 'Louie's' as he was familiarly called. He could always furnish sport for the boys in some way, and his annual turkey shoots during the holidays became famous throughout this region. I have heard many a good story told under Louie's hospitable roof. Wambsgan was the first county judge, being elected at a special election held July 31, 1877.

A LITTLE SPORT WITH GUNS

"Frederick Schreyer was another interesting character. He was the first homesteader on the South Loup between Callaway and Arnold. He was a very resolute German, about fifty years of age, and as eccentric as he was resolute. He constructed a dugout in which he imagined he would be secure from the depredations of the festive cowboy. As we have said before, there was a natural antipathy between the cowboys and the settlers, and the breach became wider and wider as time passed by and the settlers became more numerous. Armed encounters were frequent and bloodshed was often the result. Schreyer often had encounters with the cowboys and at one time was wounded in two places. He thought he was going to die, and had Charles Rockwood draw up his will. He had a ford near his house which he called his ford, and without his consent nobody was allowed to cross the river at that place if he could prevent it. He also surrounded his house with a high sod wall, which he called his fortifications. On the morning of April 1, 1878, J. D. Haskell and the writer put some tools in a wagon

and went up the river to repair a corral. In going we crossed the river at Schreyer's ford. We saw nothing of him at that time, but during the day he sent us word that if we attempted to cross there in coming back he would shoot us. When we arrived at the ford on the way back, and while watering our horses, we saw Schreyer and his son running toward the house with guns. As soon as we got within range they raised up from behind their fortifications and began firing at us. We were unarmed, and, thinking discretion the better part of valor, put the whip to our team and got out of the way. In our flight we had to pass pretty close to the house, and one of the shots tore the step from the side of the wagon. From that time on there was trouble. Young Schreyer was arrested on the Platte, but escaped and went to Lincoln, where he remained a month. He came back to Kearney, was again arrested and was brought up into Custer county. He and his father were taken, handcuffed, to Custer for preliminary examination, and were bound over to appear before the district court. Not giving bonds, they were lodged in the Lexington jail. In July they were tried and sentenced to serve a term in jail, by Judge Gaslin. They served out their time and got home the next winter.

LASSOED AN ELK

James Farley tells this elk story: "Toward the end of my cowboy career I worked for the Bar-7 ranch, of which David Rankin was principal owner. This ranch was located on the Middle Loup.

"Large herds of elk roamed over the country at that time. While on the round-up in 1881 we sighted a large bunch, which had winded us. The boys off with their ropes and after them. C. W. Stern, John Carney, Bert Wilder, Charley Peterson (a green hand at the cattle business), and six or eight others were in the chase, and there was enacted one of the most thrilling incidents ever witnessed on the plains of Nebraska. Peterson singled out the biggest buck in the bunch, and as soon as Charley began to press him hard, he left the

bunch and ran in another direction, Peterson close at his heels. I knew that Charley would never let up until he had secured the buck, and I knew full as well that he would have trouble when he threw his rope over the powerful beast, as he never carried a gun. I followed him as fast as my horse could carry me. I lost sight of him for a while in the chop hills, but soon discovered him again as I rode up a little hill. He had the elk at the end of his rope about eighty rods from me. The first move I saw was the elk making a run on the rope, and when he came to the end of it he fell heavily to the ground. He then jumped up and charged Peterson's horse. As he came on, head down, at the rate of about fifty miles an hour, Charley spurred his horse to one side and let the elk pass, and gave him another tumble as the rope tightened up. I waited to see no more but galloped as fast as my horse could carry me to his assistance, as I knew that it was only a question of time when the infuriated brute would catch the fearless boy in one of his charges. As I rode up, the elk was making his third charge, but Peterson evaded him again and gave him another tumble at the end of his rope. When about 300 feet from Peterson the elk had again regained his feet, lowered his head for another charge, his eyes flashing fire, and with terrific bounds made for the plucky boy. It seemed to me that it would be impossible for him to get out of the way of those terrible horns. But again he let the elk pass by without touching him and again he brought the brute to the ground at the end of the rope, pulling him square over on his back. Quick as lightning Peterson reined his horse backward, tightened the rope, jumped out of the saddle, whipped out a big jack knife, and slashed it across the throat of the prostrate beast. I shouted to him with all my might to desist, as I expected to see him killed every second, but he heard nothing and saw nothing but that elk and before I came up Peterson was back in his saddle. 'What the devil did you do that for?' I shouted, as soon as I reached him. 'I did na want loossee ma rope — da boys da laugh at ma.' The other boys followed the bunch and C. N.

Stern succeeded in roping two of them at one throw, but one of them got away. None of the boys that saw the sport will ever forget it."

LOST IN THE SAND HILLS

"Once seventy-five men started from Raymond lake, fifteen miles west of the head of Middle Loup river to go to the Newman ranch on the Running Water. We were driving 1,500 head of cattle for the northern ranches. We missed our course and traveled for two days in a circle, among the sand hills. We had water for neither horses nor cattle, and on the third day the poor brutes became frantic with thirst. It took the utmost efforts of the men to keep them from breaking away, and their bellowing was something absolutely heart-rending. Men could be seen on every hill around us trying to see if water could be discovered. At last I saw two men standing on a hill some distance off motioning in such a way that I knew they had found something. I rode up to them and found the nicest little lake of pure water I have ever seen among the sand hills. We all filled our kegs before letting the cattle into the water. After the rejoicing at our find had somewhat subsided we discovered that we were within half a mile of the place from which we had started three days before. We had a good compass, but all the men had declared the compass was no good. Stern had told them of an old trail which led to the Running Water, and they expected to follow that, but it was so dim they crossed it without noticing it, and kept traveling in a circle for three days. After a good breakfast and all the water we could drink, John Darr, two other cowboys, and myself, were sent out to find the old trail, which we soon did, and led the party out of the wilderness, reaching our destination safely in due time."

HUNTERS FIND GAME IN THE BED

Jess Gandy tells the following: "In the fall of 1876, in company with Charles Penn, I left York, Nebraska, and came up into Custer county on a hunt. We arrived after dark at Mr. Murphy's place, on Clear creek. On our approach the dogs began a violent bark-

ing, and suddenly the lights went out. We thought this rather strange, but proceeded to knock on the door several times before we received any response. Finally a childish voice rang out on the night air with a determined and rather angry accent: 'Who are you and what do you want?' 'We are hunters, and wish to stay all night.' 'That's too thin. Leave or I will shoot through the door.' 'Say, Sis, where is your pa?' 'That's no concern of yours. Leave or I'll shoot.'

"We thought discretion the better part of valor, got out of range of the door, and finally convinced the two plucky little girls within, who were only about ten and fourteen years old, that we were friends. They had heard the dogs bark, took us for Indians or horse thieves, and had turned out the light, got the gun and proceeded to 'hold the fort.' We learned that Mr. Murphy and his wife had not yet returned from a cedar canyon near by, where they were loading cedar to take to Grand Island the following day.

"There could be quite a romance written about this family. Mr. Murphy had a few cattle and the two children had to do the herding and have had to subsist for three weeks at a time on a small grass nut which they dug while herding their cattle. But to return to our story. Mr. Murphy and his wife came in presently and we were hospitably entertained. The next morning we were directed to Mr. McEndeffer's place, Mr. Murphy's closest neighbor, on the Muddy, about ten miles in a southwesterly direction. We had only proceeded a short distance when we sighted a band of elk, and everything else was forgotten in the exciting chase which ensued. We found ourselves at night over twenty miles out of our course, and in the midst of a genuine Nebraska blizzard. We selected a sheltered place on the banks of the Muddy, where we could obtain fuel, and camped until morning. We lost sight of the elk the previous evening among the hills, not having been able to get a single shot at them at less than 700 yards.

"In the morning it was still storming, and we retraced our steps and arrived at McEn-

deffer's the following evening. We hunted with Mr. McEndeffer about a week, and had splendid success, having killed several deer. I will say Charley Penn is the only man I ever saw who could shoot quicker than I.

"While on this trip we camped all night in an old deserted sod house and found a large heap of tumble weeds and tickle grass blown up into one corner of the room. Being very tired, we did not stop to investigate what might be hidden under this immense stack of debris, but proceeded to spread our tarpaulins on it and make our bed.

"After a little, Charley was snoring away at the rate of about three knots an hour. I felt our bed move, but thought it must be my imagination. After a little the movements beneath became so violent there could be no mistake that there was something underneath our bed. I remembered when a boy of hearing that circumstances sometimes make strange bedfellows, and I thought we 'had 'em sure.' I nudged Charley quietly and whispered, 'Charley, there's something under our bed.' But I might just as well have talked to the sod walls. He kept right on 'sawing wood.' The rolling and tumbling motion continued with still greater violence every minute, until I was beginning to get seasick. I got desperate, and, springing up in bed, fairly shouted in Charley's ear: 'Charley, there's something alive under our bed,' and Charley came back from dreamland with a snort and puff just as we began slowly sinking toward the ground and the heaving and surging motion ceased. Looking out toward the door we saw a long procession of little dark-looking objects, with white stripes on their backs, filing out of the door, and then realized that we had been sleeping on top of a family of skunks which had taken up their winter quarters in the place."

HAD NO RELIGION

An amusing incident happened in Judge Ford's court one day during a trial in which the Rev. Albert M—— (colored) and his wife were trying to enforce claims against an estate being probated at the time. Al. Johnson was conducting the cross examination. Mrs.

M—— was upon the stand. It was revealed by the witnesses that the claims of the "Rev-run" and his wife were somewhat antagonistic and at the moment Al. said to Mrs. M——, "Your husband is a preacher, is he not?" And to the consternation of all present, she answered. "No, sir, he aint no preacher; dat man aint got no religum." How could he be a preacher? It is reported that the dignity of the court relaxed.

ONE OF THE COUNTY "DADS"

In the days when the old court house was in existence there was an antiquity in the district-court room in the shape of an old, smoky stove. At that time "Scotty" was the superintendent of the court house and he alone knew how to regulate the stove so that it would not smoke. One day while the county "Dads" were in session in the district-court room the old stove began to "smoke 'em out," and about that time Colonel Cooper came into the room. He punched the fire until he had the room full of smoke and then he put this conundrum to the crowd. "Why is this old stove like the County Dads?" No one could answer it. "Because it smokes all day and is out all night," responded Cooper.

A PRAIRIE FIRE

We have already mentioned the names of T. W. Dean, Leroy Leep and Gus Cosler. A peculiar incident happened to these parties on November 20, 1875, after the settlement in the precinct. About three o'clock in the morning Mr. Dean was awakened from a sound sleep, and discovered that his room was as light as day—the whole heavens seemed to be on fire. He sprang out of bed, gathered his pants, and proceeded to put them on. At this moment Gus Cosler came dashing up shouting "fire! fire! fire!" It was a prairie fire coming from the northwest—a grand and awful sight, never to be forgotten. Property and life were at stake. The head fire was coming on in the west of them at the speed of a race horse. A stiff gale was blowing from the northwest. One hundred yards in advance of the main body of fire, Dean had turned his

horses loose, and they proceeded south toward the river. A pony was lariatied near the house and Lee Leep, then being present, quickly mounted the animal and followed the loose horses, the only hope being to find them and drive them east across a piece of breaking before the fire reached them. He almost reached the place where he knew the horses were, after having left the strip of breaking which was just mentioned. Just as he came to a deep ravine, he saw the flames shoot twenty feet high and dash madly forward. Being too far from the river to make his escape in that direction, he wheeled his horse through the blinding smoke and madly lashed him toward the strip of breaking. Blinded with smoke, burned by fire, and almost suffocated, he reached the breaking, hands and face burned, hair and eye-brows scorched, panting and exhausted. After the fire had passed, one of the horses was found on the river bank, so badly burned that it lived but a few days. The other ran into the river and made its way nearly to the opposite side, where it became mired in the quick sand and was found during the day by Mr. Dean. The neighbors were summoned, and an effort was made to save the beast, but it was so bruised and burned that after trying to get it out for half a day it had to be killed.

This left Mr. Dean without a team, but this matter was adjusted, however. Gus Cosler had an ox team, but no wagon, so they formed a partnership. Dean furnished the wagon and Cosler the team, and thus they succeeded in getting along until they could devise means to do otherwise.

TWIN TRAGEDIES

Ex-Judge H. J. Shinn is to be credited with this recital of a double tragedy which occurred on the table land of Cummings Park in 1883 and 1885, by which two respected citizens of the park met their death in a way so similar that the coincidence is remarkable.

The park is an elevated portion of the precinct, and wells to the depth of 200 feet or more are the rule, while there are some wells that would exceed 250 feet. In the first settle-

ment of this locality the well or water question was a very perplexing one. It was known that the whole country contained sheet water on a certain level, and of course on hill land it was farther to water than on low land. Settlers were poor and as a rule were unable to bear the expense of a hydraulic or a casting well, as they now have it. As a consequence they resorted to digging wells, even at that great depth, casing them with lumber through the sand and gravel, and drawing or elevating the water by means of a horse, or two horses, as the case might be, with a rope extending over pulleys, attached to a half barrel, with a valve in the bottom. Among those who had wells as above described were Samuel Abernathy and James Cummings, and by reason of that fact a sad coincidence happened. In the fall of 1883 Samuel Abernathy caused a well to be dug on his premises to the depth of 196 feet, having procured an inexhaustible supply of water. Soon after its construction, one morning, while attempting to draw water, the bucket, or barrel, caught at the bottom of the well against the curb. Mr. Abernathy, thinking that it would be necessary to go to the bottom of the well to unfasten the bucket, there being no rope convenient except the one that the bucket was fastened to, told his brother that he could fasten the rope at the top and twine it around his foot and slide to the bottom of the well. His brother protested against such a hazardous undertaking, but to no avail, and he at once attempted to make the descent. After having proceeded about six feet from the top of the well his hold gave way and he fell to the bottom of the well, 196 feet. To the surprise of his brother he was found to be alive and conscious. Help was summoned, and on investigation it was found that by his falling into the bucket or barrel he had jarred it loose, whereupon he gave orders that he was able to hold on to the bucket or rope until they could raise him from the well. They proceeded to draw him up, and to the surprise of all they were successful in doing this, landing him at the top conscious, yet badly bruised and mangled, one arm broken in several places, his legs broken and his body badly bruised.

Although everything was done that could possibly be done for his comfort, he only lived about four hours.

Later on, in September, 1885, James Cummings, one of Cummings Park's respected citizens, met with a sad and similar fate to the one just narrated. Soon after his settlement he caused a well to be dug after the style of the one mentioned above, but to the depth of 210 feet. This well had been dug for about three years, and Mr. Cummings, thinking that possibly the curb had become rotten to such an extent that it would be necessary to recurb, said to his wife one morning that he would hitch a team to the end of the rope and tie a stick to the other end, and she might let him down in the well for the purpose of examining it. Thereupon the rope was drawn out its full length, laid upon the ground, one end extending over the pulley and tied in the center of a stick about two feet long, and a team was hitched to the other end, face from the well.

Mr. Cummings, taking a small stick in his hand, and sitting on the stick and astride the rope, directed his wife to back the team and let him down slowly. Slowly and slowly the team backed. The wife could hear the rapping of the stick on the curb until within about ten feet of the bottom of the well she heard the cry of "stop!" Then again she heard the rapping of the stick on the curb, then instantly came loud and clear a tremendous crash. The wife, well knowing the cause, instantly screamed at the team, but they could not raise the husband from the earth that had fallen upon him. She hastened to the well and called to her husband, but no response was heard. She called again and again, but everything was as still as death. Excited and terror-stricken, she called for help. Friends and neighbors, hearing her cry, hurried to the rescue. What could be done? Buried alive two hundred feet below the surface of the earth! News of the disaster spread like wild fire. Stout men and sympathizing women hurried to the scene to lend such aid as might be necessary. On investigation it was found that the well had caved in for a distance of over twenty feet, leaving a large cavity above Mr.

Cummings. After examining the situation, it was decided to send for one William Garlock, who was an experienced well man. During this time nothing was done, but upon his arrival he took charge of the rescuing, and said that it would be necessary to procure lumber to recurb the portion caved in; consequently teams were sent to West Union, and the work of rescuing proceeded as rapidly as possible. He first directed that it would be necessary to shovel dirt into the well for the purpose of filling up the cavity before proceeding with the digging. After this was done and the curb cut, ready to place in the well, Mr. Garlock, with the aid of helpers, proceeded to uncover the doomed man. At this time he was covered with dirt to the depth of about twenty feet. Soon after the digging began, Mr. Garlock reported that Mr. Cummings was alive, for he could hear him breathing. This was a great surprise to the friends and neighbors who were so anxiously waiting. The work proceeded with more rapidity than before, and report after report came up from the well digger that Mr. Cummings was still alive. After about ten hours of constant work the head of the doomed man was uncovered, and to the surprise of all it was found that he was conscious and able to give instructions. Slowly, slowly and persistently, the noble well-digger proceeded, until the entire body down below the knees was uncovered.

At this time everybody was anxiously listening for orders to pull the doomed man to the top, but instead a voice was heard from below: "Let the rope down! I want to come up!" The rope was quickly let down and the well man taken from the well. Everybody wondered what was the matter, and gathered about him for information. He told them that he could do no more; that the man's feet were under the curb, and that he could not extend his curb on account of the dry ground — that if he undertook to dig below the curb, as he would have to do in order to get his feet out, the ground would run in and cause the well to cave, and that it could not possibly be done. He further said that the only thing that could be done was to fasten a rope around him and

pull him loose by force; that there was one chance of saving his life in this way, but that he was entirely exhausted, and could do nothing more. Another man being present who had some experience in well-making, volunteered to go down and fasten the rope around him. After this was done, as many as twenty-five men took hold of the rope above, and at a command, began pulling gradually, pulling harder and harder until the rope broke.

As quick as thought, some one present suggested that he had at his home a three-quarter rope that he thought was strong enough to pull him out, and accordingly some one was dispatched for the rope, and in a very short time returned with it. Again the well man descended and securely fastened the rope around the body, and again returned to the top of the well. On his arrival, as many men as could get hold of the rope did so, and at a command began pulling as before. Steady, stronger and stronger, they pulled until the body was released, every man falling to his knees, the rope having been drawn so tight that when he became loosened he was thrown up several feet. Orders were given to raise him fast, lest the well should again cave. After he was drawn out of danger, orders were given to go slow. This was done, and in a few seconds Mr. Cummings was at the top of the well, alive, rational, and able to tell his experience. He said that he did not realize that he had been in the well so long, although he was conscious all the time; that he knew when they were throwing dirt into the well, and knew when the well-man began digging; he thought, however, that the falling of the dirt in the well was a heavy thunder storm.

Dr. Wamsley was present and took charge of the case, but found it a bad one. The body was bruised, and the bowels so badly torn that inflammation set in and in four days the poor victim died. The accident happened about eight o'clock on Saturday morning, and it was two o'clock Sunday afternoon when Mr. Cummings was taken from the well. Thus he remained in the well about thirty hours, eighteen hours of this time being under ground a distance of about twenty feet, and

his having lived while in this condition was due, doubtless, to the fact that an iron pipe, used for pumping purposes, was hanging in the well and his face was against it, thus affording him sufficient air to keep him alive.

This sad accident will ever be remembered by the old settlers of Cummings Park with sadness, as Mr. Cummings was one of our best citizens, and his untimely death cast a gloom of despair over the entire community.

A WATERMELON STAMPEDE

James E. Farley, who was in an early day one of Custer county's cowboys, and later one of our substantial citizens, followed Texas cattle and the trail to Ogallala in the spring of 1879 and from Ogallala shuffled into the South Loup country. He was employed for a time on the Finch-Hatton ranch and was familiar with all the famous characters who operated in the days of cattle. Aside from throwing side lights on the difficulty of handling wild cattle, he refers, in a worldly way, to watermelons:

"Cattle generally follow some leader, stringing out in single file, and they will follow the leader as long as he runs. If we were able to keep up with the leader or head him off we could get the cattle to going in a circle, and after a while to bunch them and get them stopped. Sometimes we were not able to get ahead of the cattle in a stampede, but had to follow alongside, catching glimpses of them when the lightning flashed, strung out a long distance ahead of us. Many of these cattle were five or six years old, had never been near a man since they were branded, and were as wild as a herd of buffaloes. When we started out with them the first week they were on the constant lookout to get away. After succeeding a few times, some of them became spoiled to such an extent that they had to be killed to keep them from demoralizing the rest of the herd. One time there were two cow camps of us holding cattle on the head of Cow creek. Jim Dalzell, a lone settler, had a fine watermelon patch and he told the cowboys that they could have all the melons they wanted, but some of the boys in the other camp

thought it would be so much nicer to steal them, and our camp, in connection with one of their men, put up a job on them that caused all of us to have three weeks' extra work. We found out the time set by the boys of the other camp to make a raid on the melons, and stationed our men in the patch to welcome them when they entered. They soon made their appearance, tied their horses, and came over into the patch, Billy Kessler, the man in the plot, leading them right up to where we were hidden in a bunch of weeds. We had taken the balls out of our cartridges to prevent any accident in the darkness. 'Come over this way, boys; here's some fine ones,' shouted Billy, as he led them toward us. We could hear them scrambling, through the melon vines, thumping the melons as they came. When within a few feet of us, we sprang out with a yell and 'bang, bang, bang,' went the revolvers. Billy bravely held his ground, returning our fire, but the other boys took to their heels, dashed through the creek, with us after them, and firing at every jump. In their fright they rushed through both herds of cattle. The cattle stampeded and scampered away over the prairie and it took us three weeks to get them together again after this adventure."

IT KILLED THE TOAD

Uncle Swain Finch, as he was familiarly called by those who knew him in his pioneer days, was one of the unique characters of the early times. Things seemed to happen at his place. He and his family have furnished the details of some very interesting stories. Some of the boys tell this one on him.

A funny incident happened at one time while they were "keeping batch" for a short time at the new ranch they were opening up. One morning the cook had an extra fine brew of coffee, and all showed their appreciation of it by drinking more than usual. Uncle Swain had passed his cup the third or fourth time, when he observed something white in the coffee pot. He remarked:

"Say, Jim, where did you get the egg to clear yer coffee with this morning?"

"Didn't have any egg," grumbled Jim, who appeared to be a little out of sorts and not in a talkative mood.

"What's the use of yer lyin' about it, Jim; I seed it when you was pourin' out that last cup of coffee."

"You didn't, nuther," snapped Jim.

The Finch boys had as a guest a stylish friend from Iowa, and he was called upon to examine the coffee-pot to settle the dispute between Uncle Swain and the cook. The young man poured the grounds out in the yard and made a critical examination. He gave a sort of convulsive gasp, turned deathly pale, placed his hand near the region of his stomach, and disappeared around the house. The antics of the young fellow caused the others to push their unfinished cups aside. Uncle Swain alone excepted—and to make an investigation of the contents of the coffee pot. Among the grounds they discovered a large, warty toad, swollen to three times his natural size. The old fellow had evidently climbed up between the logs of the cabin and fallen into the coffee-pot, which sat close to the wall and had no lid.

DAN GOT THE LOGS

Along in the '80s and early '90s, when crop failures were the regular order, it was a common thing for homesteaders to prove up on their claims, mortgage them for the high dollar and then pack their belongings and start for wife's people back in God's country, as they used to call it. The settler was not decently out of sight before the neighbors would swarm in on that ranch and proceed to gather up all wood and posts, lumber, etc., that could be found. They generally pulled the roof off the sod house to get the planks or the cedar poles, as the case might be, which had been supporting the roof sod. In this connection an amusing incident occurred in the sand hills up at the head of Ortello valley. There were two characters in that community whom the old settlers would recognize if they are merely called Tom Doe and Daniel Blank. Tom had rather a shady reputation—he had been a lawyer and several other things which Dan

said were fully as bad. These men did not get along well. When they met in the road the conversation was generally not printable. Tom got into debt as deeply as possible and also became involved in several shady transactions. When he heard rumors of a warrant for his arrest he abandoned his claim. Unfortunately he had been so busy during the day that he didn't get ready to leave until after dark.

A day or so later old Dan, riding past, observed that the place was abandoned and made up his mind that he would even up the scores as far as possible that night. He left his team and wagon some little distance from Tom's house and went on foot to see how the land lay. He had not yet reached the house when he heard the rattle of an approaching wagon and two men drove up to the house and immediately climbed up on the roof and began to shovel off the clay and sod. Old Dan kept out of sight until the roof was cleared and the planks and poles pulled off and thrown on to the ground ready for loading into the wagon, then he jumped out of his hiding place, let out a howl that would have raised the dead and wanted to know what in blankety, blankety, blank was going on? The men sprang into their wagons and whipped their horses away at a gallop. When they were well out of hearing old Dan loaded up the poles and planks and hauled them home.

INDIAN SCARES

Captain W. H. Comstock is responsible for this one:

"In the spring of 1875 a man by the name of Eberlin, with his wife and a companion by the name of Hancock, started on a hunting trip up the Middle Loup river. When about eight miles above our settlement their attention was called to the peculiar antics of a horseman on the east side of the river. He was riding at a furious pace, coatless and hatless, with his long hair streaming in the wind behind him as he flew along. The hunting party was badly frightened and immediately started back to the settlement, arriving there with their team covered with foam. As soon

as they were able to tell a rational story, they reported that they had seen Indians on the east side of the river. Every settler was at once notified, a council held, and a decision reached to proceed at once to make preparations for the protection of the settlement against an attack from the red men. Volunteers were called for to go to Fort Hartsuff and notify Captain Munson, the commander, and ask him to send two or three regiments of soldiers down. D. B. Allen offered to perform this duty, while four or five others volunteered to go up the river to investigate the story told by the hunters. All were instructed to ride all night and report at eight o'clock the next morning. It was laughable to see Ben Allen as he started for the fort, and a photograph of him taken at that time would be a most valuable contribution to this history. His dress suit consisted of an old pair of blue overalls, with a heavy fringe around the bottom, he was barefooted, and had on no other clothing except a striped shirt and an old straw hat. He was mounted, bareback, upon an old horse belonging to Mr. Higgins. About eight o'clock the next morning the people met to consult and to hear the report of the scouts when they should return. Soon a solitary horseman was seen coming from the direction of the river, and four or five others from the north.

"The single horseman proved to be the valiant Ben, and before he was fairly within speaking distance he shouted: 'It's all right, General Munson said if we were killed by Indians to let him know and he would come over and give them h——!' The other party now rode into camp and reported that they were unable to discover any Indians, but they had found out that the horseman who had frightened the hunters was a half-crazy fellow who lived on the east side of the river. The news was a great relief to the settlers, but they nevertheless decided to build a fort where all could congregate in case of any sudden attack from the savages. It was afterward named Fort Disappointment, for the reason that no Indians ever appeared.

THE GRASSHOPPER A BURDEN

The Scripture says that "the grasshopper shall be a burden," and its prophecy came true in Custer county. The following experience of Swain Finch will illustrate the fulfillment.

In the spring of 1870 the boys planted about sixty acres of sod corn, which was just beginning to make fine roasting ears, when one afternoon they discerned what appeared to be a prairie fire, a dense cloud of smoke arising in the northwest. They wondered at a prairie fire at that time of the year, when the grass was green. They watched it intently as it came nearer and nearer, until it obscured the sun and darkened the air like an eclipse. When it had come within a hundred yards of them they heard a continuous cracking and snapping sound, which increased to a perfect roar as it approached them, when they discovered to their horror that a cloud of grasshoppers was upon them. The insects alighted, and in a few seconds every green thing in sight was literally covered and hidden with a seething, crawling mass, several inches in depth. The beautiful field of corn melted down as if each leaf was a spray of hoar frost in the rays of the noonday sun. Uncle Swain was dumbfounded for a moment, but when he saw that corn fading he came to his senses, cut a large willow brush and went after those grasshoppers with a vengeance. He proceeded down a corn row, threshing to right and left, killing his thousands with every sweep, and mowing a swath of death in his track. When he had gone about a hundred yards he stopped to get his breath and discovered to his extreme disgust that there were as many grasshoppers behind him as there were ahead. This disheartened him and he gave it up as a hopeless task. The hoppers ate up everything in the shape of grain and garden stuff on the place, leaving it as brown and bare as if it had been swept by fire. They would settle on a post the thickness of a man's arm, and in a few seconds it would appear to be as big as a log. When the hoppers left it it would look as if it had been scraped with a knife, every vestige

of bark and fiber being eaten off. Aunt Sarah and her sister-in-law had a fine patch of cabbages which they thought to save by covering the plants with hay; but the hay served only as a convenient shade for the hoppers, who crawled under it and dined off the juicy cabbage heads at their leisure. They then laid the hay around the patch and burned it, thinking to smoke the pests away, but to no avail. When they left that cabbage patch nothing remained but a few bare stalks, eaten almost to the ground.

A LAND QUARREL

In all new countries in which men are homesteading there are bound to be quarrels over homesteads, lines, and entries. This county has been no exception. Hundreds of incidents, like or similar to the one following could be recited, but they are a minor part of actual history, and have still less to do with county development.

One George Hartley located in section 23, township 18, range 23, in the summer of 1880, although he had not made a filing on the claim. He rented it to one Sipes and went away to work on the railroad. In the summer Hartley came back and wanted possession of the land. Sipes refused to vacate until his crop was harvested, but he allowed Hartley to go ahead and make such improvements as he saw fit. During the summer and fall the two men had a number of quarrels, and when it came time to gather the corn,* Sipes refused to gather Hartley's share. This resulted in a violent quarrel, and in the encounter that followed Hartley attacked Sipes with a knife and cut him so badly that his liver was exposed. Hartley left the county, thinking that he had killed Sipes, but the latter recovered, followed Hartley, but up to date has never heard a word as to his whereabouts.

GRASSHOPPERS CHEWED TOBACCO

Captain Comstock takes the floor to tell this one:

"At Loup City we became acquainted with B. D. Allen and Sherman Wagner. We all started in April, 1874, and drove to Douglas

Grove, where we selected our homesteads and commenced to improve them, but just as the ears of corn began to form, the grasshoppers appeared, and in a few hours completely ate up every green thing. In the edge of a draw Uncle Dave had some tobacco plants which were very choice, and he anticipated the pleasure of smoking the weed of his own raising the coming winter. But, alas! his hopes were blasted. He covered the plants with anything he could get, but the festive hoppers ate holes in the covering and chewed Uncle Dave's tobacco as long as it lasted.

"The settlers were left entirely destitute, not having produced a thing for the support of themselves and their families during the winter. The government at this time had troops stationed at a point about nine miles above Ord, the county seat of Valley county, and it had been decided to erect more commodious quarters for the soldiers. There was plenty of sand and gravel, and work was commenced on the garrison. The walls were constructed of red cedar, of which there was an abundance in the canyons not far distant. A saw mill was put in operation and teams were hired to haul the logs and lumber, as well as all other material needed in constructing the fort. The settlers flocked in from all directions and were given employment by the government. Allen and myself and Caswell went over. Allen got a job working in the mill, while Caswell and I hauled gravel from the pit and assisted on the walls of the building."

THE SENATOR WAS NOT HANDSOME

A good story is told at the expense of Senator Frank M. Currie, who is not noted for his chesterfieldian appearance. During Currie's candidacy for state senator, Uncle Swain Finch was very energetic in his support of the senator, although he had never met him. Later, after the election was over, both met on the street and a friend introduced them. Currie was profuse in his thanks for the work that Uncle Swain had done for him. "Yes I voted for you," responded Swain, "but if I had known that you were so d—n homely I wouldn't have done it." They were the best

of friends from that time until the death of Uncle Swain.

BURLIN AND KELLENBARGER HAVE SOME
EXPERIENCE

Concerning early days when all goods had to be freighted from railroad towns in the eastern part of the state, the late Bradford Burlin wrote an account of a trip he made to the eastern part of the state in the year 1883. On this trip he fell in with Joe Kellenbarger from whom this manuscript was obtained and who vouches for its authenticity. This is the way Burlin tells it:

"Do any of these latter-day saints have any idea what a trip to the railroad meant in the early days, especially if one got caught in a storm? Now let me give you newcomers a correct account of one of these trips and if you should think that this picture is in any way overdrawn, just ask Mr. Joe Kellenbarger, who was there with me. In the latter part of July, 1883, I lived near New Helena. On the 11th of July a destructive hail storm destroyed sixty-five acres of corn, also the last vestige of our garden and all other crops. Being nearly out of supplies at the time, I concluded to start for the railroad for a few months' supply. And here the troubles of that trip began; my wife declared I was never going to the road again unless I washed my feet and put on socks. So I went down and waded in the creek for a while and came in and called for the socks but she had already made the discovery that I was short on socks to the extent that I lacked just one pair of having any, but she also made the discovery that she had one pair of those then, up-to-date, stockings, in red, white and blue rings or stripes, and looked like barber poles. She said they were so long she couldn't quite touch the bottom of them when she stood up in them, but when I came back they would need washing, and that would shrink them up so they would be right for her. So I donned the stockings and started. It rained almost continually until I got back. I went to our old home at Silver Creek, forty-four miles below Grand Island, and when I came back, left the railroad at Chapman and

hit the trail eight miles further north. Here I fell in with another fellow who was not much more pleasantly situated than I. It was Joe Kellenbarger. He was trying to get back to Dale with lumber with which to make some show of building on his claim. As we were both going to practically the same place, we soon became quite chummy and between showers cussed and discussed matters in general, but a storm was on and it was slow traveling.

"One day Joe said that if we could only make it to Gregory's that day, that Gregory had a roof that did not leak and we would have one night without being drowned. So we pushed our teams all day and got there just before sundown. There were six or seven covered wagons in the yard and a raft of women and children around the house, so we figured that a dry bed was out of the question. We said we would water our teams and drive out on the prairie and camp. While we were watering the teams, a young lady, of perhaps eighteen or twenty, came down to the well to scrape acquaintance and she told us they were a colony from Missouri, twenty-nine of them. They were most all relatives to the Gregorys except two that sat out on a log, who were two old maids that had come along to look for land, but she thought they were looking for a man about as much as they were for land. All of the men had gone out in the hills hunting to kill some elk or deer, for they were out of meat.

A RACE THROUGH THE STORM

"We drove about one hundred rods and camped on a side hill. There was a storm brewing in the north but as that could not be helped, we fed and staked our horses. We spread Joe's tent cloth over the wagon-pole, took off our coats and boots and crawled under and got a nice sleep until about twelve o'clock, when the worst thunder, lightning, and rain storm that I ever experienced came up. First we were drowned from the under side, then the wind blew the tent cloth away and we were drowned from the upper side, and there we were without coats, boots, or hats. We ran for the house. Joe had on just plain Ne-

braska, three-for-a-quarter socks. The mud began to stick to our feet, making our socks so heavy that every time we took a step they would slip down a few inches. Joe's being short, he had not gone but a few rods until he got clear of them entirely, and in every flash of lightning I could see him going down the road, running like a jack rabbit; sometimes he was up in the air and sometimes on the ground. Those long zebras of mine went to playing the same trick and pulled off until there was about a yard hanging to each foot, loaded with mud. They kept flopping in front of me. I could not run around them nor jump over them, nor get away from them. I had to stop there in the rain and climb on those rings and get out at the top. Then there was another jack rabbit show down the road, but I made time and caught up with Joe just as he got to the door. He did not wait to knock but pushed the door open and went in stumbling, and was in the middle of the room before he could stop.

SOMETHING OF A "MIX-UP"

"Now talk about the thunder and lightning, here is where they both had to take a back seat. We found that all the men and boys had come in from hunting and had made their colony bed on the floor. The bed was just as big as the floor and when they all got to bed it was just full and Joe was treading around right in the middle of it. The men were hollowing, 'Who is there?' and 'What is wanted?' and the two old maids that were way over in one corner were piping out 'Man in the house. There's a man in the house.' We finally succeeded in getting them all quiet except two or three of the children whom Joe had been walking on. I called for a light so we could see something, then away went the old maids again. They said there was not going to be any light. It was a pretty mess and with strange men in the house they didn't want a light. They added that if that was the kind of carryings-on they had out west they would go straight back to Missouri. But some one got a light and I started to apologize for Joe's getting into the bed with his muddy feet,

but they said never mind apologies, they were glad we came in and they wanted to talk with us about Nebraska.

"We stayed an hour or more, until the worst of the storm was over, and told them plenty about Nebraska. Don't remember whether any of it was true or not. They insisted on our staying all night, but we said we would go back to the wagons and see if any of our horses were dead or loose, but might come back and stay until daylight. We started out, it was still raining some, and we got into that cold mud and Joe got into some cactus, so both said, 'Let's go back and stay until morning.' Joe said there was one or two of those fellows that he did not like the looks of, and believed they would just as soon go through a fellow's pockets as not, but those two old maids were mighty nice people. He said, 'We will go back and lay down, if we can find room, and you go to sleep for a while and I will keep one eye open, then I will wake you up and I will take a nap.' We went back in and the boss of the colony hustled them around until they got a little room in one corner and told us we could get over there and lie down. The boss asked if we were all right and we said we were, so he said: 'Some one turn out the light,' and away went the old maids again. They said the light was not going to be put out. It was bad enough with strange men in the bed, and to put the light out would be worse. They talked some more about going back to Missouri. But they fixed the matters up among themselves and, I believe, turned the light partly out. The last I remembered, Joe was telling me something about going to sleep with one eye open, and then waking me up, but I went to sleep with both eyes shut and the next thing I woke and it was broad daylight. I looked over at Joe and if I ever saw a man that I thought was dead it was he; and for a minute or two if ever any fellow wished he was in Custer county and had stayed in Custer county it was I.

NEARLY RUINED HIS EYE

"Just then Joe gave a little snore and I saw that he 'was not dead but sleeping.' He had

one eye open all the same and that was twisted around in the socket so that it was looking at right angles with his nose and was pointing straight over to that corner where the old maids were. Then the other side of the situation presented itself to me and I got to laughing, and the more I tried to stop the more I couldn't stop. Finally Joe woke up and wanted to know what the matter was and seemed to be quite grouchy. He said if we could not behave ourselves we had better leave and not wake the whole house up, so we

crawled out, Joe very quietly and I as much so as I could. I couldn't keep from looking at Joe and every time I looked at him I had to laugh. Finally he said, 'What is the matter with you, man, are you drunk or going crazy?' I said, 'Why, man, don't you know that one of your eyes is cross-legged?' He said it didn't feel altogether right and guessed he must have strained it keeping watch last night. We kept a sharp lookout for our socks on the way back to the wagons but the water had carried them away and we never found them."

CHAPTER VII

HARD WINTERS AND HARD TIMES

THE BLACK WINTER OF 1880-81 — A TOUGH TIME IN 1880 — HEAVY LOSSES — AS THINGS LOOKED TO BISHOP — ACCIDENTS AND TRAGEDIES — NO CHRISTMAS PRESENTS — AN EARLY BLIZZARD — DOWN TWICE BUT NOT OUT — FROZEN TO DEATH IN POWELL CANYON — THE BLIZZARD OF 1888 — A HARD TIMES CHRISTMAS — CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENTS IN THE VARIOUS CHURCHES IN BROKEN BOW — FILLED UP ON CHRISTMAS — THE GLOVERS WEATHER NINETY-FOUR — DIDN'T CARRY OFF THE MORTGAGE — FOURTH OF JULY HAILSTORM — DRY NINETY-FOUR — HE WON OUT — HAD TO BE HELPED — POOR BUT HAPPY — A HOME-GROWN CYCLONE — WORST BLIZZARD IN THIRTY YEARS — SHEEP PERISH IN TRANSIT

During the early years of any country hard winters and hard times are twin born. No way by which they can be divorced has been invented by any genius yet born. Hard winters, when people are ill-prepared, insure hardships and privations. The brave pioneers of Custer county weathered their share of storms and endured their proper quota of hard times.

The first houses were poorly constructed, fuel was exceedingly scarce, warm clothing was not over-abundant, the heating plant was often the kitchen stove, the country was open, without groves or wind brakes, and under these conditions weather that could hardly be reckoned as cold under present conditions, was considered then very severe and oppressive. Feed was scarce, stock unsheltered, or, at best, poorly sheltered, and all these things combined to entail hardships which none but the brave could endure and conquer.

Hats off in the presence of those men and women who stemmed the tide of early winters, who met, without grumbling or complaining, the conditions of early days, lived to enjoy the steam-heated, plastered house, and who ride through the winters of the present time wrapped in flannels and furs and snugly ensconced in a stove-warmed auto, into which the northern blasts can bring no discomforts.

It serves them right. Their pioneering years have earned all the comforts the present day can bring them.

In presenting this chapter on hard winters and hard times the stories of old settlers have been compiled. The people who endured the storms and years tell their own stories.

THE BLACK WINTER OF 1880-1

The winter of 1880-81 will never be forgotten by those engaged in the cattle business in Custer county. Men who in the beginning of that winter were wealthy, found themselves bankrupt in the spring.

Early in the winter a rain began falling. The grass became thoroughly saturated; then it suddenly turned cold, and every stalk, spear and blade of grass at once became an icicle — all matted together in one sheet of solid ice. Immediately following this came a heavy snow, from ten to twelve inches deep, which was again followed by another rain, and this in turn by another sudden cold wave, the result of which was to cover the surface of the snow with a thick, strong crust.

The country was covered with ice and snow until spring. The winter was very severe, the temperature ranging for days and weeks at from ten to twenty below zero. The condi-

tions were such that it was almost impossible for the cattle to get to the grass. The winds, which ordinarily blew the snow off the hills and left the grass thereon free to the cattle, could not affect this solid body of ice and snow.

The legs of the cattle, traveling about in a famished condition seeking food, soon became bruised and bleeding from contact with the sharp crust on the snow. There was plenty of feed on the ground, but the cattle could not get at it. They died by the hundreds and thousands. It was estimated that from seventy-five to ninety per cent. of the cows and calves on the range perished that winter and sixty per cent. of the steers also perished. They lay in piles behind the hills where they had sought shelter.

The following spring many who had engaged in the business in Custer county, and who until this winter had believed there was no grazing country equal to it, quit the business in disgust and left the county.

Nothing like this winter had preceded it in the history of the country, and nothing like it has been experienced since.

A TOUGH TIME IN 1880

H. Lomax, who at the present time is a resident of Broken Bow and prominent in Custer county banking activities, has served his time as an early settler, and concerning his experiences makes the following statement:

"My first introduction to the South Loup river occurred in April, 1880, at a point about half a mile above the mouth of Ash creek. Having made the journey from Plum Creek in a heavily loaded wagon, we struck the river just as the sun was sinking into the western prairie and tinging the tops of the eastern hills with a glow of red. The log shanty in which we intended to camp was on the other side of the stream, and we started across. Before proceeding ten feet our team stopped and the wagon settled to the axles in quicksand, the water gently washing the bottom of the wagon box. A portage was necessary, and not only was the cargo all carried across, but we had to wade back and forth with the different parts of the wagon, taking out a wheel

at a time. Having at length arrived at our destination, cold, wet, and weary, we proceeded to prepare our supper. Our log shanty, in the middle of a dense grove of cottonwood and willow, had the river on one side and a bayou on the other. Before supper was ready a whirr of wings called me to the door. O, land of ducks! Hundreds were there before me of all colors and sizes — flying, swimming, diving, in the security of their ignorance. After this, duck was too common a food to be mentioned in our cuisine. Our shanty had been shingled with cow-hides, thrown on the roof. During the night a cold north wind whistled through the crevices between the logs of our dwelling, which had not been chinked, and we arose, took off the roof covering and pinned the hides up against the wall to serve as siding. After this, whenever it rained we put the hides on the roof to keep out the water and when it blew we put them on the side of the house to keep out the wind — a very simple and effective device which furnished additional proof of the truth of the old saying that 'necessity is the mother of invention.' One of the settlers in this part of the country was Saul Garringer. He was a perfect architect in the construction of dugouts, and he evolved from the original trapper's hole in the ground a series of apartments which lacked only electric lights and steam heat to make them equal to any modern palatial residence. Whenever he was not making a new dugout he was building some addition to the old one. He was also a lineal descendant of Nimrod of old, and hunted exclusively with the rifle. He it was who gave me the first clear conception of the possibilities of rifle-shooting. While hunting ducks with him one day he observed that I always aimed at the body of the bird; he explained to me that this cut the flesh up too much, and that he always hit them in the head.

"The spring of 1880 was extremely dry, so dry that the wheat in the Platte valley refused to sprout, and had to be plowed up and corn planted in its place. On the third day of July it began to rain and the rest of the summer was excessively wet. August 10th a cloud-

burst occurred in the vicinity now occupied by the village of Callaway, which caused a serious flood in the South Loup and Wood river valleys. The Loup bottoms were running with three or four feet of water for twelve hours, and the fringes of willows that lined the river banks were filled with cedar posts and rails that had been washed down from the corrals of ranches above. The rain, which fell during the greater portion of September, turned in October to snow, which continued to fall in enormous quantities all winter. During the fall, the work of the beaver, which was plentiful along the river, amounted to a veritable massacre of the timber which lined the banks. During the months of October and November they could be seen working in droves, preparing for the long winter which their instinct warned them was coming on.

"Thousands of sheep had been driven into the country during the summer of 1880, and the winter which followed left in many cases not more than twenty per cent. of the herds alive. After a severe snowstorm in October and cold weather in November, the ice on the river was strong enough to bear heavy loads. The real winter snow began to fall December 16th, and from that time until March the ground had a covering of eighteen inches on the level, with drifts twenty feet deep. The wind was almost continuous and the cold at times intense. The cloudy days were unusually numerous for Nebraska. In December the clear days amounted to seventeen, in January sixteen, in February eighteen. The average temperature at eight o'clock a.m. in December was 33; in January 25.9; in February 30.4. Cattle on the range stood day after day, week after week, chewing leaves, twigs, branches, and bark, until the trees were eaten bare as high as a cow could reach, and the branches were chewed so they looked like frayed ropes. Thousands of the poor animals died, and it has always been a mystery to me how any survived. In the spring many of them which survived lost their horns and hoofs, which had been frozen, and dropped off when the thaw came. When the ice broke up in the river it was a month before it could be crossed

in safety. John McGinn was then located two miles up Ash creek, where the Plattsmouth ranch now is. He had purchased some corn in Wood river valley but was unable to haul it across the Loup river, and it had to be dragged across with a rope, one sack at a time. At that time there was not a bridge across the Loup in Custer county."

HEAVY LOSSES

It is estimated that sixty to sixty-five per cent. of range cattle perished during the winter of 1880-81, which until the present time is referred to by old settlers as "The Hard Winter."

Blessings sometimes come in ill-shaped disguise. It was so in this case. The enormous loss of stock put the cattlemen out of business and delivered the range over to the settler and his breaking-plow. The growing feud between the rancher and the settler was over. This was to be an agricultural rather than a range country. This decree was written irrevocably on the white banks of the drifted snow during the winter and fulfilled in the yellow harvests that have succeeded each other since that winter.

AS THINGS LOOKED TO BISHOP

The following is taken from a July, 1918, issue of the *Custer County Chief* and describes the impression Custer county made on a visitor who came here in March, 1881:

"J. C. Bishop, brother of the late E. N. Bishop, of Gates, arrived in this city Friday of last week, from Boston. In a conversation he told of the first time he saw Custer county. He came to Nebraska from Virginia, upon the solicitation of his brother, to enter the cattle business in the winter of 1881. March 1, 1881, he arrived in Broken Bow, coming overland from Grand Island. A big blizzard had just passed over the country. Cattle were dead by the thousands, frozen to death in the willows along the streams. Mr. Bishop says he thought he saw at least 100,000 in all before he got to his brother's place. The cattle business did not look good to him, notwithstanding old settlers told him that every winter

would not be like the last. But he contended that he might work for years and then lose all his increase in one storm, so accordingly he returned to Virginia. He states now that he was never more surprised than by the progress and development of this country. He declares that the climate is different entirely and he attributes the change to the number of trees which now are to be found everywhere."

ACCIDENTS AND TRAGEDIES

Trials and hardships are the common heritage of all pioneers. In March, 1878, J. F. Henderson, from Harrison county, Missouri, settled on Lillian creek. February 27, 1879, he went into Hunter's Shanty canyon to cut cedar for fuel and posts. He had nearly completed his day's work when in felling a twenty-two inch tree it turned on its stump as it fell, in such a way as to strike Mr. Henderson, throwing him down the steep canyon side, where he struck on a pile of brush. His left arm was broken in two places, his left hip dislocated and the leg broken below the knee. In this condition, with snow on the ground, he lay from sundown until after sunrise the next morning, when he was found by his wife. Unable to move him in any way, she went for help to the nearest residence, that of her daughter, Mrs. James Oxford. It was noon when, with oxen and a wagon, they came back and the bruised and broken sufferer was taken a mile to the home of James Oxford. To get help was the next thing, and remembering that three trappers had been at the mouth of Lillian creek, Mrs. Oxford started for the camp, two miles away. One man was there, and when she told him of the accident to her father and asked him to go for help to the nearest neighbor's place, on Victoria creek, eight miles distant, the trapper said: "I know how to sympathize with you, for I lost my wife and child in a blizzard." He started on his sixteen-mile run, and came back the next morning with Isaac and Temp Merchant. Temp was dispatched for the nearest doctor, having to go to Loup City, fifty miles down

the river. Dr. Hawkins reached the Oxford home Sunday morning, the fourth day after the accident, under the influence of liquor, and incompetent to do the surgical work required. Running his hand hastily over the broken leg, he said: "Your leg is all right, but the arm will have to be amputated." With knife and saw he cut the arm square off, took two or three stitches from skin to skin across the freshly cut flesh, and said it was all that was necessary for him to do. Mr. Merchant insisted that the leg was broken and must be dressed. With reluctance, the doctor roughly tried to put the broken bones in place and bound them with splints, then left for his home. Seven months Mr. Henderson lay in that pioneer home, unable to get from his bed, when he was moved to Mrs. Comstock's home. Every settler from Loup City to Victoria creek vied with each other in rendering kindness to the sufferer. Connected with this incident is the pathetic death of little Daisy Oxford, the pet granddaughter of Mr. Henderson. A slender child of eighteen months, she sat at his bedside on the Saturday before the doctor came; rocking forward, she, in some way, caught the bail of the tea kettle, sitting on the edge of the stove, and the contents of boiling water was poured over her head and hands. The little sufferer, under the care of Mrs. Comstock, who had been sent for, lived nearly a week. Mr. Eubank preached her funeral sermon, and then remained four days, expecting to be called to preach the funeral of Mr. Henderson. Mr. Henderson did not die but lived to express his gratitude to the old settlers who filled the office of good Samaritan to him in those days.

NO CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

Another incident that speaks of the privations of the pioneer's life and his love for his family, was the death of Arnett, on the Bayhoffer place. Christmas was near, and there was no money to get the loved ones a present. The father took his gun, in which the breech pin was secured with a piece of wire, and went to the cornfield, thinking to get chickens to sell

and buy Christmas presents. They found him next day with the breech pin blown through his head.

AN EARLY BLIZZARD

When C. W. Prettyman moved his family on to the new claim he had pre-empted in the Ash creek valley in November of 1886, he domiciled the family in an improvised shack while he was building a more substantial sod mansion. The shack was made by setting up two-by-fours on the ground in roof or V shape and covering them with shiplap. The gable ends were closed up by nailing up the wagon-covers.

On the 15th of November a snow storm set in, and before night it developed into one of the worst blizzards the country has ever known. He relates the experience of himself and family during the storm, as follows:

"The snow fell into our roof house like meal through a sieve. The situation was very serious and I was actually afraid that my wife and little ones would be frozen to death. I had sent my oldest son over to Mr. King's to look after the horses before dark, and I hoped that he would remain there all night and that they would come and rescue us in the morning. In this I was not disappointed. Soon after daybreak we saw them coming, plowing their way through the snow. I had slid out of my bed under the eaves of my roof, where I had laid under a sprinkle of snow about eighteen inches deep, and after digging around in a snowbank piled up in a corner I unearthed a suit of clothes and a pair of boots, which I got into. I then waded through another drift to the stove, dug it out and started a fire. By this time the wagon of Mr. King had arrived and we dug the children out from under their covering of snow, steaming like pigs in a straw stack, piled them in the wagon and set off for Mr. King's, under whose hospitable roof we stayed until the storm was over. When we returned to our shanty it was full of snow, which I scooped out and got out dry goods. Soon afterward we finished our house, having to cut the frozen sod with an ax."

DOWN TWICE BUT NOT OUT

M. E. Brandenburg came from Saratoga, New York, in March, 1878, and started a cattle ranch at the mouth of Sand creek, on the south side of the Middle Loup river, two and one-half miles southeast of the present site of Sargent.

He came at the beginning and has probably endured as many privations and hardships as the average pioneer. The hard winter of 1880-81 took from him his all, as it did that of many others, and he was compelled to begin life anew. He went to work by the month to get a new start, and had succeeded very well — when, in the early '90s, a series of disasters — an unfortunate business venture, the loss of his hogs by cholera, and nearly all of his cattle through chronic abortion, together with the loss of his crops — again floored him and left him a bankrupt at the beginning of 1895. A change in the tide of his affairs then turned the current into the channel of prosperity, and in a few years he had one of the best stock farms in central Nebraska, the same comprising nearly 600 acres, valued at \$8,000, and an equipment worth very nearly as much more, including one of the best herds of short-horns in the state, roadster, horses, a splendid drove of hogs and the necessary complement of farming implements, — all accumulated during the last eight years. Verily, the resources of the average Nebraskan are almost boundless.

FROZEN TO DEATH IN POWELL CANYON

In speaking of hard winters and hard times J. D. Haskell stands sponsor for the truth of the following account:

Elisha W. Clark, a hunter and trapper, was frozen to death in Powell canyon, northeast of Arnold, in December, 1879. Clark had been a colonel in the war of the rebellion, was a widower, and had for a number of years followed hunting and trapping for a livelihood. He established his camp in Powell canyon on December 2d, his only companions being his team and a couple of large greyhounds. About a week afterward he was seen by a cedar

hunter on his way to Mr. Goodyear's hay stacks after some hay for his team, and said that he intended to carry the hay in his arms to his camp, which was three miles away. No more was thought of the trapper for some time by the few residents of the neighborhood, but one day the dead bodies of his two hounds were found near Mr. Goodyear's haystacks. The weather was intensely cold, and the ground was covered with snow, and it was feared that Clark might have shared the fate

of time. They had gnawed the bark off the tree to which they were tied and eaten every bush and twig within reach. One of the horses had eaten off the limb to which he was tied, thus saving his life. The party scoured the vicinity thoroughly, without result. The county commissioners offered a reward of fifty dollars to anyone finding the body of Clark. During the following spring, while hunting for some horses, C. W. Hughey, of Arnold, came across the dead body of the unfortunate trap-



Powell Canyon, near Arnold, where some years ago a hunter and trapper lost his way and was frozen to death, his body not being found until the following spring

that had apparently overtaken the dogs. A search was immediately instituted, but no trace of the missing man or his team could be found. On the 1st day of January a party of cedar haulers reported that they had found a wagon and two horses in one of the numerous pockets of Powell canyon, and a party went at once to the place, where they discovered the horses. One of the horses was dead and the other nearly so. As Clark had been missing for three weeks, it is supposed that the poor animals had been there about that length

per, at the head of a small pocket in the canyon, his gun by his side. He had evidently died on his knees, apparently crawling into the narrow place to get such protection from the cold as its walls afforded.

It was nearly night when he had been seen at the stacks after hay, and it is the supposition that in attempting to return to his camp in the darkness he became bewildered in the maze of pockets that indent the canyon, until, overcome with weariness, he sank down and was frozen to death. The body was found five

miles southwest of where his camp had been, and had he proceeded another mile in the direction in which he was apparently traveling when he succumbed, he would have come into the South Loup valley within sight of Chapin's ranch.

THE BLIZZARD OF 1888

Old settlers shiver yet, when the famous blizzard of January 12, 1888, is mentioned. That was one of the fiercest storms that ever struck the country. Shortly before noon the wind veered to the north and west and without warning came the whirl and swirl of a blinding blizzard, such as the old settlers of that time had not seen before. The thermometer dropped twenty degrees in almost as many minutes. Hundreds of people were caught away from home and thousands of cattle and horses were out on the fields and ranges without shelter. The storm was so blinding that stock could not be driven against the wind. Accordingly they drifted with the storm and many perished. It was almost impossible for a man to find his way through the blinding snow from the house to the barn, or from the barn back to the house. Teachers and children were caught in the school-houses and in many places stayed all night, and next day, in the school-house. If they happened to have fuel they were fortunate and suffered slight inconvenience.

The storm was general throughout the middle west. It raged, however, with greatest fury in the Dakotas and northern Nebraska. Many lives were lost and everywhere there was a great loss of stock. Custer county was fortunate, however, and no loss of human life was credited to this blizzard in this county. Many blizzards have swept the open prairies of central Nebraska, but the Custerites who weathered the blizzard of 1888 are past masters in the lore of storm, winds, and snow. During this blizzard the temperature fell to thirty-two in this county, but throughout the storm region it ranged from twenty to fifty-two below, which made this blizzard match and overmatch the great storm of 1882.

A HARD TIMES CHRISTMAS

The following is from the Christmas announcements of the *Custer County Chief*, December 21, the issue before the celebration:

Christmas will be generally observed by the various churches of the city. The festivities will not, in all probability, be on as grand a scale as in years of greater prosperity, but will, nevertheless, be just as attractive and every bit as enjoyable. Instead of making a grand display there seems to be a tendency among all the churches to exert every effort in relieving the destitute and distressed, of which we have our full share. This, to say the least, is very commendable.

The next week the same paper gives the following account of the exercises as they were rendered in the various churches of Broken Bow:

The Christian church gave a very nice entertainment on Christmas Eve, consisting of a musical and literary program. Santa Claus appeared and distributed nuts and candies to the little ones. On Christmas day a handsome thing was done by the good people of this denomination. Instead of buying presents for the children, the money was used in preparing an excellent dinner, and over one hundred people were fed, including the children of the Sunday school and ten poor families who were invited in. The food which was left was then distributed among poor families.

The Presbyterian church entertainment on Christmas Eve was a novel affair. An old-fashioned fire-place was erected on the pulpit and above that was built a brick chimney. The bricks, however, were pasteboard boxes filled with nuts and candies which old Santa Claus distributed to the children. A good program was carried out. At the close of the entertainment the children were marched into the lecture room, where tables were spread and supper was served to them. This program was a complete surprise to the little folks and was much enjoyed by them.

The entertainment at the Episcopal church was held on Christmas night and was out of the usual order of Christmas doings. The program consisted of music and of short Christmas tales by Professor Currie, L. H. Jewett, Mrs. Chrisman, Rev. Robbins, and Mrs. A. Morgan. The latter was particularly interesting, as Mrs. Morgan related the story of her being stolen by cannibals on the Fiji Islands

when a small child. Candy and nuts were distributed to the children of the Sabbath school.

The Christmas pyramid was the attraction at the Baptist church. It was laden with presents, which were distributed by old Santa Claus. A splendid program was rendered.

At the Methodist church a program of recitations, songs, etc., had been prepared and was successfully carried out. The little folks were nicely remembered with candies and nuts.

FILLED UP ON CHRISTMAS

Under the caption of "Christmas dinners" the *Chief* publishes the following list of dinner parties which were given on the hard-winter Christmas day of 1894:

Mrs. Belle Doxie entertained a lively crowd of young people at her home for dinner. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Hayes, the Misses Flora Gould, Ora Spence, Grace Cox, Josie Sheppard, Lillie Snodgrass, and the Messrs. H. A. Thompson, Dr. Hallar, Harry Day, M. A. Sullivan, and E. R. Purcell.

The dinner party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Rublee was made up of Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Ed. McComas, Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Bartlett, Mrs. Patterson, Miss Mamie Thompson, and Mr. Nine McComas.

At the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Jewett, there were gathered at a sumptuous feast, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Wirt, Mr. and Mrs. O. P. Perley, Rev. Bailey, and Roy Wirt.

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Shepherd entertained a party at dinner, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Harris and family, Captain Burnham, and E. H. King.

Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Campbell departed from the time-honored custom of a Christmas dinner and gave a Christmas breakfast to a party of friends, with a Christmas tree well laden with presents for the little ones. It was a unique affair. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Alpha Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Haney, Mrs. Scruggs and daughter Belle, and Mr. and Mrs. Mosby and family. Alpha Morgan acted as Santa Claus.

Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Sullivan shared an elegant dinner at their home with Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Gutterson and family, Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Currie and family, and Mrs. Kimel Barns.

Mr. and Mrs. George Purcell entertained Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Purcell and family, and Mr. W. T. Scherr at the Christmas dinner.

At the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alpha Mor-

gan a Christmas feast was served to Rev. and Mrs. E. Robbins, and Mr. Con Gibson, of Ansley.

Mr. and Mrs. E. C. House entertained J. H. Thompson and J. E. Mallett, of Ravenna, at their home on Christmas day.

At the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Maulick there were assembled at a Christmas feast, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Eastham, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Maulick, Miss Henderson, and Mrs. Bailar, of Strang, Nebraska.

THE GLOVERS WEATHER NINETY-FOUR

H. B. Glover writes his experience in getting through the hard winter:

"In the late '80s homesteaders were proving up on their claims and mortgaging them. A Custer county mortgage had a certain market value in the east. One could borrow from five hundred to eight hundred dollars on a quarter-section, at ten per cent interest,—making out the note and mortgage at seven per cent interest for five years, then figuring the other three per cent for five years, which on an \$800 loan would amount to \$120, making a separate note of this secured by a second mortgage due in two and one-half years. This went to the agent as commission, and it was so attractive that agents traveled the country soliciting the homesteaders to prove up and take a loan. The agent in some cases advanced the money for the expense of making proof and in case that the homesteader had not resided on his claim the requisite five years they would advance two hundred dollars for the purpose of "paying out" or commuting the homestead. The loan business became so lucrative that irresponsible parties went into the business; making out the papers on a piece of land, promising the money within sixty days, then placing the papers on the eastern market to sell before he could fulfill his part of the contract.

"Thus the country practically all became mortgaged and in the case of the rough land mortgaged for more than it was then worth.

DIDN'T CARRY OFF THE MORTGAGE

"Many a homesteader on a rough claim, considering his place well sold, as soon as the money was paid over loaded his family and

goods into his wagon and went back to his wife's folks and when the "soddy" went down there was nothing left on the place but the mortgage. Others stayed and while the crops were good could make a living, but prices were so cheap that they couldn't raise the interest and taxes. Then came the crop failure of 1890, when we didn't raise enough to live on. More of them left their places to the mortgage. In 1890 and 1892 we raised good crops, but prices were low, yet we had just about recovered from the failure of 1890. The year 1893 came with a half of a crop and a general business stagnation,—labor out of employment and Coxey's army invading Washington. Everybody was hard up, made their old clothes do another year, hoping for better times next year. Next year was dry. The ground was dry clear down. We had a rain and snow storm the last days of March that wet down about six inches. The grain came up, no more rain came and it died before it got big enough for a cow to feed on. We then put in some more seed, hoping to get rain to make it grow. A light shower came and brought it up so that we could see the drill rows across the field, and that is as far as it got, as the moisture was all gone. We planted and cultivated our corn. There was enough moisture retained by the cultivation to bring the corn up high enough to brush the axle of the cultivator and some tassels began to show, but there it stopped. We went in with a sled corn-cutter to save the fodder, cut about seventy acres of the best of it and got about fifteen loads of the fodder. We had broken up eight acres of sod in 1893. This was included in a field of spring wheat, and from this eight acres of backsiting we harvested and threshed sixty bushels of wheat. This, with our fifteen loads of fodder, was the entire crop from 360 acres under cultivation.

"Stock lived in the pasture but didn't grow. How to get through the winter was the problem. We sowed sixty bushels of rye in the corn field to make fall and winter feed. We never saw it again. We sold ten head of cows for eighty-five dollars, sent a bunch of heifers and horses up to Cherry county to winter, and

kept at home just what stock we thought we needed to keep. Thus everybody got their fodder or whatever feed they had stacked up and we turned everything out before the first of September. And they fattened on the buffalo grass. We dressed a beef about Thanksgiving time and another between Christmas and New Year's. They were both in good shape and made good beef.

"We went into the winter with feed enough on hand to feed about thirty days. We were favored with a mild, open winter and had to feed but two days, so had our fodder left to feed our teams while putting in our next crop.

"Such was our personal experience in our struggle with the drouth of the early '90s. Our farm, like the rest, was mortgaged, but being one of the better class of farms we thought it worth staying with. In fact, we didn't know where we could go to better ourselves. Our mortgage became due in 1893. We were able to pay the interest. The year 1894 came and went. In March of 1895 we received a letter from the agent of the loan company, not demanding a settlement but asking if we were in need of any assistance in the way of feed and seed to put in our crop.

FOURTH OF JULY HAIL STORM

"In the spring and summer of 1879 the crops gave promise of an abundant harvest and the settlers looked forward to a good return for their labor. They were celebrating the Fourth of July at New Helena, in the most approved style, eating, drinking, and making merry, when a cloud no bigger than a man's hand was observed in the northwest, which grew with alarming rapidity until it overspread the whole heavens, and out of it came one of the most destructive hail-storms this county ever experienced. The crops were literally beaten into the earth. Not a bushel of grain was harvested in Victoria valley that year. A few turnips sown after the hail storm were the only crop produced in that section. The log school-house where the settlers were gathered to celebrate the Fourth, had three windows on the north side. The glass was broken into fragments by the hail, after which George Carr

attempted the impossible feat of keeping out the storm by covering the three windows at one time with a blackboard long enough only to cover two. Men, women, and children crowded into the building, terror-stricken, some crying, some praying, and, I am sorry to record it, a few swearing. The hail streak was about four miles wide and passed down Clear creek, completely cleaning out the crops in its course. The settlers had to haul their feed and seed for the next year from Grand Island and Central City, 120 and 130 miles distant. In 1880 we had good crops, but the hardships and privations of these pioneer days have been lived through, and while some have fallen by the wayside and still others gone to 'the land beyond the river,' many of us remain to enjoy the fruits of our early trials, proud of our noble county and its splendid citizenship, and confident of its continued growth and development.

DRY NINETY-FOUR

"To the residents of Custer county the drouth of 1894 was a new experience. They had seen slight drouths before, even in Custer county, but never before had they seen a spring and summer with entire absence of rain. Even in the spring the ground was so dry as to make plowing difficult, and as the season advanced it was impossible. But the crop was put in and made a good struggle for life. Up to the 4th of July there was still a chance for a crop. The corn was of fair size, and still green. On the 4th of July there was a slight shower, early in the day, but followed by blistering sunshine. By night the corn was flat on the ground, beyond help from any amount of rain. But the rain did not come, even after it was too late, and long before frost every green thing was dead, and the leaves had fallen from the trees.

"This meant more than financial loss; it meant a year of privation and suffering to most of the people of the county. It meant that if they were to stay in the country they must support themselves and their children without help from the soil, and with little or no resources of any kind. There was little

stock in the country, and it was worth little. Good cows sold for ten dollars, and good thrifty calves for two dollars and fifty cents, or even less. Many people sold every thing they had and left the country. It was all they could do, for the time, but in a year or two most of them came back and turned their experience into profit. Some farmers were able to stick it out by hunting wild game all winter, and using brush and cow-chips for fuel.

HE WON OUT

"The determination of some of the people was almost beyond belief. I have in mind a little, bent, old man who had managed to gather up a little bunch of cattle. He had no land. Instead of selling his cattle he got some warm clothing and just lived in the hills with his cattle, moving them from place to place, wherever he could find old dry grass. It was his opportunity. In a few years he had a good half-section of land and many cattle, the increase of the little herd that he had nursed through that winter.

HAD TO BE HELPED

"It soon became clear that without help some of the people would perish, and before cold weather the county was organized to meet the situation. In each precinct, with the supervisor at the head, relief committees were organized to care for the needy. The east was almost careless in its liberality. Help came from abroad, and those who could, helped their neighbors. Farmers who had it, sold seed wheat to their neighbors, and waited a year for their pay. Not a single instance is reported of any one trying to turn the people's needs to profit. Persons asking or accepting aid who did not need it were very few, while the needy who refused all aid, and even helped others, were many. Real need never asked in vain. In the winter following this drouth, Dr. A. J. McArthur went to Missouri and collected enough money to buy a car load of seed corn, which he shipped to Custer county. Of the scores of business men asked to contribute to this car, only one refused, and strange as it may sound, he was the only one who asked to

see the doctor's credentials. Not only did they give, but always with a word of encouragement and sympathy. The railroad shipped this car free of charge, which was their general custom.

POOR BUT HAPPY

"One very noticeable thing about the people during this drouth was their cheerfulness. Not only did they refuse to be starved; they refused to be discouraged. There was more social intercourse among the people during this year than ever before, and I am ready to believe that the habit has survived to the present time. Hunger only sharpened the sense of humor. When a straw hat or corset was found in a box of winter supplies the fun was for everybody. Sometimes the 'needy' played tricks on the relief committee. For a time, in Westerville, the relief committee had their 'office' in the front of the bank. One day a very ragged man came slowly across the street toward the bank door, and the committee began estimating what all he would want. When he came in, he went to the cashier's window and asked for some change, pushing a fifty dollar bill through the window. A few people the drouth entirely crushed. For a few hundred dollars, farmers sold good farms that are now worth as many thousands. A few lost all commercial pride, and took advantage of the times to repudiate their debts, but to the country the drouth was a great benefit. It stopped recklessness in spending and in the making of debts. Men had homesteaded, and then mortgaged their farms. The money had come without effort, and they were spending it without judgment. The drouth stopped their income and their credit. They could neither earn nor borrow, and never again can a year's misfortune force them to beg. More than any other one year, 1894 has contributed to the great prosperity of Custer county."

A HOME-GROWN CYCLONE

In the matter of weather and storms Custer county has always been rather independent and has insisted upon doing business for itself. It generally keeps abreast with current weather

and puts on tap any article that seems to be fashionable and popular. Not to be outdone, the county put on a late fall cyclone of its own in October, 1913, which at the time was described by the *Custer County Chief* as follows:

"At six o'clock Thursday evening, October 3, 1913, Custer county was visited by a terrific cyclone, which went the full length of the county from southwest and northwest. It was terrible in its fury and practically every building in its path was wrecked or damaged. It passed Broken Bow on the southeast, just missing the city. The fair-ground buildings were a total wreck, and all the buildings on the Brenizer ranch and John Squires' place, a few miles south of town, were completely blown away; the M. K. Hagadorn and J. A. Hutchinson homes, just southeast of the city, were wrecked. The cyclone formed near Lodi and went southeast to Burwell, its path being from one-quarter to one-half mile wide. Much damage was done to farm properties, and though no fatalities were reported, the following people were hurt: Flossie, the ten-year-old daughter of Will McCaslin, who lives east of here, was badly crushed and was taken to the Ryerson hospital in a precarious condition. Mrs. McCaslin was injured about the breast, another small daughter and the baby had their heads badly cut, while Mr. McCaslin sustained several bruises. In the Sargent district the following people were injured: John Speer, collar bone broken; Mrs. Bevington, badly bruised but not serious; Mrs. Frank Kidder, rib broken and badly bruised; Melvill York, badly bruised about the body (all of these injured, it is understood, were taken to Sargent and placed in the hospital); George Hill, head bruised. The worst part of the storm in that vicinity passed about two miles east of Sargent.

"The above account was written after the forms had been made up and the paper ready for press. A full description will appear next week."

WORST BLIZZARD IN THIRTY YEARS

Beginning with a gently falling rain on Thursday, March 14, 1913, and during Thursday night turning into snow, with a high

north wind prevailing, Friday saw the most destructive blizzard this section of the state has known in the past decade. A record in a local newspaper gives the following data:

"During the whole of Friday the storm raged to such an extent as to make it unsafe to leave shelter, and heavy losses were sustained by many of the stockmen and farmers of this and adjoining counties. At this point but little snow fell, but what did come was drifted so badly as to make the roads impassable for the next two or three days. Between this city and Alliance it was reported that from nine to eighteen inches of snow fell during Thursday and Friday, and at no time after the early afternoon of Thursday did the prevailing high wind show a cessation until late Friday night. The heaviest loss of live stock from reports coming to this city on Sunday and Monday was suffered by feeders and ranchers in the vicinity of Brewster, Dunning and Thedford, although local farmers and feeders suffered some heavy losses. Peter Erickson, who ranges cattle on the North Loup, was a heavy loser, over two hundred head of heavy stock succumbing to the storm. A. McClain, of Dunning (father of Ira McClain of this city), had 315 head of cattle he was carrying through the winter and out of that number lost 150 head of the heaviest stock. He had taken up and placed under shelter about one-half of his herd, consisting of young animals. The remainder were left on the open range and drifted into the Dismal river, where the heavy loss occurred. The loss of Mr. Erickson also occurred from the animals drifting into the river. L. H. Jewett of this city, who had ninety-five head of heavy stock on the Dismal, lost forty head in the same manner. Mr. Jewett reports that this snow had drifted over the river and the lighter and younger stuff were able to cross over the snow in drifting ahead of the storm, but that the heavier stock went through the snow and mired in the river.

"R. B. Beauchamp, of Dunning, was another heavy loser of the same vicinity, having 180 head of stock in the storm and losing ninety of them. His cattle, however, were in the open pasture, and drifted ahead of the storm into

the fence corners, and it is supposed a good many of them dying in the storm, were tramped to death by the remainder of the herd. Most of the Beauchamp herd were young stock that was bought last fall at an average price of thirty dollars per head. Henry Andrews, of Anselmo, also was a heavy loser, the storm taking fifty-five head out of his herd. His cattle were partially sheltered. A. M. Cook of this city lost fifty head out of his herd of 235, near Linscott. Other losses in that neighborhood are: McConnell, twelve head of milk cows; George Zutavern, 200 out of a herd of 575; and a man by the name of Whitney lost sixteen — his entire herd.

"J. D. Gage, a lumber dealer at Dunning, had twelve head of horses perish from exposure to the storm. The loss in horses, however, was light as compared to cattle losses. Miller Heller, a Kinkaid homesteader of near Halsey, suffered the loss of sixteen head of milk cows. It is estimated that the loss to the Kinkaiders was very extensive and as they are in the majority of cases unable to lose any stock, they will feel the loss to a greater extent than the heavier losers who deal extensively in the live-stock business.

"I. N. Bovee, a former resident of this vicinity, but now of Halsey, in a letter to Mr. Jewett, states that while his live stock suffered from the storm he lost none and considered himself very fortunate, as the loss in his neighborhood was very heavy.

SHEEP PERISH IN TRANSIT

"A train of double-deck cars loaded with sheep was pulled into the Burlington yards at Whitman early Friday. On the train were about 11,000 head and during the day the larger part of the whole load perished. It was estimated on Monday that of the whole 11,000 only about 2,000 had survived the storm.

"Fred Wagner, of Wagner, was reported to have lost twelve head of cows and four horses in the feed lot. His loss on the range was supposed to have been heavy, but just how much has not been reported.

"Near Mullen the storm was very severe. Following is a letter received by the *Republi-*

can Tuesday morning from W. B. Adams: 'Just a line to tell you of the terrible condition of the poor old sandhills after the blizzard. About forty per cent. of loss in cattle, and horses about ten. I lost nine head out of 200; J. H. Lowe lost 700 head of cattle, and E. Crain lost eighty out of 153; W. W. Mahaffy lost his whole herd and John Boyce lost about 100 head; John Morrison, of Mullen, lost about seventy-five head, Joseph Heelan sixty, and Richard S. Fox lost 100 out of 118. That is about the way it runs in the sandhills. No lives lost that I have heard of.'

"The loss in the immediate vicinity of Broken Bow was very light compared with the losses of the northwest part of the county, Blaine and Thomas counties. Tierney Brothers, who are operating a ranch at Wagner, report the loss of probably forty head of cattle. They also lost some hogs in the local feed yards, besides the loss of ninety head of porkers on the South Loup. Raid Skinner suffered a loss of seventeen head of cattle at his farm twelve miles north of the city. Judge Sullivan lost six head of cattle and Harve Andrews lost five head. Others losing cattle reported in this office were George Bush, five head, and R. F.

Burnett, two head. Tom Finlen lost five head of horses at his farm south of town, and John Price suffered the loss of a like number of horses at his farm. Other losses have been reported but no confirmation of the rumors had been reported at that time.

"Robert E. Shaw and Thomas G. Butler, of Milldale, were in the city Tuesday. They reported the loss of stock in their vicinity was very light, but the losses to the northwest of them was quite heavy. The heavier loser was Clarks Philpot, near Gandy, who lost several hundred head—thirty or forty per cent. of his herd. Dan Haskell's loss was small. Henry Andrews, of Anselmo, reported a loss of fifty-seven head of cattle out of 500. George Tempalar, north of Broken Bow, reported to have but fourteen head of cattle. Charles Sanders, of Ortello valley, reported to have lost sixty head of cattle. Jewett & Andrews, Broken Bow, four head of cattle. Harry Knapp, southwest of town, reported loss of twelve head of cattle. J. J. Boblits, South Loup, reported loss of five head of cattle. Vincent Steadry, west of town, reported loss of two head of cattle. Lon Davis, east of town, reported loss of one mule."

CHAPTER VIII

A CHAPTER IN BLACK

THE MITCHELL-KETCHUM TRAGEDY — THE SHOOTING — THE ARREST — ESCAPED THE KERANEY MOB — JUDGE GASLIN'S STORY — DEPUTIZING A POSSE — TURNS STATE'S EVIDENCE — JUDGE BOBLITS TAKES A HAND — THE HAUNSTINE TRAGEDY — HAMER AND OTHERS QUIET CROWD — THE EXECUTION TAKES PLACE — THE ONLY EXECUTION — A FATAL LAND QUARREL — WAR BREAKS OUT — SPILLED THE BOOZE — MAKING AN HONEST MEXICAN — FATAL HILARITY AT ANSELMO

If there is a skeleton in every closet, there are tragedies in every life and dark pages in every history. The people of Custer county are neither better nor worse than other Ne-braskans or other people of the middle west. Their story is about the same, their experiences very similar. If crimes have been committed, if human life has been taken, and human blood shed, it is only incidental to the settlement of a country by hardy pioneers, no matter what sterling traits of character the majority of the people might possess. There are sheep of shaded wool in every flock and in every early contingent that settles upon a virgin soil there are desperate characters. This cannot be avoided. It is one of the handicaps of humanity. Adventuresome spirits always flock to the west and front. Men of temper and reckless disposition are apt to consort in the sparsely settled frontier, where dispositions have no governor and law is but slight control. A lawless character may make more local history in the unbridled orgy of one night-hour than a dozen men of sterling worth in a lifetime of probity. The peaceful pursuits of life are devoid of the spectacular and are generally too commonplace to be recorded in a country's annals.

If recorded here are episodes that reflect small credit on law-abiding people it must be remembered that these are the crimes and deeds of the ill-starred few who are neither typical

nor representative of the great mass of Custer county citizens.

The early settlers of Custer county were on the whole as fine a group of men and women as American homes of the east and north could produce. Nowhere among the children of men could you find a better people, stronger in virtuous traits or more sensitive to honor and rectitude. They were intelligent, law-abiding, conscientious, and God-honoring. The marvelous development of Custer county, the establishment of its splendid homes, schools, and churches are due to this fact. No people could have wrought better, nor under the circumstances accomplished more.

When the size of the county is considered, the number of people who have moved in to tread awhile the maze of chance and rounds of fortune, Custer's record is exceptionally good. Blood and thunder do not run riot in the pages of its history, notwithstanding the fact that in an early day a witty brakeman on the Burlington Railroad used to shout to the passengers, "We have now crossed the line into Custer county. Prepare to meet your God." A faithful record of the past demands that crimes and felonies be chronicled, and the historian must obey.

Butcher's *History of Custer County* devotes twelve pages to the lynching of "Kid Wade." It seems that Kid Wade, without over much ceremony, appropriated a fine race horse be-

longing to a man named Pulliam, who resided in West Union township, and made his escape into the north counties. John Roth, a neighbor of Pulliam, organized a posse and started in pursuit. The chase was long and lasted for months. Concerning it many exciting and almost romantic incidents are recorded, but as all happened outside of Custer county they are not germane to this history, other than to record that the horse was found and returned to Pulliam, that Wade was captured and while lodged in the Bassett jail was taken out by a band of masked men and hanged to a telegraph pole. It was severe

thousands of cattle that roamed over the valley of the South Loup river and adjoining country. In common with other men in the same line of business, he had suffered heavy losses from the depredations of cattle thieves. For this reason he became the prime mover in an attempt to drive the cattle thieves from the country. Olive resided in Lexington, Dawson county, but his ranch was on the South Loup river, about four miles east of the present town of Callaway. While in a general way he was a good sort of man, and very generous and courteous to those with whom he was on good terms, he was an implacable enemy and



[Photo by S. D. Butcher]

THE OLD I. P. OLIVE RANCH

treatment, but as a cure it is said to have had the desired effect.

THE MITCHELL-KETCHUM TRAGEDY

During the year 1877 a number of settlers located on Clear creek, near the east line of the county, among the number being Luther Mitchell and Ami Ketchum. Mitchell came from Merrick county, was a farmer about sixty-five years of age, and married. Ketchum was a blacksmith by trade, but had decided to become a farmer, although he still worked at his trade for the neighbors. He was unmarried and was living with Mitchell at the time of which we are writing.

I. P. Olive was one of the wealthiest cattle men in Nebraska at that time, and owned many

an adept in the use of firearms. His brother, Robert Olive, was a bad man when aroused. It was reported that Bob Olive had previously killed several men in Texas, and to conceal his identity had assumed the name of Stevens and skipped to Nebraska, where his brother I. P. had already established a ranch, and it was under the name of Stevens that he was known during his career in Custer county.

A short time previously to the events which led up to the killing of Bob Olive, or Stevens, one Manley Capel had been arrested on a charge of cattle-stealing in Custer county, and in his confession he seemed to implicate Ami Ketchum in the nefarious business. This, with the information obtained from a man by the name of McIndeffer, who was acting as a

sort of spy for the cattlemen and who, by the way, was hanged as a cattle thief in No Man's Land, a few years afterward, so it is said, so impressed the Olives that they determined to arrest Ketchum. Notwithstanding the enmity that was known to exist between Bob Olive and Ketchum, Sheriff David Anderson, of Buffalo county, made Olive a deputy to arrest Ketchum.

In the company of two rough and reckless cowboys, named Barney Armstrong and Pete Beaton, Bob Olive started for the home of Mitchell and Ketchum on the 27th day of November, 1878, with McIndeffer as a guide. When they arrived at the homestead of Mr. Mitchell, the latter and Ketchum were preparing to go to a neighbor's, by the name of Dowse, to return a borrowed animal. Mrs. Mitchell was preparing to go with them. Before they started, a stranger rode up and asked if he could have his horse shod. Ketchum explained his plans for the day and asked the man to come the following day and he could shoe the horse. The stranger agreed to do so and rode away to rejoin Bob Olive and the other two men, who were hidden behind a small hill to the south of Mitchell's house. Having failed to get Mitchell and Ketchum separated by the ruse of getting the horse shod, the men now rode boldly up toward the settlers, who paid no particular attention to them, as men on horseback were the rule and not the exception in those days. Mrs. Mitchell had already taken her seat in the wagon, and the men were tying the animal to the hind axle of the vehicle.

THE SHOOTING

When within a short distance the cowboys made a dash on their horses, four abreast, and Bob Olive shouted to Ketchum to throw up his hands, as he was an officer of the law, at the same time presenting his revolver. Ketchum threw up his right hand with a forty-four Colt's revolver in it, and both men fired at the same instant. Several shots were exchanged, resulting in the breaking of Ketchum's left arm. As soon as the shooting

commenced the older man, Mitchell, grabbed his Winchester and took deadly aim at Olive, who discovered him and shouted: "My God, old man, don't shoot!" but it was too late. Mitchell's finger had already pressed the trigger and the bullet sped forward to do its fatal work. Olive reeled in his saddle and the cowboys prevented him from falling. He gasped: "Boys, I am done for." Supporting him on his horse, they turned and rode rapidly away, followed by bullets from Ketchum's Winchester, which was loaded by a girl named Tamar Snow, a step-daughter of Mitchell, Ketchum being unable to load the gun himself on account of his broken arm. He fired the last shot at a range of 200 yards, just as the cowboys dropped out of sight behind the rise of ground previously referred to. One of Ketchum's bullets cut a scarf around Beaton's neck in two, drawing blood, and another shaved off one side of the rim of his hat, close to the head. Another went through Armstrong's foot. McIndeffer, who afterward described the encounter, declared that Ketchum came as near being the devil as any man he ever saw, and that he believed he would have killed every one of them, even with one broken arm, if they had not gotten out of the way. As soon as the cowboys got out of reach of the flying bullets, Olive was laid on the ground and a consultation held. The wounded man was then taken to the dug-out of one Harrington, who lived about a quarter of a mile further down the creek, where Olive made his will and sent for his wife. He died three days afterward.

As soon as the cowboys disappeared from sight Mitchell and Ketchum packed up their few movable belongings and started for their former home in Merrick county. As soon as the news of the shooting spread over the country there was great excitement among the cattlemen and cowboys, and the same night a large force returned to the Mitchell house, undoubtedly to wreak vengeance on the two men, but finding them gone they set fire to the house and burned up the roof, that being the only part of it that was combustible.

THE ARREST

When they arrived in Merrick county Mitchell and Ketchum went to the house of George Gagle, and a Dr. Barnes was sent for to attend to Ketchum's broken arm. The next morning, acting upon the advice of friends, and having found a place of safety for Mitchell's family, the two men started back to Custer county to give themselves up to the authorities for the killing of Stevens. On their way they passed through Loup City and consulted with Attorney Aaron Wall, who advised them to proceed no farther, as the cowboys would certainly lynch them. They remained several days in Loup City and then went to the house of J. R. Baker, on Oak creek, in Howard county, where they were arrested by William Letcher, sheriff of Merrick county, and E. W. Crew, sheriff of Howard county—giving themselves willingly into the custody of the officers.

I. P. Olive had offered a reward of \$700 for their arrest and several officers, among whom were Crew, of Howard county, Anderson, of Buffalo county, Gillan, of Keith county, and Letcher, of Merrick county, were anxious to capture them in order to secure the reward. But after the capture, Crew and Letcher were unwilling to assume the responsibility of taking the prisoners to Custer county and of turning them over to the cowboys. They were finally taken to Buffalo county and lodged in the jail at Kearney, in charge of Sheriff Anderson, for safe keeping. The prisoners were at first held without legal authority, as Olive had given the warrant for their arrest, issued in Custer county, into the hands of Barney Gillan, sheriff of Keith county, to serve.

The prisoners had engaged Thomas Darnell, of St. Paul, and E. C. Calkins, of Kearney, as counsel. Their attorneys endeavored to have the prisoners retained in the jail at Kearney, having reasons for believing they would be lynched if taken to Custer county. The feeling at Kearney was against Mitchell and Ketchum, as the people had been led to believe that Olive had been shot while fulfilling his duty as an officer of the law. A dispute arose among the sheriffs as to a division of the re-

ward offered by I. P. Olive for the arrest, but Olive declined to pay the money until the prisoners were delivered in Custer county. A proposition was finally made to Sheriff Anderson to take the men to Custer county, for which service the others agreed to pay him fifty dollars. This proposition was declined by Anderson, unless he were paid enough to enable him to employ a sufficient number of men to guard the prisoners. It was at last arranged that Gillan should take the prisoners to Custer county, as he held the warrant for their arrest, and he promised to notify their attorneys, Darnell and Calkins, so that they could accompany their clients. As Gillan was a sheriff, and his desperate character was unknown to Darnell and Calkins, they thought everything was all right. Nevertheless they kept their eyes on the jail to prevent any attempt to remove the prisoners by stealth.

ESCAPED THE KEARNEY MOB

On the forenoon of December 10th, Darnell, fearing that the prisoners were about to be taken away, kept close watch until the west-bound emigrant train came in. After its arrival at Kearney he waited at the depot until he thought it was about time for it to pull out, when he started to leave. In the meantime Gillan had taken the prisoners from the jail and hustled them into a car just as the train was pulling out. Darnell telegraphed to Gillan at Elm Creek, asking him if he would hold the prisoners at Lexington until the next train. Gillan replied that he would do so. Darnell also telegraphed to Captain McNamar, an attorney at Lexington, requesting him to see what was done with the prisoners when they got off the train at that city. Lexington was the home of I. P. Olive, and here he was surrounded by many friends and employes. The train pulled into Lexington about three o'clock in the afternoon, and Olive and his friends were waiting at the depot with wagons, into one of which the prisoners were immediately loaded, and a start made for Custer county. Captain McNamar was unable to prevail on Gillan and Olive to wait for the arrival of Darnell from Kearney, and believ-

ing it was the intention to mob Mitchell and Ketchum, he followed the wagon train for some distance. Seeing that they were being followed, the wagons separated, but McNamar kept after the one containing the prisoners until it became so dark that he lost the trail among the hills. The Olive party kept on all night, until they met Olive's men from the ranch on the South Loup, about five miles from the Olive ranch, where the transfer of the prisoners from Gillan to Olive took place. The names of the men who received the prisoners were Dennis Gartrell, Pedro Dominicus, and Bion Brown. After the delivery of the prisoners to Olive's men, Sheriff Gillan and Phil Dufrand walked away a short distance while the Olive men started with the prisoners to a place known as the "Devil's Gap," in a wild canyon about half way between the Loup and Wood River valleys, some five miles southeast of where Callaway now stands. Olive and Gartrell drove the wagon containing the prisoners, and they stopped under a small elm tree. A couple of ropes were passed over a limb and Gartrell tied one of them around Ketchum's neck, while Pedro Dominicus fastened the other around the neck of Mitchell. Ketchum was first drawn up. Olive then took a rifle and shot Mitchell, after which the latter also was drawn up until he dangled beside his companion.

The bodies of the two unfortunate men were found at about three o'clock in the afternoon of the following day, by a party of men, among whom were Captain McNamar, Anton Abel, Louis Wambsgan, George Sandford, Al Wise, County Judge Boblits, and perhaps others. When found the bodies were frightfully burned—that of Ketchum still hanging to the limb, while that of Mitchell was resting on the ground.

After hanging Mitchell and Ketchum, the Olive gang rode about one mile toward the Olive ranch, where two of the men were given fresh horses with which to return to Lexington. It will probably never be known who did the burning of the bodies, or how the same was done, but it is generally supposed that these two men, crazed with drink and

fired with the thought of revenge for the killing of one of their number, resolved to put the finishing touch on the terrible night's work by pouring the contents of their liquor flasks over the hanging bodies of their victims and setting them on fire, as they had to pass along that road to get back to Lexington. The evidence at the trial was convincing that the bodies had been burned, although an attempt was made to prove that Mitchell's clothing had caught fire from the powder of Olive's gun, and that although the fire had been put out, it caught again after the men departed from the spot. A careful examination of the spot disclosed the fact that the fire had been carefully whipped out for quite a circle around the bodies, thus proving that some one must have been present during the burning; otherwise the whole country would have been burned over, as the grass was as dry as tinder. It does not appear, however, that Olive was a party to, or had any knowledge of, this part of the crime.

Steps were immediately taken to arrest the perpetrators of the crime and bring them to speedy justice. The whole state was aroused by the tragedy, but the well known desperate character of most of the men concerned in it made the question of apprehending them a very serious one.

JUDGE GASLIN'S STORY

Judge William Gaslin thus relates the methods employed to arrest the criminals:

"I first heard of the lynching of Mitchell and Ketchum while on a train on my way from Nebraska City to Sidney, where I was to open court the next morning. When I opened court there was such an excitement that there was no disposition or readiness to do business, and upon seeing an article in the newspaper published at Kearney by the Eatons, denouncing the governor for not taking active steps to bring about the arrest of the murderers, and complimenting me by saying that there was one man in Nebraska who would see that the perpetrators of the crime would be brought to justice, and the man was Gaslin, I called my reporter, F. M. Hallowell, who resided at

Kearney, and instructed him to proceed to that city on the first train and tell Eaton not to make further mention of my name in connection with the matter, as I had a plan to capture the desperadoes and did not want my name mentioned for fear of putting them on their guard. Late that afternoon I adjourned court and took the train east for Lexington, where quite a number of the Olive gang lived. I found assembled at the residence of Attorney General Dilworth a number of the law-abiding citizens of the city, armed to protect themselves against the outlaws who had threatened the lives of those who should attempt to bring them to justice. Among these I now recall Captain McNamar, an attorney, and Jack MacColl, clerk of the district court. I learned that the officials of Custer county, where the lynching was done, could not be expected to render much assistance. I left on the first train for Kearney, to look up the law and see if I, as an examining magistrate, could not issue warrants for their arrest, which plan I divulged to no one. I was in constant touch with General Dilworth, soon satisfied myself that I had the authority, and set to work preparing complaints and warrants to have the outlaws arrested. After I had matured my plan I met J. P. Johnson (then residing in Kearney, three score and ten, hale and hearty), and in conversation he remarked that if the officers were afraid to arrest the criminals he would furnish men to do it if I would deputize them. I informed him that I had confidentially arranged for a meeting of the sheriffs of Dawson and Buffalo counties, General Dilworth and a sacred few others, and invited him to attend. There were present at this meeting, in Judge Savidge's office, the Judge, J. P. Johnson, General Dilworth, the two sheriffs, and myself. I told these men the conclusion I had come to, and the complaints having been filed before me, I made out the warrants for the arrest of the criminals and offered them to Sheriff James of Dawson county, and Sheriff Anderson of Buffalo county, both of whom declined to take or serve them, on account of a fear of their lives, as they said.

DEPUTIZING A POSSE

"I then turned to Johnson and asked him to give me the names of the men he agreed to furnish, which he did, and I deputized them, there being, I think, five or six of them, and gave them to Johnson for delivery. One of the men deputized was Lawrence Ketchum, a brother of the man who was lynched, and another was a powerful young fellow by the name of Young, a deputy sheriff of Clay county. A third was named Pingree, and the fourth was a man from Illinois. A plan was arranged, in strictest secrecy, for a part of the deputized men to go across the country to Custer county to arrest part of the gang who were at the Olive ranch. Another party was to board a freight train at Kearney about midnight, which arrived at Lexington a little before daylight. The railroad people were in the secret and stopped the train a little before Lexington was reached, where the officers left the train and walked into town, where they effected the arrest of all the gang who were in the city. Lawrence Ketchum, Bob French, and others went from Kearney, and were assisted by some of the constables of Lexington. When the other party arrived at the Olive ranch they found that the men they were after had fled the country. Among them was the delectable Barney Gillan, sheriff of Keith county, who had delivered Mitchell and Ketchum over to the murderers, and who secured the \$700 blood money paid by Olive. On the afternoon of Sunday the parties who arrested the desperadoes at Lexington landed them in Kearney on a freight train, where they were put in jail and a strong guard placed over them. Thousands of people were at the train when it arrived with the prisoners. Some of the prisoners, I think, were subsequently taken to the state prison for safe keeping until the April term of the district court in Adams county, where the trial had been set, the prisoners waiving preliminary examination before me.

URNS STATE'S EVIDENCE

"All kinds of lawyers — good, bad, and indifferent — were employed by the defense, some

for ability and legal lore, and some to insult and bulldoze the court — for which they occasionally got fined for contempt. The trial had not progressed long before the prosecuting attorney secretly informed me that he had made a secret arrangement with one of the prisoners, Bion Brown, to turn state's evidence, and to testify on behalf of the prosecution. Brown was in jail with the other defendants, heard and knew all their plans, and daily communicated the same to General Dilworth, the prosecuting attorney. He said at one time that they talked of having their friends, who were in disguise in the town, shoot General Dilworth and me and have horses ready for the prisoners, who would be enabled to escape in the excitement. I then gave orders for no one to occupy the gallery opposite where I sat, and I had a large number of bailiffs secretly heavily armed scattered over the court room, with nothing to indicate they were officers. One day it was reported that a number of the Texas friends of the prisoners were secreted in the hills near the Platte river, armed to the teeth and provided with good horses with which to swoop down on the court and liberate the prisoners. Other things came to the knowledge of Sheriff Lewis Martin of Adams county, a most excellent officer, which induced him to procure a company of regulars from Omaha, which was sent by the commanding officer as soon as possible. The soldiers were tented on the public square of Hastings, opposite the hall where the court was being held. The legislature appropriated \$20,000 to be expended in the prosecution of the case, to be paid out on vouchers approved by me, a part of the money being paid for the subsistence of the soldiers. Bion Brown and Pedro, the Mexican, were used as witnesses for the prosecution, the latter testifying through an interpreter. A better witness I never heard testify. On cross-examination he testified almost, if not exactly, to what he did in direct.

"The trial commenced in Hastings in April and continued almost through the month. Some of the ablest lawyers of the state were engaged on the case, among them being General Dilworth, the prosecuting attorney; District

Attorney Scofield and John M. Thurston, for the state; and F. G. Hamer, General Connor, and Hon. James Laird for the defense. An indictment was found against Ira P. Olive and eleven others for the murder of Luther Mitchell, and I. P. Olive and Fred Fisher were placed on trial to answer for the crime. There were about 100 witnesses, among whom we find the names of Captain McNamar, Anton Abel, Louis Wambsgan, James Kelly, Phil Dufrand, George Sandford, A. C. Woodworth, David Blackman, George Arnold, Sheriff O'Brien, Dan Haskell, James Gray, H. C. Stuckey, S. C. Stuckey, John Myers, Andrew Pancake, E. S. Finch, W. H. Kilgore, and S. R. Ritchie. Phil Dufrand and Bion Brown, two of the defendants, turned state's evidence and testified against their associates in the crime. The witnesses for the prosecution testified to the facts substantially as heretofore related, while the witnesses for the defense confined themselves to testifying as to the good character and reputation of I. P. Olive."

The arguments of the attorneys were lengthy, able, and eloquent, and the case was given to the jury on the evening of April 16th. Before morning the jury arrived at a verdict, to the effect that I. P. Olive and Fred Fisher were guilty of murder in the second degree, Judge Gaslin immediately sentenced the two men to the penitentiary for the rest of their natural lives, and they were taken to the penitentiary forthwith.

JUDGE BOBLITS TAKES A HAND

Immediately after the sentence of Olive and Fisher their friends began proceedings for their release. The following year their efforts were successful, the supreme court handing down a decision to the effect that the prisoners had a right to trial in the county where the crime charged against them was committed. This not having been done, the prisoners were sent to Custer county for trial. Custer county had recently been organized from territory that had formerly been in two different judicial districts. The court held that the county was not now in any judicial district, and consequently the prisoners could not be tried before

any district judge. This was the decision of two of the supreme judges, but Judge Samuel Maxwell, the third member of the court, dissented from this view, in what is said to be one of the ablest legal documents ever prepared in the supreme court of Nebraska.

Under this decision the only court having jurisdiction over the case was the county court. Accordingly Olive and Fisher were brought before Judge E. J. Boblits, but from some mysterious cause no complaining witnesses put in an appearance and the prisoners were discharged.

The county judge's docket at that time was kept in an account book, and the court proceedings are mixed up with notes of sales and purchases of calves, steers, and cows, together with memoranda of expenses for hay, barbed wire, and other ranch requisites. The following, which we find on the same page with some items of expense incurred in the plastering of the judge's house, shows the disposition that was made of the celebrated Olive case:

STATE OF NEBRASKA }
Custer County } ss

In County Court Before E. J. Boblits, County Judge.

I. P. Olive, W. F. Fisher, in custody of Sheriff O'Brien, the court finding no complaint on county docket and no complaining witnesses, the court orders that the prisoners be discharged till further proceedings can be had.

This 17th day of December, 1880.

E. J. BOBLITS, County Judge.

The decision of the supreme court of course put an end to the proceedings against the other defendants, but in the meantime most of them had been allowed to escape from the various jails in which they had been confined, and as far as we know Olive and Fisher were the only ones that ever had to do any time in the penitentiary for participating in the Mitchell and Ketchum tragedy.

THE HAUNSTINE TRAGEDY

The story of the Haunstine murder and execution, which occurred in the latter part of the '80s, is given by James Whitehead, who was a resident of Grant precinct, where the

murder was committed, and who had access to all the facts.

"The murder of Hiram Roten and William Ashley by Albert E. Haunstine occurred November 9, 1888. It was regarded, and time has failed to change the sentiment, as one of the most unprovoked homicides known in the history of this county. The murderer and his victims lived in the same neighborhood — Roten valley. Toward the latter it was not shown that Haunstine had the slightest resentment or enmity. He had, in fact, for a time made his home with Hiram Roten, at whose hands and those of his young wife he had received the best of treatment. Mr. Ashley, who was a relative of Roten's, and lived close by, was not so well known to Haunstine, yet they were on friendly terms. The school-house of the district of which Roten and Ashley were officers, was located near their homes. A clock and some lumber had been taken from the school-house, and the fact of the missing goods was discovered while yet the tracks of the wagon and team of the supposed purloiner were fresh and easy to trace. As this was but one instance in many of recent occurrence in the neighborhood, Messrs. Roten and Ashley determined they would thoroughly investigate, and, if possible, detect the culprit.

"We are not certain as to the length of time they were absent before their friends became uneasy and instituted a search. Some days, however, had elapsed, when a searching party visited Haunstine's home, which was back from the road and isolated, and found it unoccupied. In looking around they discovered the bodies of the missing men, near the house, partly covered by hay. Subsequent events disclosed the fact that on reaching Haunstine's house and making their business known, he delivered to them the clock, which he confessed to having taken from the school-house; that while they remained within no words or trouble occurred, but when they left the house and started for their wagon he took down his rifle and shot them while their backs were turned, killing them instantly. He then searched them and secured about forty dollars

in money, their watches and a rifle and revolver. Their team he tied in an old deserted sod house on an adjoining claim, and, gathering together a few household effects, he and his wife started to get out of the country. They went to Arnold, changed teams, and drove down the South Loup river to near Madison, where Haunstine hired out to husk corn. He worked three days, sold his team and then started for Columbus, where his wife had already gone. Just as the train was nearing town it was flagged by officers who were on his track, and he was taken by surprise and captured while sitting in the smoker with his rifle across his lap.

"He was tried at the March term of the district court. H. M. Sullivan, who was county attorney, had been consulted by the prisoner prior to his election, and had, therefore, some scruples against acting as prosecutor. As a substitute, however, he employed Judge Wall, of Loup City, who, with the firm of Blair & Campbell, represented the state. The defense was conducted by C. L. Gutterson, A. R. Humphrey, both of Broken Bow, and N. V. Harlen, of York. Haunstine was found guilty and was sentenced to be hanged on September 6th following. The case was appealed to the supreme court, and he was again sentenced to be hanged, April 17, 1891. His defense was insanity, and before the date fixed for his execution he acted so strangely that a jury was called to determine his mental condition. The trial lasted three days. Public sentiment against the prisoner was so strong that a good deal of trouble was experienced in selecting a jury. The following named persons were finally agreed upon: J. I. Dillenbeck, T. A. Thum, James Dinwiddie, Frank Newbeck, J. C. Hunter, C. U. Richardson, John Curry, Nolan Webb, A. R. Huckleberry, A. Cross, T. H. McCarger, and J. L. Compton. The witnesses for the defense were Mrs. Dr. Talbot, Miss Anna Crawford, Mrs. William Blair, O. M. Kem, William Blair, William Hartsell, John Miller, Charles Parkhurst, and Robert Norcutt. For the state were: Dr. Carter, physician at the state penitentiary; Dr. Knapp, superintendent of the insane asylum

at Lincoln; Dr. C. Pickett; Dr. J. J. Pickett, county physician; Dr. C. H. Morris; Sheriff Jones; and Rev. O. R. Beebe, — all of whom with the exception of Dr. Knapp (who said that without a more extended observation he was not prepared to state whether Haunstine was sane or insane), pronounced him sane, and believed that his condition was a feigned one. The prosecution was conducted by the attorneys who had managed the case from the beginning, while to the defense was added H. M. Sullivan, whose term of office as county attorney had expired. It was one of the hardest fought and most ably conducted legal battles ever witnessed in Custer county. Mr. Campbell (then county attorney) was a lawyer of long practice; he was familiar with every turn and detail of the case, and his associates were men of exceptional ability. Judge Wall, especially, ranked high as a trial lawyer, was keen and resourceful, a good reasoner and an eloquent pleader. Gutterson, Humphrey, and Harlan were experienced and well informed practitioners, and the addition of Sullivan made a quartette that combined the qualities well nigh invulnerable. They were, however, placed in a most trying position. The prejudice against the prisoner was marked and universal. No circumstance connected with the killing of his victims could be urged in palliation. It was a cold-blooded, unprovoked butchery of two respected and highly esteemed citizens, and public sentiment demanded his execution. The date of hanging was fixed for the following day, and a vast multitude had assembled from all parts of the country and from different portions of the state as well. The determined expression and sullen silence of the crowd was ominous. Representatives of the press from Lincoln, Omaha, and elsewhere were present, awaiting the hour when the prisoner should atone for his crime. Adjoining the court house and facing its south door, the gallows was being erected and the din of the workmen's hammers was distinctly heard in the court room. None was more keenly alive to the situation and the odds against him than the prisoner's counsel. By mutual agreement the principal plea in his

behalf was made by Mr. Sullivan. He remained calmly in his seat until the proper moment arrived. When he arose to address the jury no sound save the breathing of the audience could be heard. With a few preliminary remarks, in which he avowed his belief, and that of his associates, in the irresponsibility of the prisoner, he pushed eagerly forward into the very heart of the matter. The scene that followed was bewilderingly rapid in transformations; his appeal seemed absolutely to swell with indignation. Every look, word, and gesture showed the intensity of his feelings. Those who were opposed to him in their belief as to the mental condition of the prisoner were forced to admire the determined and intrepid courage manifested in the face of all opposition. As by the legerdemain of some skilled magician, that vast audience was swayed and moved by the passionate appeals of the orator and the dramatic episodes that marked its delivery. The prisoner alone sat unmoved. The veteran judge, who for years had sat upon the bench and listened to the most powerful pleadings of attorneys of note and orators of national renown, was visibly affected by the eloquence and earnestness of the young lawyer, and afterward, in conversation with the writer, paid high tribute to his splendid effort. But no power on earth could save his client. The sword of justice, so long suspended, was about to descend. The judge delivered his charge and the jury retired to their rooms for deliberation. They returned to the court room several times for further instructions, and for the reading of different parts of the testimony. They also examined the cell, and appeared to be according the doomed man every chance. At two o'clock in the morning they came into court with a verdict of sanity. The prisoner received the verdict with the same stolid indifference that had characterized his appearance during the whole inquiry. When, however, the time arrived that had been designated by the court as the fatal morning, the doomed man seemed to have thrown off the mask and was, apparently, trying to fit himself for his impending fate. He requested Sheriff Jones to call in Father Haley to ad-

minister the necessary consolation in the last moments of his earthly career. At half past ten o'clock the priest visited the jail and learned his wishes. He requested the priest to come early next morning and prepare him to die a sincere Catholic. At the appointed hour Father Haley visited the jail, explained the doctrine of his church, and stated the necessary conditions for one who embraces the Catholic faith. Being satisfied as to the prisoner's sincerity and disposition to become a Catholic, he heard his confession, had him make the profession of faith, and administered the sacrament of baptism, according to the rites of the church.

"In the meantime a rumor had been floating about that a telegram had been received by Sheriff Jones from Governor Boyd, granting to the condemned a reprieve for thirty days, which, upon investigation, proved true. After the fact became generally known, great indignation was freely expressed. About three o'clock in the afternoon the immense throng became restless, and muttered threatnings began to be heard on all sides.

HAMER AND OTHERS QUIET CROWD

"Just at this critical moment, before the thunder cloud of discontent and distrust of the law could burst forth, the calm, dignified person of Judge Hamer appeared upon the stone steps at the front door of the court house, and he briefly, in a clear, ringing voice, addressed the people as follows:

"Fellow Citizens of Custer County: I have been trying to administer the law in this county, as I interpreted it, fairly, carefully, and candidly — so carefully that no decision handed down by me upon this bench has been reversed. Have patience; the majesty of the law will be maintained. I have always found the people of this county law-abiding citizens; I have always found them ready to defend the innocent and punish the guilty. If, as I have been informed, there seems to be a disposition to murmur at the law's delay, arising among you, I pray you be patient. Pause; make no mistake. This man whom you would have expiate his offense upon the gallows to-day was tried by a fair and impartial jury of his countrymen and found guilty. As he had a perfect right to do, he appealed his case to the supreme court, and there the verdict of your jury was

sustained and he was again sentenced to be hanged. Where there is a question of the sanity of a prisoner under sentence of death, the law provides that upon notice from the sheriff of the county it becomes the duty of the district judge to cause a jury to be empanelled to make inquiry as to the sanity or insanity of such prisoner. I received such a notice. Such a jury was called, and, after careful inquiry, pronounced him sane. I desire again to call the attention of the people to the fact that, as to the prisoner, he stands in this position: He was tried and convicted. He was again convicted and is now ready for execution. I therefore ask you to do your duty as law-abiding citizens. I want to say to you that the arm of the law is all powerful if it can have the support of honest men. I know Governor Boyd, and I believe that he is an honest man. He must have had good reason for granting this reprieve. We do not know what showing may have been made to him. There are always two sides to a question, and I believe that we should have patience and trust the man that your ballots have placed in such a high position. You have yet no reason to complain. Wait. You will be protected. Telegrams have been sent, but as yet we have received no answer. You have no reason to doubt yet. I am aware of the fact that the burden of taxation upon you is already heavy — no one knows this better than I — but the expense has already been made. No further expense is to be incurred. I therefore ask you, as honest men, as law-abiding citizens, that you do nothing rash. Let it be said that the law has triumphed in Custer county, and that justice reigns.

"James Whitehead, James Stockham, and Judge Wahl each addressed the crowd and succeeded in quieting them. Judge Hamer, James Whitehead, and James Stockham later called upon the Governor, to obtain assurance that no further obstacle would be offered to the execution of the sentence, and they were informed that as far as any action of his might be concerned, their trip was utterly useless. He intimated that he proposed to offer no further delay than that provided for in his order of respite, and should not have offered that had he been informed in time of the result of the investigation of Haunstine's alleged insanity.

THE EXECUTION TAKES PLACE

"Thirty days thereafter, at an early hour

in the morning, the streets of Broken Bow began to fill with people from the surrounding country, to witness the closing ceremonies of the doomed man's career on earth. The center of attraction for the crowd appeared to be the enclosure of rough boards adjoining the south end of the court house, which hid from public gaze the scaffold from which the murderer was to be dropped into eternity. The doors of the court house were closed against the admission of all except those who had a permit from the sheriff, and a wire fence was placed about the shed containing the scaffold, at a distance of about twenty feet. It had been decided to have the execution at one o'clock, but this was not known to the public generally. Accordingly as early as nine o'clock in the morning the crowd began to gather, in order to be on hand when the time came. The scaffold was fenced in by a high board wall. Time wore on slowly until noon; the crowd gathered until fully 2,000 men, women, and children blocked the street on the south side of the court house. Noticeable among the number were many women with babes in their arms. Prominent among those present were many relatives of the men murdered, all eager to witness the doomed man pay the death penalty. We would add here that the relatives of the doomed man were esteemed and highly respected citizens, well known to our people, who sympathized deeply with them in their great trouble, which, through no fault of theirs, had come upon them.

"About 12:30 o'clock a thrill of excitement went through the crowd when Eli Roten appeared on the top beam of the scaffold which projected above the fence, and threw a block of wood over into the yard. This was a signal which had, seemingly, been agreed upon, whereupon about fifty men sprang over the wire fence, shoved the guards aside, and in less time than it takes to tell it, the high fence was lying flat on the ground and the gruesome gibbet stood in plain view of everybody. It was a moment of intense excitement, but Sheriff Jones stepped upon the scaffold and exacted of the crowd a solemn promise to remain outside the fence and interfere no further with the proceedings. Haunstine, accompa-

nied by Father Haley and Sheriff Jones, mounted the scaffold. He looked for a moment over the sea of upturned faces and in a full, steady voice, without a tremor, he said:

"Ladies and Gentlemen—I desire to ask forgiveness from any one here whom I have offended. I also want you to forgive me for all the trouble and expense I have been to the county. I also ask all to take warning from me, and learn to do right before it is too late. Remember that little things grow into large things and the committing of little sins led me on to the commission of the crime which has brought me where I now stand. Again I ask all to forgive me, and hope you will not neglect to seek salvation.

"Father Haley then whispered a few parting words of consolation, pressed the crucifix to the doomed man's lips, placed a cross and a string of beads around his neck, and exactly two minutes before one o'clock the trap was sprung. The strain of the shock was too much for the rope, which parted like a thread, letting the unfortunate man fall in a heap to the ground. The second fall broke his neck and in thirteen minutes he was pronounced dead, by the physicians in attendance. His body was taken into the sheriff's office, where it was prepared for burial by W. J. Woods, after which it was turned over to his brother, who, in the silence of the night, took the remains to his home in the southwest part of the county, where they were quietly interred. Thus ended the tragedy which opened that bright November morning in 1888. It was an impressive, a horrible scene, and one which few who witnessed it will ever care to see repeated.

THE ONLY EXECUTION

"In preparing the above account of the first and only legal execution that has ever taken place in Custer county, years after the commission of the crime, we have had access to the records, and from the attorneys engaged have sought additional information; but it is to the local papers that so faithfully chronicled the events and daily happenings in the community that we are principally indebted for the details given, prominent among which we mention the *Custer Leader*, the *Republican*, the *Merna Rec-*

ord, the *Callaway Courier*, and the *State Journal*."

A FATAL LAND QUARREL

Some time in the early spring of 1885 Joseph Y. Province and his family, in which there were several boys, settled on the South Loup near the mouth of Spring creek. He had homesteaded a quarter-section in the Brighton ranch and one upon which pre-emption papers had been previously taken out. He had hardly established his residence before a man named Stephen Long claimed the place by right of relinquishment papers from the man who had made the former pre-emption entry and began building a house on the place, not far from the Province home.

Concerning the feud that followed, and that later ended in a gun fight and the death of Province, an early writer tells the story as follows:

"This man Long was a single man and an employe of the Brighton Ranch Company. The feud thus started between the rival claimants to this land ended later in the killing of old man Province.

"It will be remembered that the land within this immense pasture, comprising some fifteen square miles of territory, was government land subject to entry by homesteaders, and was simply appropriated by the cattle men without warrant of law. As soon as settlers began to file on claims within its fence the ranch company had as many of its employes as possible file on claims, in order to retain for its use the claims thus taken. Long is said to have been one of these employes, and from this time on constant quarrels occurred between him and Province, pending the decision of the land office as to the rightful owner of the claim. There were charges and counter charges. At one time, we believe, the ranch company had the Province boys, George Sickler, and John McDermott, arrested on a charge of cattle stealing. John McDermott demanded a separate trial, and the company proved that he helped to kill a 1,600-pound beef and carried one hind-quarter two miles in a two-bushel sack. John S. Kirkpatrick (now a member of

the Nebraska supreme court commission), then a young man, just starting in business in Custer county, had John's case in hand. He took advantage of this evidence, made an eloquent plea, showing that his client was a man who weighed but 110 pounds, yet had been charged with carrying one-quarter of a 1,600-pound beef two miles in a two-bushel sack. The jury was out about fifteen minutes, and it is said they agreed among themselves that they believed the prisoner was not guilty, but if he had done as the testimony said he did, Mac had earned the beef. The cases against the Province boys and Sickler never came to trial."

WAR BREAKS OUT

On Thursday morning, April 9, 1885, Mr. Province started to Broken Bow, leaving two sons, aged about twelve and fourteen respectively, to plow. Shortly after the departure of Province, Long appeared where the boys were at work, armed with a Winchester, and ordered them to quit or he would shoot. The boys immediately quit work and started after their father, overtaking him before he arrived at Broken Bow. Mr. Province came on to town and contemplated getting out a warrant, but being advised not to do so, returned home during the evening. The next morning he went out and commenced plowing where the boys had left off. A few hours later John McDermott came galloping into Broken Bow with the news that Mr. Province had been shot down by Stephen Long or Charles Powell. Dr. Daum immediately started for the scene of the tragedy and found that Province was dead.

On Saturday morning, Dr. Hull, county coroner, summoned a jury and, in company with a large number of citizens of Broken Bow and the surrounding country, visited the place where the murder had been committed. There all the available testimony was taken. The first witness examined was Maria Powell, wife of Charles Powell, who lived in the house with Long. In her testimony Mrs. Powell said that she was in the house when the shooting occurred; Mr. Powell and Mr. Long had gone out of the house; Mr. Long had a Winchester

and Mr. Powell a needle gun; did not see the men when the shooting commenced, and did not see outside until after Mr. Province was shot; heard Province call for Mr. Long to come on, he was ready for him. She thought Province had fired five shots, Long two, and her man the last shot. When the shooting was over she saw Long and Powell in the dooryard, and Mrs. Province coming down to where her husband was lying. I asked Mr. Long: "Did you hit him?" He said: "I guess I did, for he fell." The men stayed about the house until after dinner and then went down to Allyn's lower ranch.

Philip S. Province, a son of the deceased, said he was plowing with his father; that Steve Long and Charley Powell came out of the house and shot two or three times, and that his father then shot at them several times with a revolver. The men were about seventy-five yards distant when the firing commenced, and he was sure his father did not commence shooting first. After they had fired several shots he saw Long behind a wagon and Powell on the west side of the house. They kept on firing and Province fired several shots at them with his revolver, and also with a shotgun which he had with him. He then started for the house and had gone about twenty feet when he fell. The shooting took place about eight o'clock in the morning.

Joseph Y. Province, supposed to be on his death bed, but in sound mind and memory, doth depose and say:

Stephen D. Long, and, I think, the man living in the house with said Long, on the 10th day of April, 1885, about eight o'clock in the morning, came out and commenced shooting at me, with repeating rifles, as near as I could make out. I shot back at them. I was in my field plowing, about fifty yards from said Long's house, when the firing commenced. After they had shot once or twice I shot back. I shot five times, one with a single-barrel shot gun and balance with a revolver. Buck shot No. 3 was in the shot gun. They shot a dozen or more shots. After I had shot all in my weapons, as I thought, I called to them to stop shooting; I would give up; but they kept on shooting until one of them hit me. I do not know which one hit me. When said Long

came out I said: "Now draw your revolver on me if you want to." I was on my way to my house when I was shot. I was about 100 yards from said Long's house when I was shot.

JOSEPH Y. PROVINCE
(His (X) Mark)

Witness to his mark, Jasper Newlan.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, in the town of Custer, county of Custer, and state of Nebraska, this 10th day of April, A. D. 1885.

BENJAMIN L. BRISBANE,

Town Clerk for the Town of Custer.

The following verdict was returned by the coroner's jury:

STATE OF NEBRASKA,

Custer County.

At an inquisition held at the late residence of Joseph Y. Province, in Custer county, Nebraska, on the 11th day of April, 1885, before Wyman Hull, coroner of said county, upon the body of Joseph Y. Province, lying dead, by its jurors, whose names are hereunto subscribed, the said jurors, upon their oaths, do say that the deceased came to his death by means of a gun-shot wound, inflicted by a bullet discharged from a gun in the hands of one Stephen Long or one Charles Powell, whom the jury find made a felonious assault upon the said deceased, on the morning of April 10, 1885, with repeating rifles, each of said parties firing several shots at deceased, one of which shots struck and produced the death of said Joseph Y. Province.

I. T. MERCHANT, Foreman.

A. W. GANDY.

M. CONLEY.

H. A. GRAHAM.

C. J. ELLIOTT.

GEO. CUDEBEC.

Shortly after the shooting Long and Powell hid themselves in the hills. When the sheriff, C. P. Foote, arrived on the spot on Saturday he found about seventy-five armed men there in a state of great excitement, vowing vengeance against the murderers. The sheriff tried to reason with them, but they were not disposed to listen to him. He said they had a perfect right to be there if they were there to see the law carried out, but if they were there to commit another deed of violence he advised them to disband and go home. This enraged the mob the more, and a petition was gotten up on the spot, calling upon the sheriff to resign, which was signed by about fifty persons

on the butt of a musket. A messenger came from the murderers that they would give themselves up if they were guaranteed protection against violence at the hands of the citizens. This assurance was given and Long and Powell were arrested and taken before T. B. Buckner, a justice of the peace, where they waived examination. A mittimus was issued and the prisoners taken to the jail at Lexington, for safe keeping until their trial in the district court, a number of citizens having declared that the men would never be tried in Custer county, but that they would be hanged without a trial.

As soon as the sheriff had left with the prisoners, the mob which was left behind, instead of returning to their homes, proceeded down the river to the White House, the headquarters of the Brighton Ranch Company, where lived Virgil Allyn, the foreman. Mr. Allyn was absent at Lexington at the time, and the citizens set about sacking and looting the place, from cellar to garret, helping themselves to everything in the shape of eatables and drinkables they could lay their hands on. As Mr. Allyn was one of the highest livers in the country, it is needless to say that the hungry mob had a feast the like of which few of them had enjoyed since they came to the county. Among his other supplies the foreman had a cask of rare old wine, which he kept for the especial entertainment of the guests at the numerous banquets that were held at the White House. The discovery of this treasure was hailed with a shout by many of the mob, and a goodly number of them began to load up on liquor.

SPILLED THE BOOZE

At this stage of the proceedings an old, gray-headed man, who was among them, realizing the danger of adding intoxication to the already inflamed passions of the men, seized a hatchet and knocked in the head of the cask, letting the contents run out on the ground. This brave act probably saved Custer county from an added blot upon her already blackened record, and for his timely interference at this critical time the name of Isaac Merchant should

be revered for all time to come. After having satisfied their appetites, the raiders loaded up all the canned goods and other provisions they could find about the place and carried them to the widow Province, the cooler heads only preventing the others from burning the house before they left. On their way back a log house belonging to the Brighton Ranch Company was burned. The house was of cedar logs and was valued at \$1,000. By this time Allyn had heard, in Lexington, of what was going on, and started at once for home to protect his property. Fortunately, before his arrival, the mob dispersed, else there would, in all probability, have been more trouble of a serious nature, as he brought a posse of armed cowboys with him.

The session of the district court in which Long and Powell were tried convened on Monday, July 6, 1885, with Judge Francis G. Hamer on the bench. A special venire of 120 were summoned to try the case. The empaneling of the jury commenced before noon on Monday and was not completed until ten o'clock on Tuesday. The following jurors were chosen: L. Sutton, West Union; John K. Cooper, Ortello; S. H. Read, Merna; William Hyatt, Myrtle; C. A. Wetherby and J. Snell, Keota; H. Gage, A. C. Blakeslee, W. H. Henderson, Wood River; H. C. Stuckey, Georgetown; J. L. Oxford, Lillian.

The attorneys for the state were H. M. Sinclair (district attorney), Aaron Wall, and Thomas Darnell, while the defendants were represented by Attorneys McNamar, Greene, and Chapman. After a hard-fought battle the jury returned the following verdict:

The State of Nebraska	}
vs.	{ss.
Stephen Long and Charles Powell]	

We, the jury in this case, being duly empanelled and sworn, do find and say that we find the defendant, Stephen Long, is guilty of manslaughter, as charged in the indictment, and recommend him to the mercy of the court; and we find the defendant, Charles Powell, not guilty.

LOUIS SUTTON, Foreman.

In due time the following sentence was pronounced against Stephen Long by Judge Hamer:

It is therefore considered and adjudged by the court that the said defendant, Stephen Long, be imprisoned and confined in the penitentiary of the state of Nebraska, at hard labor, for the period of four years and six months, and that he pay the costs of this prosecution, and that he stay committed in the hands of the sheriff of Custer county, Nebraska, until the sentence of this court be complied with or he be otherwise legally discharged.

After serving about two years of his time, Long was pardoned out, on account of ill health, and he died in about a month thereafter.

MAKING AN HONEST MEXICAN

[The following account of the shooting of a half-breed Mexican was published in the *Callaway Courier*, in July, 1887]:

For some time past numerous complaints have been made of robberies committed by unknown parties in unoccupied houses. Everything seemed to be acceptable to the thieves. Monday afternoon Mr. Simon Landis came into town and swore out a warrant before Justice Deems for the arrest of two men, names unknown, who had robbed him of harness and other articles to the value of thirty-six dollars, and had also stolen some carpenter tools from the house of Henry Schuette.

The warrant was placed in the hands of Mr. Fred Jephcott, constable of Noel, and L. M. Holman, constable of Callaway, for service. These gentlemen immediately started up the valley in pursuit, struck the trail at Finch-Hatton's ranch and followed it to Arnold, where they got a fresh team and were joined by the Arnold constable, Mr. Brown. The party followed the trail north to Hackberry canyon, and all along the road heard of the depredations committed by the robbers. They had at one place left their old wagon and taken a better one, but the trade was to their injury, for the wagon they stole had wire wrapped around a loose tire and left on the road a distinct mark that was easily seen. They also stole a gun, four silk handkerchiefs, and a revolver. The Callaway constable held the trail while the Arnold contingent scouted around. After finding the search in the canyon useless, the party went on up the road to

Anselmo, where they again changed horses. From there the pursuers followed traces of the robbers to a point three miles north of Dale, when they found the robbers had doubled in their road and gone to Luce's canyon. When the constables got there they found that the robbers had gone to Merna the night before (Monday) and stopped there over night.

By this time the constables were tired out, having traveled a day and a night without rest or food, so they went on to Broken Bow, having sent out scouts to scour the country around.

Sheriff Penn being absent from town, the constables, with some deputies, started out with two teams. The Callaway constable, L. M. Holman, the Noel constable, Fred Jephcott, and Joseph Trout, with a driver, were in one wagon, and the rest of the party were in the other. At about dusk they met a man on the main road at the mouth of the canyon, who told them that the robbers were coming. The officers then separated into two parties, the Callaway party taking to the right and the others to the left.

This canyon is six miles north of Broken Bow, one-half mile north of Peter Mohat's stock farm, on land belonging to the Hunter ranch, since known as Dead Man's canyon. At the edge of the canyon they met the robbers in a wagon with bows but no cover. Mr. Jephcott, who took command, immediately on seeing them shouted "Halt!" telling the robbers to surrender, as his party were officers come to arrest them. No attention was paid by the robbers, when Mr. Jephcott ordered them to halt three times more.

At the fourth warning the officers saw a flash through the dusk, and could plainly see the men reaching for their Winchester rifles, which were hanging on the bows on each side of the wagon. The word to fire was then given and the Callaway party opened upon the robbers, being immediately followed by the Arnold party. At the first fire, one of the men who was sitting on the side of the wagon furthest away from the Callaway party, sprang from the wagon to the ground, dead. A rifle bullet had passed through his body, entering

at his left side and passing out at the right. The other man fell to the bottom of the wagon box and the horses went tearing down the canyon.

The officers at once followed and overtook the team a mile and a half away, but the other man had escaped, on a saddle horse that had been tied to the wagon. Half an hour after the slaying Sheriff Penn arrived on the scene. He at once took possession of the wagon, the team and the corpse of the dead man, and brought them to Broken Bow.

The half-breed Mexican was about twenty-five years of age, six feet tall and well built. Inside his shirt, covered with clotted blood, was found a badge of the Cincinnati detective force.

The wagon-box was half full of miscellaneous articles, which they had probably stolen. Among them were several guns, revolvers, saddles, clocks, carpenter tools, silk handkerchiefs, and other articles. A coroner's jury was empaneled and immediately brought in a verdict that the killing was justified and that the officers were blameless.

FATAL HILARITY AT ANSELMO

It was April 1, 1887, "all fool's day," an appropriate date for the fool escapade pulled off by Billy Degan and Hugh Fitzpatrick at Anselmo. They boarded an early freight train out of Linscott, and, not being able to restrain themselves until they reached Anselmo, commenced their gun play in the caboose. They pulled off a series of cowboy stunts calculated to terrorize the passengers. The late L. H. Jewett was on board that morning and afterward stated that the crowd was a little too rough for him. When Anselmo was reached the two cowboys left the train and lost no time in preparing to give the town an exhibition of high life in the far west.

The Anselmo people had been warned that a visit from the cowboys was on the program, and thus they were in a manner prepared to receive their expected guests. Billy Frischauf, a saloon-keeper, came to C. D. Pelham and asked him what he should do. Mr. Pelham advised him to close his saloon, and be it said

to the credit of Frischauf, he followed the good counsel of his adviser, and not a drop of whisky was sold in his place during the whole of that fatal day. John Anderson, another saloon-keeper, also promised to shut up his place during the stay of the cowboys. Anderson did close his saloon in the morning, but having some business out of town, he turned his keys over to his brother, Frank, who unlocked the door and ran the place wide open all day. Things soon began to assume a lively aspect in the little village, and A. F. McKnight, the man who pumped water for the railroad company, using horse power, brought his team over to the livery stable, saying that he had told the company that their locomotives could get no water at Anselmo, as cowboys were painting the town and he did not propose to run the risk of getting shot. The boys were using the pump-house as a target.

A noticeable feature of the occasion was that one of the cowboys appeared to be a gentlemanly sort of fellow and took no active part in the shooting, but apparently tried to keep his companion within bounds. The other, however, crazy with bad whisky, determined to have all the fun he could get out of the spree. One of his antics was to place old tin cans on the tops of hitching posts in the street and then shoot them full of holes, regardless of the danger to passers-by, who had to seek safety by getting behind buildings. When he got tired of this diversion he shot a hole through the stovepipe inside a furniture store, the bullet almost grazing the head of Mr. McDowell, who was managing the business for J. H. Brandebury, the proprietor.

In the meantime some of the citizens had had a conference to discuss the advisability of sending for the sheriff, but they decided to wait a little while, hoping that the rowdies would cool off and behave themselves. The boys went to Anderson's saloon, where Degan, the tougher of the pair, was having a fine time marching around in drunken gyrations and shooting holes in the floor and ceiling, when a bullet from his revolver accidentally penetrated the toe of a young man by the name of Murray. The report immediately flew about town

that the cowboys had shot a man, and the following telegram was immediately dispatched to Broken Bow:

Anselmo, Nebraska, April 1, 1887.
Sheriff Custer County, Broken Bow, Nebr.:

Cowboys are terrorizing the citizens of Anselmo, and one man has been shot through the foot. We ask your protection.

(Signed)

WALTER SCOTT
C. D. PELHAM

Charlie Huntington let the cowboys have an old dray horse, and another was procured at a livery stable kept by one Bassey. Mounted on these steeds the two rode into Pelham's store, helped themselves to cigars, rode out and across the street to the store of Weander Brothers, where they got something else. By this time it was getting along in the afternoon, and the citizens were anxiously awaiting the arrival of the sheriff, who was expected every moment. After visiting all the stores in town, Fritzpatrick and Degan returned to the saloon, where they attempted the novel feat of playing a game of pool on horseback, Degan firing off his gun occasionally to emphasize his points. It was in the midst of this diversion that Sheriff Penn and his deputy arrived, pulling up at Pelham's barn. Tom Kimes and Charlie Murray rode out of the barn and Penn, mistaking them for the cowboys, brought his Winchester to his shoulder and commanded them to throw up their hands. Pelham apprised Penn of his mistake, much to the relief of the frightened young men. At this juncture another report from Degan's revolver rang out and Penn inquired: "What shooting is that?" "Cowboys in the saloon," was the reply.

The cowboys were soon given a tip that the sheriff was in town, when they immediately rode out of the saloon into the street, where they got a glimpse of the officer, surrounded by a crowd of citizens, in front of the livery barn. They fired a parting salute from their six-shooters and rode out of town to the northwest. Penn and his men followed them to a house situated on a triangular piece of ground on the outskirts of the village. From this house a road went directly north and another ran parallel with the railroad track in a northwesterly direction. The latter road was

taken by the cowboys, who proceeded as far as the hand-car house and then came to a standstill. Penn and his men halted at the dwelling house above referred to, where they waited to see what the boys were going to do. After about fifteen minutes Fitzpatrick and Degan turned the heads of their horses around and slowly approached the sheriff's party. Penn placed his deputy, Jones, and Humphrey Smith, who had volunteered to assist him, at the northeast corner of the house guarding the road from the north, which passed on the east side of the building. He gave them strict orders that in case the cowboys came their way to first demand them to halt; then, if they did not stop, to shoot their horses; and finally, if they still refused to surrender, to shoot them. Penn took his station near the southeast corner, that being the point to which the boys were apparently approaching. When within a short distance from the house they turned and rode directly east, striking the road running north and south, and were rapidly nearing the deputies. One of the men shouted

out: "Here they come!" and Penn rushed over from his corner and commanded: "Throw up your hands; I am the sheriff of Custer county!" The boys paid no attention to the command. Eye witnesses say that the horses were shot first, Fitzpatrick's animal becoming frantic. He held the bridle rein with his left hand and was reaching behind to grasp the saddle to keep from falling off, when Smith, thinking he was reaching for his revolver, fired and shot him through the heart. It was afterward learned that Fitzpatrick was unarmed, having thrown his revolver away before he rode back to town, possibly thinking that in case he was arrested it would go easier with him if it was found that he did not carry a weapon. Degan's horse was also shot, and refusing to surrender, the rider then and there met the same fate at the hands of Penn. An inquest was held and a verdict returned to the effect that the two cowboys had been killed while resisting arrest at the hands of officers of the law.

CHAPTER IX

TOWNS AND VILLAGES

WESTERVILLE — MIGHT HAVE BEEN COUNTY SEAT — A NEW TOWN LAID OUT — LEE'S PARK — OTHER DEAD ONES — COMSTOCK — THE BEGINNING OF CALLAWAY — J. WOODS SMITH HAS A DREAM — TOWN CHRISTENED — SMITH WAS AN ADVERTISER — A NEW TOWNSITE — A TOWN FIGHT IS ON — "PODUNK" NEWS ITEMS — ACKNOWLEDGES THE "CORN" — MORE IMPROVEMENT — BUILD A MILL — THE TRAIN ARRIVES — MOVING DAY AT NIGHT — CALLAWAY UP TO DATE — THE COUNTY SEAT — THE BROKEN BOW — THE TOWN GROWS — TWENTY-FIVE MILES FOR BUTTER — THE TOWN STILL GROWS — FIRST TOWN OFFICIALS — RAILROAD COMES — BIG BUILDINGS GO UP — GETS TO BE A CITY — MODERN BUILDINGS GO UP — PLENTY OF GOOD, PURE WATER — BROKEN BOW TO DATE — THE PUBLIC SERVICE CLUB — PRESENT OFFICERS — THE TOWN OF ARNOLD — A BIG CELEBRATION — VILLAGE OF BERWYN — THE HUSTLING TOWN OF MERNA — ATKISSON SPEAKS FOR MERNA — MASON CITY — PRESENT-DAY BUSINESS INTERESTS — OLDEST INHABITANTS — FEDERAL OFFICERS — SARGENT — ANSLEY — ANSLEY'S BANKS — ANSLEY'S MERCANTILE ESTABLISHMENTS — ANSLEY'S MILLS, SHOPS, LIVERY STABLES, ETC. — ANSLEY'S LUMBER AND COAL YARDS — ANSLEY'S SHIPPING ASSOCIATION — ANSLEY'S DRUG STORES — ANSLEY'S PROFESSIONAL MEN — ANSLEY'S ELECTRIC-LIGHT, WATER, AND TELEPHONE SYSTEMS — ANSLEY'S NEWSPAPERS — ANSLEY'S POSTOFFICE — ANSLEY'S PATRIOTISM — ANSLEY'S LIBRARY — THE STORY OF ANSELMO — POSTOFFICE HISTORY — TOWN IMPROVEMENTS — ANSELMO NEWSPAPERS — ANSELMO FIGHTS THE KAISER — ANSELMO CHURCHES — ANSELMO FRATERNAL SOCIETIES — THE STORY OF OCONTO

Credit to Custer county eleven good towns, with a combined population of nine thousand one hundred souls. Eleven towns in which the people are progressive, wide-awake, and prosperous. No other county in the state has as many good towns. No other county has as many miles of railroad, nor does any other county parade as many miles of river valleys. This extent of fertile valleys and railroads is what makes so many towns in the county possible.

Notwithstanding there are eleven towns of the description given, there is a village graveyard in which lie buried nine towns which once lived and thrived and were on the map, for a few short years, before they ended their troubled careers.

Call the roll: Westerville, West Union, Old

Merina, Wescott, Algernon, Lee's Park, first and second Callaway, Dale. There is no response. Only one of these places maintains a store and not one has a postoffice. The town is dead and the streets have been plowed and are occupied by corn and wheat, alternately.

Some of these towns were so large and had such a good start that they deserve extended mention. One of these is Westerville, which, by the failure of the railroad to build through its valley, lost its opportunity.

WESTERVILLE

In 1886, thirty-two years ago, Westerville was the principal town in Custer county, as it was situated in the eastern part, where most of the settlements were made, and it had a considerable trade. Clear creek flows along

the north and east sides, but why it was named "Clear" creek they never knew, for it has been muddy ever since they saw it, some forty years ago. On the north bank of Clear creek is the flouring mill, operated by water power. Several years ago, in the '80s, they had very heavy rain storms during the spring, dangerously raising Clear creek. The water worked its way under the banks and caused great pieces of earth to cave into the water. The people feared that some of the buildings nearest the bank would be undermined. The flouring mill stood so close to the water, that men had to work night and day to save it. One man, standing on the bank, happened to look behind him and saw the ground cracking all around. He had scarcely time to escape when that portion upon which he had stood dropped into the water below.

MIGHT HAVE BEEN COUNTY SEAT

The reason Westerville is not the county seat of Custer county, we are told, is because the first settlers were not willing to make a sacrifice of about one hundred dollars deemed necessary to secure this distinction, and while Westerville slumbered and felt secure, Broken Bow worked and soon won the prize. This was mistake number one for Westerville.

Two county fairs were held here, one in 1883 and the other in 1884. In the fair held in 1884 two things were of very much interest to the people, a turtle that had been taken from Clear creek and a fawn that was captured a few miles north of there. The turtle was nearly as large as a washtub, in which it was exhibited. A number of the people of Broken Bow attended the fair in 1884. The question, "Where shall the county fair be held next year?" was submitted to the people, and when

the votes were counted it was found that Westerville had lost the privilege of having it, a privilege which she never regained. Mistake number two for Westerville.

In Westerville's most prosperous days they had several dry-goods and grocery stores, a large hardware store, over which was a public hall, three hotels, a flouring mill, two blacksmith shops, a cutlery store, a good public library, a bank that carried on quite an extensive business, printing offices, a drug store, and a good school and church. They could boast of two doctors, Waterbury and Morris. J. A. Armour, afterward county judge, was the town lawyer.

A NEW TOWN LAID OUT

In the spring of 1883 Merna took a boom. D. S. Lohr put up a frame building, south of Brotherton's store, and hopes ran high as imagination pictured a growing city, but it proved a delusion, for Lohr soon moved his store, building and all, some five miles up the valley, where



WESTERVILLE MILL AND POND

he founded the town of Dale.

This led to the formation of a townsite company at Merna, and a town was located and laid out in section 36, two miles northwest of Brotherton's store, and within three miles of Dale. Authority was granted by the post-office department at Washington to move the postoffice to the new site. Mr. Brotherton formed a partnership with Milton Casteel and J. D. Strong, and a great department store was opened. W. E. Warren built a shack and hung out a mortar and pestle, which indicated to all concerned that he had a fresh assortment of drugs and a limited supply of stomach bitters for sale. If the business side of these ventures is not a pleasant memory to the gentlemen concerned, the old croquet ground and

the old sod town-hall, which came into existence through their untiring energy, will always be an oasis in that desert of uncertain business prosperity.

Later a blacksmith shop, a frame hotel, and another store made their appearance, but today the old townsite is plowed as a field and yields its store of grain to feed Custer county's helpless poor, as it is a part of the county poor farm.

During the summer and fall of 1886 the B. & M. Railroad was extended from Grand Island to Alliance, and the Lincoln Townsite Company purchased Brotherton's old claim and relocated Merna on the site of its birth. This settled the townsite controversy and the future of Merna was assured.

The town grew rapidly into a respectable village, with many lines of trade and various industries represented. Brotherton and Warren moved from the new Merna back to the old site, and rush of population from the east caused houses to spring up like mushrooms after a rain. Mr. Wilson was a pioneer grain dealer, building the first elevator. The business has been widened under the management of his son, L. W. Wilson, until now they buy grain at three points in the county.

LEE'S PARK

In April, 1884, the town of Lee's Park was laid out in Custer county, on the town line, and the same year, the Lilly & Houder addition to Lee's Park was laid out, adjoining the original town, and in Valley county, with the postoffice in Valley county. Then came quite a little boom for a new town. A general merchandise store was built by Lilly & Houder, to which the postoffice was removed; then followed a blacksmith shop, a hotel, a wagon shop, and a feed stable. This little town was progressing finely when the B. & M. Railroad concluded to outdo the Union Pacific Railroad, and so built past Loup City, the terminus of the Union Pacific Railroad, and stopped at Arcadia, five miles from Lee's Park. The little town held out for a while, but the railroad town of Arcadia took away its vitality, and after some struggles the

town of Lee's Park was no more. All the buildings were torn down or removed, and an attempt was made to take away even the postoffice. The attempt was nearly, or quite, successful, as the postoffice was actually removed to Arcadia, but prompt action was taken by patrons of the office, and an order came for its return, only a day after its removal. The postoffice was afterward removed from Valley county across the line into Custer county, where it remained until mail delivery made it unnecessary. The fact that originally the postoffice was in Valley county, and is now in Custer county, has caused some confusion as to the real location of Lee's Park, some thinking it in Valley, and some in Custer county. The name of the town and postoffice has also been confused with the name of the valley. Originally the postoffice had the same name as the valley, but Jay Hamlin, while postmaster, had the name of the office changed to Lee Park, consequently the name of the postoffice is Lee Park, and the name of the valley is Lee's Park.

At the time of the laying out of the town, a cemetery association was formed, and five acres of land were purchased from W. S. Delano, and laid out as the Lee's Park cemetery. Trees were soon set out and cared for, and in consequence the cemetery is a fine one. The following year the Catholic cemetery was laid out, one-half mile north of Lee's Park cemetery.

OTHER DEAD ONES

When the railroad was built up the Middle Loup valley, Wescott was not in line. The road went on the other side of the river and the town of Comstock was located just north of the river. Wescott could not survive the shock.

Algernon, on the Muddy, was put off the map in much the same way. The railroad company located its depot where Mason now stands, and Algernon surrendered. Merna, old Merna, was three miles off the road when the Burlington located its line and depot at the present site of Merna, and the town had to move. There was a first Callaway and a sec-

ond Callaway (see story of Callaway) before the arrival of the Union Pacific Railroad. Both of these towns are no more, both capitulated and helped to form the present town. The stroke that killed old Merna, killed Dale. Without a railroad it was left stranded. West Union was in the way of the river line of railroad and if Sargent had not been made a terminus of the line West Union would have gotten a railroad and have been on the map as a good Custer county town.

Towns, then, died and were buried, and

new townsite, which was named in honor of him. Frank Lemon opened up a grocery store in this building. On September 25th James Hines began the blacksmithing business. On October 1st Frank and John Currie began buying grain, commencing at the same time the erection of an elevator. On October 3d the railroad company opened its station for business, P. C. Croaker agent. On October 4th Dierks Lumber & Coal Company, John Dierks, manager, unloaded its first shipment of coal at this point. On October 10th Robert



[Photo taken in 1904 by S. D. Butcher]

COMSTOCK

their streets, that were once marked for the avenues of commerce, hear no sound save the rattle of the harvester and the chug of the passing autos. The story changes to live towns.

COMSTOCK

The village of Comstock, the youngest town in Custer county, is located on the east bank of the Middle Loup river, on the Aurora and Sargent extension of the B. & M. Railroad. The town was located and surveyed in 1899. A store building was moved over from Westcott, by W. H. Comstock, and located on the

Stone began buying stock, with H. H. Wheeler as agent, followed in December by Mr. Parks, both building stock yards. In October a general hardware and implement store was opened. The postoffice opened for business November 19th, with S. T. Stevens as postmaster. The hotel was completed and opened to the public in November, but was soon found too small for the proper accommodation of the traveling public. A feed and sale stable was in operation in December. Walter Hammond opened a barber shop in December, and Albert Apperson commenced the draying business at the same time. In January, 1900, M.



SECTION OF RESIDENCE DISTRICT IN COMSTOCK



FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK, COMSTOCK



MAIN STREET, COMSTOCK



WOODMEN FRATERNITY BUILDING, COMSTOCK



GENERAL STORE OF WESCOTT, GIBBONS & BRAGG, AT
COMSTOCK

I. Fried opened with a line of implements. Elias Cleveland finished his dwelling and moved into it in February. J. F. Westcott, contractor and builder, moved into town in February, but did not complete his dwelling until the following May. F. H. Kernohan had his brick store and residence ready for occupancy in May. In September J. W. Com-



RESIDENCE OF CHARLES D. BRAGG, AT COMSTOCK

stock opened a harness store and repair shop. In December Wescott & Gibbons moved their general merchandise store from the west side of the river and began business in Comstock. In January, 1901, Frank Hammond began business in a new blacksmith and wagon repair shop. R. R. Bangs moved into the hotel in January. C. N. McWorthy built his house for a residence, millinery and dressmaking store in February. In March the Modern Woodmen commenced the erection of a two-story building, the ground floor to be used as a drug store, bank, and meat market, and the upper floor for a public hall. A commodious schoolhouse was built in the fall of 1900. The first child born in the village of Comstock was Helen Apperson, February 23, 1900. Concerning the town to-day, E. F. Skolil makes the following resumé:

Comstock is a thriving, growing and up-to-date town on the Aurora and Sargent branch of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, located in the Middle Loup valley on the east side of Custer county and about at the center of the state of Nebraska. It is an all-around good and prosperous little town of

over five hundred inhabitants. It contains three churches, Congregational, Methodist, and Latter-Day Saints, three good and prospering general merchandise stores—Wescott Gibbons & Bragg, the leading store, established in 1886; F. C. Dworak, established in 1900; J. C. Kiker, established 1917. Two good banks—the Citizens State Bank, the leading bank, established in 1906; and the Farmers' & Merchants' State Bank, established in 1909. The banking resources of this little town are over \$600,000, which tends to show that it is a prosperous and growing town, as it is only about eighteen years old. Comstock can well boast of the two most modern, up-to-date bank buildings in the county. Two good lumber yards—Dierks Lumber & Coal Company, starting in business about the time the town was platted, and S. A. Foster and Company, in 1911. Two good hardware stores, and furniture store in conjunction with one of them—J. T. Arthur, established in 1907, succeeding S. T. Stevens—and C. E. Brandt, established in 1914, succeeding R. R. Bangs, who conducted a hardware and furniture store for over ten years previously. One



RESIDENCE OF EDWARD F. SKOLIL, AT COMSTOCK

blacksmith shop, one of the most up-to-date and neatest drug stores in the county, owned by E. C. Gibbons and operated by J. D. Rockhold since 1912. One harness shop, established with the town by J. W. Comstock and still owned by him and operated by his son, A. L. Comstock. Two good implement stores, two automobile garages, one livery barn, one

butcher shop, one barber shop, one pump and general-repair shop, one of the largest and best flouring mills in that part of the state, (owned and operated by C. F. Eller), one farmers' live-stock shipping association, two live-stock dealers, one hotel, one of the best and most up-to-date restaurants in this sec-



RESIDENCE OF ROBERT S. STONE, COMSTOCK

tion, under the name of Woodman Café, owned by W. E. Gibbons, E. F. Skolil and Aley Shafer, established in 1918 in the Woodman Fraternal building. One modern moving-picture theater, established in 1912 by Charles D. Bragg and E. C. Gibbons, along with an electric plant from which the people of Comstock are deriving much good and comfort, as the service is as good as in large cities. One grain elevator, owned by W. T. Barstow almost since the town originated. One printing office where the *Comstock News* is edited and published and which deserves a great deal of credit for the prosperity and advancement of this town. One large and modern opera house, in the Woodmen Fraternal building, which was built in 1917, and contains also a large banquet hall and two large stores on the main floor.

In Comstock there are the following lodges: Knights of Pythias, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and Modern Woodmen of America. One doctor, four cream stations, one city hall, one telephone exchange (which has been under the good management of E. B. Wait since

1917 and is all rebuilt and giving good service), four coal yards, one good public school, with eleven grades. Comstock has some fine residences, a growing park, and the best sidewalks in the state.

Following are the members of the town board in 1918: E. F. Skolil (chairman), John F. Westcott, Ed. B. Wait, J. C. Kiker, and S. T. Stevens. Comstock has had four successful Chautauquas and many elaborate Fourth of July celebrations. Chautauquas and lecture courses have been maintained for many years.

THE BEGINNING OF CALLAWAY

One of the most enterprising towns of Custer county is Callaway, located on the South Loup river, in the midst of a valley that is beautiful and fertile enough for an Eden. The town is on the Kearney branch of the Union Pacific Railroad.



CITIZENS STATE BANK, AT COMSTOCK

The following record of the early settlement and growth of the town was written by George B. Mair several years ago and is reliably authentic.

"The most of those who were here in the beginning and who took an active part in the

organization of the town have removed to other parts. The birth of Callaway, in the minds of the citizens of to-day, is apparently in the dim, distant past — a dust-covered tradition, and as an introduction to the history of Callaway a brief account of the settlement of the territory contiguous may not be out of place.

"Probably the first settler to locate in the South Loup valley between the present towns of Callaway and Arnold was Frederick Schreyer, who came in June, 1875, with a large family, and located a claim about four miles above Callaway. Mr. Schreyer soon found himself in trouble with the cowboys, who attempted to drive him away. He was a shining mark for practical jokes at the hands of the cowboys, and accepted in dead earnest everything they did to torment him. When they attempted to stampede a herd of cattle over the roof of his dug-out, or destroyed his watermelon patch, and such other innocent diversions, Mr. Schreyer positively refused to see the point of the joke.

"The next settler to arrive in the valley was David E. Sprouse, who located two miles northwest of the present town of Callaway. In October of the same year came Ira Graves and George T. Ricker, in search of land, the former filing on a homestead and timber claim, adjoining the future town, and the latter locating a mile north of the Sprouse claim. Charles C. Kingsbury and Mark Schneringer came about the same time. In 1880 came N. M. Morgan, M. N. Deems, H. B. Schneringer, Noah Welch, Norman Brendle, Gabriel Payton, Ira McConnell, the Whipples, and perhaps others.

"A postoffice was established in August,

1880, which was given the euphonious name of 'Letup,' with Ira Graves as postmaster. On petition of Ira Graves and Clara P. Graves the name of the office was changed to Delight in September of the same year. Mark Deems was installed as mail carrier, his route being from Custer to Arnold, and from Olax (now Oconto) and Lexington to Delight, all of these offices being supplied from Plum Creek.

"The county was organized into townships in 1883, and the territory embracing the entire southwestern part of the county was named Delight township, by N. M. Morgan, the first supervisor. Out of the original township the towns of Grant, Elim, and Wayne have since been formed, leaving the township of Delight with seventy-eight square miles. At the time of the settlement here, there was no other settlement between the Platte valley and Victoria creek. During the few years that followed, newcomers arrived almost week-



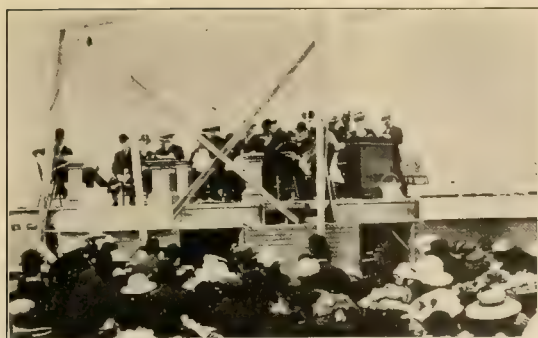
[Photo by S. D. Butcher]

THE FIRST BUILDING IN CALLAWAY

ly, until there was quite a community. In 1885 Mr. Graves induced John Moran, a merchant of Olax, to build a store on his farm, which stood on the northeast corner of the property now owned by John Frederick. The question as to who is entitled to the credit of founding the town of Callaway has been often disputed, and will be perhaps never fully determined to the satisfaction of all, but from what we can learn, J. Woods Smith is fully entitled to whatever honor the distinction confers, as it was in his brain that the scheme originated which materialized in the laying out of the town a few months later.

J. WOODS SMITH HAS A DREAM

"As Mr. Smith tells it, Callaway was first conceived in the lobby of the Paxton hotel at



LAYING CORNER STONE OF CALLAWAY HIGH SCHOOL



CALLAWAY HOTEL



MASONIC TEMPLE AT CALLAWAY



RESIDENCE OF HALL B. SCHNERINGER, CALLAWAY



PLANT OF CALLAWAY MILL COMPANY

Omaha, in the fall of 1885. While reading the morning paper, he chanced to come across an item stating that the Omaha & Republican Valley Railroad was going to survey a line up the South Loup river the next spring, to intersect with another road, which was to be surveyed up Wood River valley from Kearney. Mr. Smith went to a map which was hanging on the wall, and at once made up his mind that the point where these two roads came together would be an ideal place for a town. With his usual decision, Mr. Smith had a town laid out and thickly populated—in his mind—within five minutes. He immediately communicated the scheme to Hon. A. B. Chard, a personal friend, and the two started for Custer county to look over the situation. They found the location even more promising than they had anticipated, and made partial arrangements for the purchase of the Graves farm for a townsite, intending to return early in the spring to complete the deal. When spring came, Mr. Chard had other business and Mr. Smith proceeded alone. Upon his return to Delight he was unable to close the deal with Mr. Graves, and he succeeded in making an arrangement whereby the claims of Albert and M. H. Deems, comprising the east half of section 11, township 15, range 23, were secured for a townsite, the Deems taking shares in the syndicate in payment for their land. Mr. Smith also purchased of C. W. Gray the northwest quarter of section 11, on his own account, which is the land upon which the railroad addition to Callaway was afterward platted. E. B. Needham, capitalist from St. Paul, Nebraska, also took an interest in the townsite company, and the work of platting was commenced at once.

TOWN CHRISTENED

"The town was named in honor of S. R. Callaway, then general manager of the Union Pacific Railroad, and the streets were named after the general officers of that road and the members of the townsite company. The first to erect a building in the new town was Dr. L. Michael. The second building was erected by Harry E. O'Neill, for his brokerage business,

which theretofore had been conducted on his claim half a mile west of town. The next building was a store by Albert Deems. Then John Moran moved his general store down from the corner of Mr. Graves' farm, Baker & Yates put up a store and put in a stock of groceries, Smith Brothers put up the opera-house building and put in a stock of hardware. These were followed in quick succession by W. B. Maze, hardware; Smith & Needham, lumber and coal; Maze & Burbank, flour and feed; Rogers & Johnson, the Bank of Callaway; Theron E. Webb, drug store; C. W. Root, drug store, moved from Arnold; Holway & Schneringer, livery; L. Palmer, feed stable; Lewis & Holman, meat market; M. L. Savage, furniture store; Clark & Owens, real estate, loans, and insurance; B. L. Brisbane, real estate; C. C. Hayes, James Suhr, blacksmiths; Alex. Mallert, G. A. James, restaurants; P. Wymore, John Calligan, McConnell & King, Tidey & Smea, carpenters; F. A. Clarke & Company, general store, moved from Arnold; M. H. Deems, Hotel Excelsior, operated by A. L. Mathews; J. C. Naylor, lawyer; George H. Lafleur, barber shop. On August 19th appeared the first issue of the *Callaway Standard*, which was published and edited by Charles A. Sherwood, a first-class printer imported by the townsite syndicate. On Sunday, August 8th, a small hurricane swept down the valley and partially wrecked most of the buildings that were in the course of construction, among them being the opera house, Dean's hotel, and the Baker & Yates building, but the damages were soon repaired and work progressed rapidly.

SMITH WAS AN ADVERTISER

"The new town boomed all summer. J. Woods Smith, its founder and promoter, was well known all over the state. He also had the knack of getting himself interviewed in the Omaha papers every time he visited that city, and the result was that Callaway was soon the best advertised town in Nebraska. While to the ordinary individual Callaway appeared destined to become a prosperous village, in the Utopian vision of J. Woods Smith

nothing less than the state capital awaited it.

"During the summer of 1886 the Omaha *Bee* said: 'Callaway is six weeks old, with fifty houses; a hotel, seventy by fifty-six feet; an opera house, forty-eight by sixty feet; and a population of 200 inhabitants. Its representation in business houses is excellent, though at present it is in need of a watchmaker and jeweler and a harness man. A first-class outfit for a newspaper, to be called the *Callaway Standard*, together with an editor, have already been shipped, and the first sheet of the new journal will appear next week. It will be followed by the issue of a rival paper one week later. The crops in the vicinity are said to be the finest in the state, and Mr. Smith says that he has never seen finer corn than they are now cutting down on the site upon which the town is built.

A NEW TOWNSITE

"The survey of the railroad was completed that summer and the grading done. The grade is still there, from Pleasanton to Callaway, but no iron has ever been laid on it. The Wood river line was graded soon afterward, but it was not until four years later that the road was finished from Kearney to Callaway. This scheme materialized in the formation of the New Callaway Townsite & Improvement Company, with C. W. H. Luebbert, president; N. M. Morgan, vice-president; Harry E. O'Neill, secretary; Ira Graves, treasurer; John Reese, solicitor. The land was purchased of Ira Graves, the site of New Callaway platted, and inducements offered to old-town business men to move up, as it was expected that the New Callaway promoters had influence enough to secure the depot. The inducements, however, did not draw any of the old-town people away, except Harry O'Neill. Upon the organization of Callaway the postoffice had been moved from Mr. Graves' farm to town, and the name changed from Delight to Callaway. Harry O'Neill was postmaster when he moved up to the new town, but he had to leave the postoffice behind.

A TOWN FIGHT IS ON

"The old-town citizens patrolled the streets

at night with shotguns, to prevent the post-office from being stolen. A newspaper plant was purchased by the New Callaway Syndicate, and on June 29, 1887, the *New Callaway Courier* was born in a frame building which was then located near the present residence of John Frederick, with M. C. Miller as editor. Then commenced one of the biggest townsite fights in the history of central Nebraska. The new town was derisively christened 'Podunk' by the old-town people, and the new Callawayites were termed 'Mudhens.' The failure of the Wood river line to be built that fall, put somewhat of a damper on the New Callaway project. The few residents of the town, who had been induced to locate with the understanding that it was to have the railroad depot at once, became discouraged and moved away. In October, 1887, when the writer first arrived on the scene from Chicago, to assume charge of the *New Callaway Courier*, he found the two rival towns lying on their arms awaiting developments. Every business enterprise in New Callaway had gone away except the *Courier*, but it was doing a flourishing business. It was published in the frame building later occupied as a photograph gallery by Isaac Bryner. It was then located on the corner of Pearl street and Third avenue, New Callaway. On the corner diagonally across the street, was a gopher hole, and the two other corners were occupied by a bullfrog and another gopher. The *Courier* had a big circulation, and was well filled with advertisements from merchants of Broken Bow, Cozad, Lexington, and Arnold; but it had none from Callaway, as that would have been considered high treason by the old-town people, and would have been sufficient reason for a boycott against the offender. The *Courier*, however, did a flourishing business, and became famous all over this part of the state, as the paper that was published in the town that had no other business.

PODUNK NEWS ITEMS

"Sometimes, when local news were scarce, the *Courier* was filled out with local items from Podunk. Here are a few samples:

"One of our prominent quails made a flying trip to Triumph yesterday.

"One of J. Woods Smith's cows was over visiting friends in Podunk yesterday.

"One of Morgan's brindle steers was taking in the sights of Podunk Tuesday. He is a rustler.

"Several influential prairie dogs have intimated their intention to locate in Podunk early in the spring. Still the boom continues.

"We acknowledge a pleasant visit one day this week from a black dog with one ear partly chewed off. Call again. You will always find our latch string out.

"One of our jack rabbits fell on a slippery sidewalk Monday and as a result he now walks with a limp.

"The stake which marks the site of the First National Bank, at the corner of Hayfield square, was knocked over by a bay cow on Wednesday. It ought to be repaired at once.

"One of our most respectable and highly esteemed coyotes was villainously assaulted by Graves' dog while out taking a walk Monday. Such rowdism is a disgrace to Podunk.

"Three coyotes from Sand Valley gave a concert in Jake Horn's corner Saturday night.

"Three strange jack rabbits were in town all day Thursday, looking around our streets. Their business was not ascertained, but it is supposed they were locating a railroad depot.

"Intense excitement was caused in our city Tuesday by the appearance of a man coming toward town from the east. Business was entirely suspended and the whole town turned out to see him, but he turned south at the corner of Smith's cornfield and escaped.

"Our friend McConnell says he is not much of a believer in signs, but he believes animals often know what is going to happen in the future. The other evening as he was going home wondering whether the railroad depot would be located at Callaway or Podunk, a big bullfrog jumped out of Wiggle creek and said 'Podunk! Podunk! Podunk!' On the strength of the tip Mr. McConnell has invested in several corner lots.

ACKNOWLEDGES THE "CORN"

"During the winter of 1887 the weather was very cold, and as coal had to be hauled from Cozad, there was sometimes a dearth of fuel. The office building was made of boards that were mostly knot holes, and unplastered, consequently not over warm, and the paper was not infrequently 'run off' when the temperature

on the outside was below zero, and not much higher inside. It was frequently the duty of the editor to sally forth after dark, into a handy cornfield, with a two-bushel sack, to rustle enough fuel for the next day. One day a man whose field had been visited pretty often, came into the office and wanted to know how much it would cost to have a notice put in the paper. He said somebody was stealing his corn and he thought a piece in the paper would scare them off. We made a deal to publish a warning against the offender for a dollar and a half, and no more corn was stolen from that field during the remainder of the winter. This shows the power of advertising.

MORE IMPROVEMENT

"During 1888 M. L. Savage built the present postoffice building. The Seven Valleys Bank building was also built the same year, as was a new store, by F. A. Clark & Company. The Seven Valleys Bank had been established the year previously, by J. Woods Smith and others. The Union Bank was established in 1888 by J. Woods Smith, J. E. Decker, and J. H. Decker. The spring of 1889 came, and still no railroad. The town was at a standstill. The New Callaway project was practically dead and the *New Callaway Courier* moved to the old town and became the *Callaway Courier*. George B. Mair, the editor and publisher, was appointed postmaster, purchased the postoffice building and added another room, which has since been used as a printing office. R. E. Brega came to town during this year and established himself in the law business. Railroad rumors were rife and the Kearney & Black Hills Railroad Company was organized.

BUILD A MILL

"The magnificent water power afforded by the South Loup river had commended itself to the business men of Callaway, and many meetings were held to talk up the project of erecting a flouring mill, to be operated by water power. These meetings resulted in the formation of the Callaway Milling & Manufacturing Company, which was composed of most

of the business men. In the fall of 1889 work was commenced on the dam across the Loup river, and the wheels of an up-to-date, modern roller mill began to move in the spring of 1890. A proposition to vote \$8,600 bonds for the purpose of assisting the Kearney & Black Hills Railroad to build from Kearney to Callaway, was submitted to the township and carried almost unanimously.

THE TRAIN ARRIVES

"Work on the old right of way commenced

sand dollars. A number of business enterprises located in the new town, and liberal inducements were held out to the old town to move up in a body. It was supposed that the location of the depot would cause everything to rush to the Railroad addition at once, but such was not the case. Many of the old-town people were interested in old-town real estate, and if the town moved to the new addition it would become practically worthless. It was evident to a disinterested onlooker that the railroad addition was bound to win in the end,



[Photo by S. D. Butcher]

STREET SCENE IN CALLAWAY IN 1895

at once, and on the 7th day of October, 1890, the first regular passenger train pulled into Callaway. The depot was located neither in the old town nor the new, but half way between, on the farm of J. Woods Smith, which was purchased by the Callaway Improvement Company, on which to lay out a new town of Callaway, now known as the Railroad addition. Engineers of the railroad company laid out the town on a grand scale, large enough for a city of the first class, and some very good buildings were put up, among them being the Grand Pacific hotel, at a cost of over ten thou-

but the old-town people made a bitter fight. J. Woods Smith, being interested in the new town, moved his opera-house building over and also established a store there, in what was known as the Improvement building. Van-green Brothers moved up to the new town. A new drug store was established, with Dr. F. J. Greer as manager; Dierks Brothers and the Gilcrost Lumber Company put in yards; a brick yard was established; and a large two-story building, known as the Grand Army building, was erected for store and lodge purposes. The newcomers who were attracted to

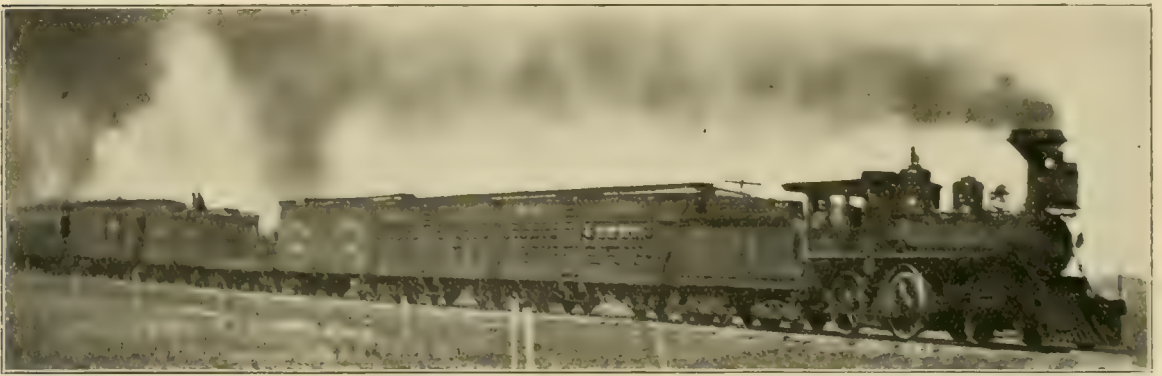
the locality by the advent of the railroad were not, of course, interested in the townsite fight, and mostly located in the new town.

MOVING DAY AT NIGHT

"Being satisfied that there was but one way for the contest to end, and wishing to bring it to a close as soon as possible, the postoffice was moved to the new town at midnight, by George B. Mair, without previous notice. The following morning, when the people of the old town found out what had happened, their wrath knew no bounds and all sorts of threats were indulged. The *Courier* was moved to the new town at the same time. So incensed were

master general. In a few months the department reinstated the postmaster, but the location of the office was fixed in the old town, whither it had been taken by the inspector at the time of his visit. Soon after this the entire old town capitulated and moved up to the new town, followed by the postoffice some months later.

"The year 1891 was a season of big crops, and the new town enjoyed quite a boom. Money was plentiful and the business men had a fine trade. Many new buildings were erected, among them being two large grain elevators. The town was full of traveling men and strangers, and the townsite syndicate had suc-



[Phot. by S. D. Becker]

A MIXED TRAIN COMING INTO CALLAWAY, OCTOBER 7, 1890

they, that the people of the old town refused to mail their letters at the postoffice, but sent them to the neighboring offices to be mailed. At the arrival of every mail they sent a messenger up to the postoffice with a sack, who collected all the mail for the old town business men and carried it down to the Bank of Callaway, where it was redistributed. In the meantime they were procuring signatures to a petition and protest, which was forwarded to the postoffice department and which brought a postoffice inspector to investigate. The inspector concluded that the postmaster had acted without due authority in moving the office, and his resignation was asked for. The postmaster declined to resign, and he was removed and a temporary postmaster appointed by the inspector, pending the final decision of the post-

ceeded in interesting a number of eastern capitalists in the town. Arrangements had been made for a big excursion at some future date, but in the meantime poor crops and partial failures followed, culminating in the drought period of 1894 and 1895, which drove away half the population of the county, and in which Callaway dwindled down from a hustling town of 600 people to a dead village of a little over 200. The people became almost panic-stricken, and a cry went out for help that was responded to from ocean to ocean, with a generosity that has never been equaled. Grain, food, and goods of all kinds came into the country by the carloads, from almost every state in the Union, and serious suffering was prevented. The railroads, which have been said to have no souls, disproved the assertion

at this time, and they gladly offered free transportation for solicitors and supplies during all that trying period. Since then this locality has enjoyed fair crops. On the night of March 15, 1901, the principal business block was completely destroyed, entailing a loss of about fifty thousand dollars. This has resulted in the passage of a fire-limits ordinance by the village board, and preparations are already being made to rebuild the burned district with fine modern brick buildings."

CALLAWAY UP TO DATE

The following firms, and business and professional men lived in Callaway prior to 1900 but were not mentioned in the foregoing article by George B. Mair:

Drugs: W. J. Bean, E. R. Vining, Charles Root; F. J. Drum, well machinery; A. Pearson, photographer; attorneys: John Reese, J. C. Naylor, and James Yates; hardware: Bennet Maze and Charles Whaley; David Hopkins, grocery and confectionery; Walter Wood, furniture, Charles Gaines, manager; Holway & Schneringer, first livery man; W. G. Garlock established a brick yard and made brick.

The following are Callaway business enterprises since 1900 not mentioned before: W. I. Harrow, bakery; J. E. Felker, jewelry; M. F. Verry and Emma Van Eman, milliners; K. C. Kim, photographer; Farmers State Bank (John Frederick, Sr., president, and John Frederick, Jr., vice-president); live-stock dealers, John Frederick; Farmers Shipping Association; Farmers Elevator Company, William Reader, manager; Callaway Elevator Company, D. F. Burkner, manager; Kearney & Black Hills Railroad, E. M. Wellman, agent; Higbee & Keyes, hardware; Charles Curtis & Company, hardware; Frank Hagin, restaurant; Claude Pierce, restaurant; M. C. Schneringer, undertaker; general merchants: Campbell & Tidd, Helton Roberts Company, Vangreen Brothers, W. L. Grimes; drugs: Robert Weiland, Walter Wright; variety store, Clara Vangreen; postmaster, John Moran; barbers: Lewis Brothers, Dan Pearson, Tobe Vangreen; physicians: J.

F. Davies, Albert Johnson; chiropractors, Libbie Leonard and Charles F. Nye.

Callaway has a first-class water and electric-light system; telephone exchange; four good church buildings (Episcopal, Methodist Episcopal, United Evangelical, and Catholic); an up-to-date high-school building, of which W. A. Rosin is superintendent; four large, brick garages, as good as there is in the county. The Ford garage has a floor space of 12,500 square feet. They are represented by Walter Brittan, Charles Carothers, Henry Ridder, and Sherrel & Lowe Brothers. Real estate: McGrew & Brabham, J. D. Troyer, George H. LaFleur, H. H. Andrews, I. C. Shupp. R. E. Brega, lawyer, real estate, and insurance. The *Callaway Queen*, Thomas Roberts, A. W. Rosin, James C. Naylor, owners, and James C. Naylor editor.

The population of Callaway is about 900. The Callaway Milling Company has one of the best flouring mills in the state, operated with electricity.

THE COUNTY SEAT

The city of Broken Bow is located in township 17, range 20, in the center of the county, near the head of the Muddy, a creek that runs through the town. The city enjoys the advantage of fine schools and has seven churches, in which religious services are maintained. It has had no saloons for years. Business is good and the population is gradually increasing. Broken Bow is the county seat of Custer county. It is known far and near on account of the oddity of its name. The name was suggested by a chain of circumstances, rather than romance.

THE BROKEN BOW

In 1880 Wilson Hewitt, who was a homesteader near where the city is now located, on request of the few settlers in the vicinity, petitioned the government for a postoffice at his place and sent in a name he thought was appropriate. The postoffice department approved the application for an office, but rejected the name, as a similar name had been granted

on another petition. Two or three other names were sent in, but were rejected for the same reason. Mr. Hewitt was a blacksmith and a hunter, and while out hunting one day he found, on an old Indian camping ground, a broken bow and arrow, which he carried home with him. He put them in a box in his shop, with some old irons, and thought nothing more about them. Some time afterward he received notice that the third name he had sent to Washington had been rejected, and, going to the box after a piece of iron, he picked up the

mer owner of the bow, or any of the facts connected with it, is known.

Mr. Hewitt prized the broken bow as a relic and intended to keep it as a souvenir of the town's christening, but one day the hired girl was cleaning up around the yard and put the bow into the fire, with other rubbish. It was discovered, however, in time to save a fragment of it. The part saved is now in possession of E. R. Purcell, editor of the *Custer County Chief*, and is highly valued.

The townsite was located and plat filed in



[Photo by S. D. Butcher]
OLD MARBLE TOP HOTEL, BROKEN BOW, IN 1886, WITH DR. HULL AND HIS FAVORITE PONIES
IN FRONT. LOCATION NOW OCCUPIED BY THE REALTY BLOCK

broken bow, and the name, "Broken Bow," came to his mind quickly. He determined to send it in as the name for his postoffice, satisfied that there was no other place of the same name in the state. He consulted his wife, and she being willing, the name was sent in and was accepted by the department. Just how the Indian bow came to be broken and left on the old camp ground, is only a matter of conjecture. Many stories have been invented to account for it, and one old settler, Mrs. M. A. B. Martin, has written an Indian legend concerning it, which is reproduced on another page. Nothing whatever concerning the for-

mer owner of the bow, or any of the facts connected with it, is known. Mr. Hewitt prized the broken bow as a relic and intended to keep it as a souvenir of the town's christening, but one day the hired girl was cleaning up around the yard and put the bow into the fire, with other rubbish. It was discovered, however, in time to save a fragment of it. The part saved is now in possession of E. R. Purcell, editor of the *Custer County Chief*, and is highly valued. The townsite was located and plat filed in June, 1882, by Jess Gandy. The postoffice, which was then kept by C. D. Pelham, who had a small stock of goods half a mile from the townsite, was moved to the new city, and hence Mr. Pelham enjoys the distinction of being the first merchant of Broken Bow, as well as its first postmaster. Wilson Hewitt had been elected county clerk the previous fall, and near the proposed townsite had built a sod house, which he occupied as his office. The county treasurer, C. T. Crawford, and the county superintendent, D. M. Amsberry, occasionally held forth in the same building, in the discharge of their respective official duties.

Soon after the townsite was laid out, the townsite promoters provided temporary frame buildings for the county officers. County Clerk Hewitt and County Judge J. S. Benjamin occupied a room on the west side of the public square, and the county treasurer and the county superintendent a building on the east side. This arrangement was continued until the fall of 1884, when the county built a frame building large enough to accommodate all four of the offices. The question of relocating the county seat was an issue during the summer and fall, and in this Broken Bow defeated Westerville, its rival. The county seat had been located previously near the South Loup, but the site had never been occupied, as the county records were always kept at the homes of the several county officers. The victory inspired courage, and many important battles have since been fought and won by a combined effort of the citizens. One of the first houses built was a sod building, by R. H. Miller, on the corner where the Broken Bow State Bank now stands. This was used for the family residence and also for a printing office. Mr. Miller established the first newspaper of the town, the *Custer County Republican*. The first issue of the *Republican* was June 29, 1882. The paper is still published in the city, and not only claims the distinction of being the first newspaper published at Broken Bow, but of being the oldest paper in the county. The present editor and publisher follows at the end of a long procession of former owners.

THE TOWN GROWS

During the summer of 1882 the following families located in the new town and engaged in business: Jess, James P., and A. W. Gandy, J. S. Kirkpatrick, C. W. West, J. H. Fleming, T. E. Wheeler & Company, G. W. Trefren, C. T. Crawford, C. D. Pelham, J. L. Oxford, and R. H. Miller. J. P. Gandy built a log house in which he kept a few goods and accommodated the traveling public with meals and lodging until a hotel was erected. J. H. Fleming built the first hotel, on the corner now occupied by the Grand Central. As the lumber and all building material had to be

freighted from Kearney by teams, it was a tedious task to build. By August Mr. Fleming had the Broken Bow hotel, a two-story structure, nearly completed to accommodate the public, and guests frequently had to put up with scanty fare, owing to lack of teams with which to freight the necessary provisions, but as Mrs. Fleming was a most excellent cook she made the best of what she had, and all were satisfied.

TWENTY-FIVE MILES FOR BUTTER

Frequently a team would be sent twenty-five miles to purchase butter, and would return with only a few pounds. J. H. West was the proprietor of the first drug store, and G. W. Trefren established a law office, being followed



BROKEN BOW STATE BANK

soon by J. S. Kirkpatrick, who was afterward a member of the Nebraska supreme-court commission. Mrs. T. E. Wheeler & Company put in the first stock of general merchandise, in October, 1882. Mrs. Wheeler had come from Aurora in August and contracted with the townsite company to build a store room in consideration of bringing in a stock of goods. She freighted the goods from Grand Island, by way of Loup City and Westerville. That winter Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler lived in the back part of the store room, with only a carpet for a partition. C. T. Crawford built and occupied his house as a residence, restaurant, and treasurer's office, the same fall. J. L. Oxford, one of the county commissioners, built the first feed barn, just east of the present site of the Grand Central hotel, near where Mr. Lee's barn now stands. Jess Gandy put in the

first butcher shop that summer, and bought his first beef from Judge Benjamin, who lived on a homestead adjoining the town on the north. The first school was taught by Mrs. M. E. Lewis, in a sod house.

THE TOWN STILL GROWS

With the spring of 1883 the population had more than trebled. Frank Crable added a lumber yard, a much-needed branch of business. H. G. Rogers, a silent partner of T. E. Wheeler & Company, located here, bringing with him an additional stock of dry goods, valued at \$10,000. He built a new store building in

publish it until June, 1888, when the plant was sold to the Central Nebraska Bank. R. H. Miller succeeded Mr. Beebe as editor.

The first church was built by the Methodists, in 1883. It was the first brick building in town. During this year the townsite was enlarged by additions made by J. P. and A. W. Gandy, and the sale of town lots to prospective residents became brisk. The students of Blackstone were increased by two that winter, James Ledwich, who engaged in the law and real-estate business, and who later became one of the prominent men of the county, and C. J. Elliott, who came from Illinois, returning to



[Photo by S. D. Becker]

FIRST PRINTING HOUSE IN BROKEN BOW

which to accommodate his goods, and Mrs. T. E. Wheeler & Company added a line of hardware. Miss Litta Mengle put in a stock of millinery and associated with her Miss Laura Morrison as dressmaker. Marcus Reyner added the second drug store, and in October of the same year L. H. Jewett established the Custer County Bank, which was the first bank in town, with S. H. Burnham, of Lincoln, as president, and Mr. Jewett as cashier. Silas A. Holcomb, subsequently governor of the state and at present a member of the state board of control, located in the town that season and engaged in the practice of law. S. C. Beebe, publisher of the *Custer County Leader*, moved his paper from Westerville to Broken Bow in the spring of 1883, and continued to

that state after a few years. Up to this time the town had been without a practising physician. The only one in the vicinity was Dr. R. C. Talbot, who lived on a homestead some eight miles away, and who protested against practicing medicine. Dr. Wyman Hull appeared on the scene and Dr. Talbot proposed to him that if he would locate in town he would turn over all his practice to him. The inducement was sufficient, and Dr. Hull at once secured a sod house that J. P. Gandy had built, and moved his family to Broken Bow. The Doctor did not prove a drawing card as a physician, and soon fitted up rooms in his house and engaged in the hotel business. As rains were quite frequent in the early days, his guests were frequently disturbed in their

slumbers by the roof leaking. To remedy this annoyance the Doctor covered the house with a heavy coating of cement, which gave his hostelry the name of "The Marble Top." Mrs. Hull and daughter were fine cooks and good entertainers, while the Doctor was a happy hustler for business. They soon built up one of the best paying businesses in the town and the Marble Top became a celebrated name.

In 1884 the population of Broken Bow largely increased, and the demand for both residence and business houses caused a number of buildings to be built. L. Lavender and W. D. Garlock, brickmakers, put in two yards and manufactured enough brick to supply the demand. The Commercial hotel was built that season, by J. P. Gandy and A. W. Gandy. D. M. Amsberry and G. W. Runyon built the three brick store rooms on the north side of the public square. A brick schoolhouse, in the southeastern part of town, and two dwelling houses, by Isaac Merchant and Steve Chaple, were built in the fall, and the frame buildings put up were numerous. With the influx of 1884 came Judge H. M. Sullivan, who has ever since been a leading citizen and closely identified with the development of the town, the county, and the state. A. R. Humphrey, who was subsequently commissioner of public lands and buildings, located here in 1884.

This season County Treasurer Talbot and County Superintendent Amsberry moved their families to town and each put up a residence. Among the new enterprises started in 1884 the principal were: Holland & McDonald, hardware and implements; the *Broken Bow Times*, by Trefren and Meseraull; Kloman & Arnold, bank; Moore & Wright, real estate.

FIRST TOWN OFFICIALS

The village was incorporated that spring and the first officers appointed were: Isaac Merchant, president; J. S. Kirkpatrick, Jess Gandy, and D. M. Amsberry, trustees; and E. P. Campbell, city attorney. The first officers elected were: Isaac Merchant, H. A. Graham, D. M. Amsberry, and J. S. Kirkpatrick, trustees; H. M. Sullivan, attorney; E. P. Campbell, clerk.

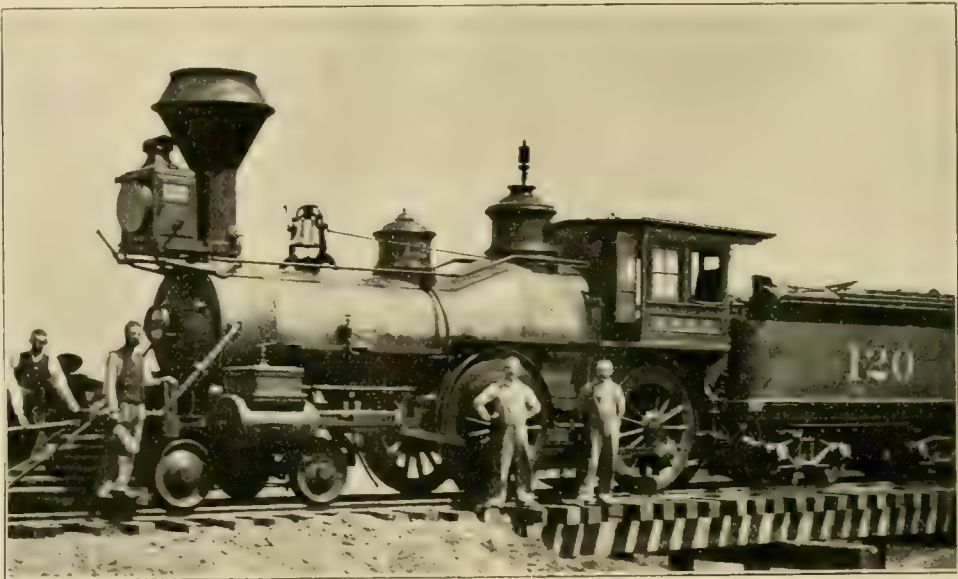
In 1886 the town received another substantial boost, by the arrival of R. O. Phillips, president of the Lincoln Townsite Company. He bought a half-section of land adjoining the town on the north, at big figures, and it resulted in corner lots going sky high. This was soon followed by the B. & M. Railroad surveyors up the Muddy valley, who included Broken Bow in their line of survey. Not only townsite speculators and business men rushed in to secure desirable town property, but within a few months homesteaders had filed on all the desirable farming land in the vicinity. Among those who preceded the locomotive, or came soon after its arrival in that year, were: Freisheimer & Haeberle, druggists; S. B. Thompson and House, and B. S. Lilly, real estate agents; C. B. Hayes, boots and shoes; J. C. Bowen, grocer; Hans Dierks, lumber; Bogue & Sherwood, lumber; the Chicago Lumber Company; W. H. Cline, general merchandise; W. J. Woods, furniture; Wilde & Squires, hardware; S. B. Frost, restaurant; S. A. Barstow, contractor and builder; Edwards & Emil, blacksmiths and wagonmakers; C. A. Thum, clothing; J. H. Inman, agent for the Lincoln Townsite Company. The railroad addition was surveyed and put on the market and a number of new buildings erected or commenced on the new addition, including a number of residences as well as business buildings. On the old townsite was built the Pacific hotel and Graham Brothers' store, which have since become the Grand Central hotel, one of the best equipped and best conducted hostelries in central Nebraska.

THE RAILROAD COMES

The B. & M. Railroad let no time go to waste after the survey was made. On August 26, 1886, the road was completed to Broken Bow and the first locomotive made its appearance in Custer county's rapidly growing capital. C. E. Wilkinson, of Lincoln, was the first station agent and telegraph operator, and afterward served as mayor of the city. In the latter part of this year O. P. Perley, a capitalist of Maine, located here and invested a large sum of money in the Custer County Bank. On

the 15th of February, 1886, it was organized as the First National Bank, with S. H. Burnham, president; L. H. Jewett, cashier, and O. P. Perley, assistant cashier. The following year the Central Nebraska Bank was established, with O. J. Collman, president, and J. H. Inman, cashier. The North Side Opera House block, the Inman hotel, the bank building, and a number of smaller buildings for both business and residence purposes, were erected on the Lincoln Townsite Company's addition. Also in 1887, G. W. Frey built the large flour-

among which we may mention the Union block (by Taylor Flick, H. Walton, and M. Reyner), the Realty block, the Inman and Globe hotels, Walton's and Blackman's barns, Morrison & Gandy's and W. C. Luce's feed mills, the Baptist, United Brethren, Presbyterian, Catholic, Christian, and Episcopal churches, the court house, two brick school-houses, the postoffice, and the I. O. O. F. building. The waterworks plant was put in under the supervision of C. A. Weeks, by a local company. The Bank of Commerce was



[Photo by S. D. Butcher]

FIRST TRAIN INTO BROKEN BOW, AUGUST 26, 1886

ing mill later owned and operated by S. J. Lonergan. A large planing mill was built the same year, by S. A. Barstow.

BIG BUILDINGS GO UP

In this year were established the additional business enterprises of T. M. & J. W. Salisbury, dry goods; Thompson, Wilson & Drake, dry goods; Ryerson & Leslie, books and stationery; H. Walton, drugs; and the Custer County block was built by R. C. Talbot, G. W. Trefren, and D. M. Amsberry; also an opera house by Trefren and Hewitt. The growth of the city continued gradually until 1894, many substantial buildings being erected,

established in 1889, with C. J. Stevens, president, and F. M. Rublee, cashier.

GETS TO BE A CITY

In 1888 the town had outgrown the rank of a village, and it was organized as a city of the second class. The first officers were: O. P. Perley, mayor; B. S. Lilly, J. L. Cobb, S. A. Barstow, Hans Dierks, councilmen; E. P. Campbell, city clerk; H. M. Sullivan, city attorney. In 1894, owing to a severe drouth and a financial panic, the population of the city decreased fully one-third, and several of the business houses suspended in the year following. The number included Kloman &

Arnold's bank, the Central Nebraska National Bank, Barstow's planing mill, William H. Cline, D. S. Lohr, Graham Brothers, and many others. Since 1895 the population has been gradually increasing, and several business firms have been added. The population in 1890 had reached over 1,600, and in 1894 it was estimated at 1,800. In 1895 the number did not exceed 1,100. The census of 1900 gives the population as 1,375. The census of 1910 boosts the population to 2,200, while the population to-day will probably reach 3,000.

In 1910 the population reached 2,260 according to the government census. The business interests have kept pace with the population and to-day it is the largest trade center between Alliance and Grand Island.

MODERN BUILDINGS GO UP

In 1910 the new high-school building was erected, at a cost of \$40,000. Building materials were cheap and an exceedingly fine building was erected at a remarkably low cost. In the same year a two-story, brick city hall was erected, on South Tenth avenue. It is the most commodious town hall west of Grand Island. It has basement, jail, with ground-floor apartments for the fire-fighting apparatus. In the upper story is the council chamber and an auditorium with chairs for seating about 500 people.

On the corner of Broadway and Tenth avenue the Baptist congregation erected a \$15,000 brick church, with basement and all modern fixtures. (See description in Chapter XI.)

Three more good buildings went up in 1915. The Security State Bank built a white-tile building on the northwest corner of the square and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows built the Lyric theatre, with a fine lodge room, and offices over head. The front of the building is of white, tile-faced brick.

The third building to go up in 1915 was the Carnegie public library, a neat, tile-roofed building, costing over \$10,000. The odd design of this building makes it very noticeable. Both the I. O. G. T. building and the library

are on the west side of Tenth avenue.

PLENTY OF GOOD, PURE, WATER

In the spring of 1888 a group of the citizens, seeing the need of an adequate water supply, and almost forced to take such action on account of the prohibitive



CARNEGIE LIBRARY AT BROKEN BOW

rate for fire insurance, undertook the task of organizing a stock company and building a waterworks system. The articles of incorporation are dated March 28, 1888, the capital stock was \$50,000, and the names of the incorporators are: S. J. Lonergan, O. J. Collman, D. M. Amsberry, A. W. Gandy, Marcus Reyner, John Reese, S. A. Holcomb, L. H. Jewett, James Holland, Wilson Hewitt, G. N. Rawson, and George W. Sturdevant.

After prospecting along the railroad, a location in block 3, F. Reyner's addition, in the southeastern part of the city, was selected for the pumping station, being the only place where a sufficient flow of water was found.

In the latter part of the year 1903 the city

purchased the waterworks system from Frank H. Young, who had become the owner of the controlling interest in the stock and who had been managing the plant most of the time since it was constructed.

In 1916 the old pumping station, which had supplied water for the city continuously for twenty-eight years, was abandoned and a new plant constructed, to do both the street lighting and pumping. The plant is located on Eighth avenue, on the south side of the railroad right of way. Here an abundant flow of water was secured at a depth of about 160 feet. Two wells were sunk, eight inches in diameter,

BROKEN BOW TO DATE

At the present time the city has a fine park, three large, brick school buildings, seven church buildings, city hall, court house, library, four banks, six grocery stores, four dry-goods stores, four hardware stores, three meat markets, five garages, three lumber companies, two novelty stores, three millinery stores, one men's-furnishing store, three jewelry stores, three drug stores, one book store, two grain elevators, two furniture stores, three hotels, three restaurants, and numerous other business places of miscellaneous nature.



DIERKS BLOCK, BROKEN BOW

and from the top of each, when disconnected, there flows a good stream of pure water. The equipment for pumping consists of two electrically driven centrifugal pumps, each a complete unit, and either one of sufficient capacity to meet the present demand for water.

The storage is provided by a concrete reservoir, on the hill south of town, holding about 160,000 gallons and affording a pressure of sixty pounds in the business part of town. The mains have been extended until the city now owns about six miles of cast-iron mains, all in good condition, and supplying about 550 consumers. The city has been most fortunate in the abundance and purity of its water supply, not a single case of disease ever having been traced to this source.

THE PUBLIC SERVICE CLUB

The commercial organization of Broken Bow is called the Public Service Club, as the above caption would indicate. It was organized in May, 1913. Its first president was E. R. Purcell, E. P. Steen being the first vice-president, with the following constituting the board of directors: A. E. Anderson, J. G. VanCott, A. H. Souders, E. P. Walter, J. S. Molyneux, Emery F. Bush, James Lomax, Charles J. J. Masin, C. A. Currie.

The following were the charter members: J. S. Molyneux, George Ayers, E. P. Walter, Carl P. Jeffords, J. G. VanCott, C. L. Mullins, Alpha Morgan, J. C. Lomax, L. D. George, A. E. Anderson, E. R. Purcell, C. A. Currie, George A. Kiffin, Emery F. Bush, J. G. Leon-



RESIDENCE OF N. T. GADD, BROKEN BOW



RESIDENCE OF JUDGE JAMES R. DEAN, BROKEN BOW



RESIDENCE OF J. M. KIMBERLING, BROKEN BOW

ard, D. M. Amsberry, Lewis E. Tanner, A. H. Souders, E. P. Steen, Charles J. J. Masin, A. J. Elliott, C. W. Bowman, R. S. Kuns, Horace F. Kennedy, W. F. Forest.

The object of the organization is to bring together men of unquestioned character and intelligence who are desirous of promoting the welfare and prosperity of the city of Broken Bow and the vicinity. Its aim is to secure the co-operation of the people in the community representing the agricultural, real estate, banking, commercial, manufacturing, professional, and educational interests. It is not to supersede or antagonize any existing business or social organization, but, by consultation and united effort, to work together for the common good, to aid and encourage experiments for more productive farming; to secure location of factories and other enterprises; to promote commercial progress and disseminate valuable commercial and economic information; to buy, sell, lease, and sub-lease real estate; to increase social activity, confidence, and harmony among all our people mutually engaged in useful occupation; and finally to use all legitimate means to protect and foster the business and social welfare of the members of this corporation.

In the Masonic Temple building the club has fitted up elegantly furnished rooms, which make luxuriant apartments and accommodate every social feature for which the club exists.

At the present time the following constitute the corps of officers and the personnel of the different committees. The names of the different committees indicate the extent and character of work carried on by the club.

Present officers — N. T. Gadd, president; M. S. Eddy, vice-president; E. P. Walter, secretary; L. D. George, assistant secretary; and J. C. Lomax, treasurer.

Board of Directors — N. T. Gadd, Frank Kelly, A. R. Humphrey, J. S. Molyneux, J. G. VanCott, A. E. Anderson, E. R. Purcell, C. S. Tooley, M. S. Eddy, N. D. Ford, and A. Morgan.

War Board — N. T. Gadd, Frank Kelly, A. R. Humphrey, J. S. Molyneux, J. G. VanCott, A. E. Anderson, E. R. Purcell, C. S. Tooley, M. S. Eddy, N. D. Ford, A. Morgan, E. P. Walter, and L. D. George.

New Industries — W. C. Schaper, William Darnell, S. W. Jacoby, and William Bruce.

Municipal — A. R. Humphrey, Dan Keplar, L. A. McClain, J. K. Hewitt, and R. H. Kuns.

Educational — Dr. C. L. Mullins, H.

O. Wittmayer, E. S. Holcomb, G. I. Sellon, and C. S. Tooley.

Field Meet — Arthur Melville, E. F. Myers, and J. K. Hewitt.

Finance — E. S. Holcomb, A. E. Anderson, and E. P. Walter.

Auditing — Charles Luce, Tom Brown, and C. S. Martin.

Public Improvement — George Ayers, John Tierney, W. G. Purcell, J. C. Lomax, and Emery Bush.

Mercantile — A. M. Drew, C. S. Tooley, Alvin Burke, A. H. Souders, and George Ayers.

Bowling Alley — Father Cornelius, Foster Jackson, C. H. England, J. G. VanCott, and C. A. Martin.



PUBLIC SQUARE PARK, BROKEN BOW

Booster — Harry Knapp, L. E. McWilliams, Joe Trevitt, J. F. Wilson, and J. G. Leonard.

Chautauqua — A. E. Anderson, M. C. Warrington, W. Schneringer, J. S. Molyneux, Frank Kelly, L. W. Wilson, T. W. Bass, and A. Morgan.

Agricultural — H. P. Gates, James Martin, John Squires, Homer Rupert, and C. W. Willis.

Entertainment — T. W. Bass, John P. Robertson, H. D. Huntington, Clyde Wilson, Henry Ayers, H. Possehl, and L. E. Cole.

established a store in his sod house, in 1882. The village was laid out in 1883, and a large building was erected by S. E. Edwards, the same being occupied by Blum Brothers, as a general store. In 1884 Ben Hardin established a general store, and William Ray launched out in the blacksmith business; R. E. Probert opened a hardware store, C. L. Long a drug store, and S. Leland & Sons erected a large water-power flouring mill. In 1877 a postoffice had been established at the Arnold & Ritchie ranch, three-quarters of a



ROOMS OF BROKEN BOW SERVICE CLUB

House — A. E. Anderson, A. H. Souders, and A. M. Drew.

Good Roads — Frank Kelly, James Martin, Ras Anderson, J. S. McGraw, and M. S. Eddy.

THE TOWN OF ARNOLD

Arnold was named in honor of George Arnold, who located in this vicinity in 1875, and who was a member of the ranch firm of Arnold & Ritchie. The original village site was located in section 28, township 17, range 25, in the famous South Loup valley, near the west line of Custer county, Nebraska, the land having been homesteaded by R. E. Allen, who

mile from the present site of the village, but in 1881 it was moved to the residence of R. E. Allen. Dr. J. H. Murray located here in 1884 and here he practiced his profession until 1890. In the year 1886 John Finch and Virgil Cannon opened a drug store, Alex Robertson a bank, and Miss Mary Robertson a millinery store. A large hotel and various other business enterprises soon followed. In 1891 Arnold boasted of a population of about 150, and the following lines of business were represented: A. G. & M. E. Hoffman, general merchandise; Allen & Son, hardware, implements, and livery; Frank Anson, hotel; C.

C. Parsons, barber shop; Albert Hansberry, jeweler; F. E. Needham, grocery and meat market; Joseph Pease, blacksmith shop; Ben Hardin, general store, hardware, and undertaking; T. H. B. Beach, general merchandise and dealer in live stock; David R. Parks, ice dealer; John Finch, druggist; R. E. Allen, dealer in live stock; B. E. Robinson, physician; W. M. Beach, postmaster; Alvin Harris, miller. At that time the village supported an excellent school, with Miss Amy Robinson in

of the center of section 27, township 17, range 25; thence west along said half-section line to a point sixty rods east of the center of section 28, township 17, range 25; thence north to the place of beginning."

The following named gentlemen were appointed as first trustees of the village: John Finch, B. E. Robinson, F. E. Needham, J. M. Samuelson, and F. M. Spegal.

At the present time Arnold has a population of about 350; a ten-grade school, with Pro-



[Photograph by S. D. Butcher]

AN EARLY DAY IN ARNOLD

charge, and Christian, Methodist, and Baptist churches.

On the 9th day of February, 1909, the county board of Custer county passed favorably upon a petition praying that the following described tract of land be incorporated as a village, to be known as the village of Arnold: "Beginning at a point on the half-section line sixty rods east of the center of section 21, township 17 north, range 25 west; thence running east along said half-section line to a point sixty rods west of the center of section 22, township 17, range 25; thence south to a point on the half-section line sixty rods west

fessor E. C. Pickett at the head as principal, J. V. Reader as intermediate teacher, and Miss Leora Hardin as primary teacher. The two-room school building, which afforded ample accommodation for several years, was much too small for the rapidly increasing school population during the present school year, necessitating the use of another room for the lower grades. A large and modern school building will be erected this year and, possibly, another grade added. Three churches, Christian, Methodist, and Baptist, all supporting resident pastors, are ministering to the spiritual needs of the community. At this writing, (some



STREET SCENE AT ARNOLD



FINCH DRUG STORE, ARNOLD



MASONIC TEMPLE AT ARNOLD



RESIDENCE OF JOHN FINCH, AT ARNOLD



RESIDENCE OF F. L. CLEVELAND, AT ARNOLD

time ago), the following lines of business are represented: Ben Hardin, general merchandise and hardware; B. E. Robinson, physician; W. H. Judkins, hardware and furniture; the Farmers State Bank, D. S. Bohrer, cashier; F. H. Gilcrest & Company, lumber, coal, and implements; Dierks Lumber Company, lumber and coal; John Finch & Son, druggists; Arnold Mercantile Company, dry goods and groceries; Parsons Brothers, harness shop; John Manara, barber; Ray & Reed, meat market; F. D. Reynolds, dentist; Mrs. J. Elsie Logan, physician; Morrow & Backes, contractors and builders; H. J. Bedford, publisher *Arnold Sentinel*; Charles Beardsley, jeweler and optometrist; Mrs. Charles Beardsley, restaurant and bakery; Duckett & Maddox, hardware and furniture; Helton & Roberts, general merchandise; the Peoples State Bank, W. H. Jennings, Jr., cashier; Knox & Logan, real estate and insurance; Mrs. H. R. Black, shoes and notions; S. McCants, dry goods and groceries; McCants & Sauter, meat market; John P. Long, farm implements; Confal Brothers, garage; S. Leland, roller mills; Grooms & Stewart, blacksmith shop; Phifer & Son, livery, feed, and dray; Nansel & Lohr, livery, feed, and dray; N. E. Paine, blacksmith shop; H. E. Bishop, cement-block factory and builder; Arthur Down, lather; Mrs. Gertrude Parsons, hotel; Charles McGuire, postmaster; John Samuelson, well-maker and plumber; Gus Morrow, painter; G. G. Gunter, plasterer and bricklayer; William Collins, restaurant; Wood & Smith, hotel; Finch, Robinson & Meads, real estate; P. G. Houghton, real estate; Dr. M. A. Rown, chiropractic; T. S. Wood, contractor and builder; R. S. Wood, painter; F. J. Smith, cement-block maker and plasterer; Stevens & George, barbers; Mark S. Tapley, plumber; C. V. Rutner, auto livery. The Beatrice Creamery Company, David Cole Creamery Company, and the Farmers Co-operative Creamery Company have stations here.

A BIG CELEBRATION

When the railroad was completed and the first train reached Arnold, a gala day was planned and six thousand people entered into

one of the greatest celebrations ever held in Custer county. The following is a newspaper account of the event:

"It seems hardly possible that a town of less than 1,000 inhabitants could entertain within its gates 6,000 guests at one time and do it in such a perfect and satisfactory manner that out of the vast throng not a single complaint was heard. And yet this is the record Arnold placed to its everlasting credit on Friday of last week, when it celebrated 'Railroad Day.' It was a great occasion and a great gathering, the crowd being one of the largest that has ever assembled in any town in the county.

"For many weeks this hustling and enterprising business town was preparing for the celebration, and all credit is due to the loyalty of its citizens and residents of the neighboring country, who so promptly responded to the demands made upon them and worked together as a unit in successfully putting through an affair that will for all future be marked as a red-letter day in the history of Arnold.

"From early morning, people commenced pouring into town from every point, and large numbers had arrived the night before. Broken Bow contributed about 150 of its population to the occasion, and it took twenty-eight autos to convey them there. Callaway sent 400 delegates, Oconto 200, Merna and Anselmo about 100, and Grand Island 150. Gandy, Stapleton, Gothenburg, and all towns located west of there sent large delegations.

"But it was when the Kearney special arrived that the biggest bunch of humanity dropped into town. The train was composed of ten coaches and was crowded to the roof, there being between 1,500 and 2,000 people aboard. It was a great sight to see them scramble from the windows of the coaches in their haste to reach the scene of festivities.

"No stranger's money was any good there, — everything was free, and then some! Even the stores were closed, so as to preclude the possibility of any thoughts of a 'rake-off.' Every detail had been looked after so minutely, by competent management, that the visitors had no trouble in getting just what they wanted at the right time and in the right place — and

in a hurry, at that. That was the beauty of it. There were no delays, and the whole affair glided along like a well constructed piece of mechanism using the finest quality of lubricant.

"There were four blocks of gaily decorated streets, the red, the white, and blue bunting being so arranged as to present a very attractive appearance. Another artistic feature was the placing of poles at about thirty foot intervals, the top of each being festooned with a flag of welcome. Every business place and residence sported some kind of decoration, and if ever a town presented a gala appearance, Arnold was certainly it. Five good bands were in attendance and there was music galore. Grand Island and Kearney both sent excellent bands, as also did Brady and Callaway. Arnold has a good organization of its own, which furnished pleasing music that was highly appreciated by the visitors.

"The feeding of such a multitude of hungry people was by no means an easy task, and called forth no little ingenuity on the part of the management to properly manipulate it. But it was done as it should have been, and if any person left town carrying with him that 'gone feeling' about his stomach, it was strictly his own fault and could not be laid at the door of the hospitable hosts and hostesses.

"And the food — there were mountains of it. Wagon-loads of buns, gallons and gallons of pickles, great mounds of juicy roast beef, oceans of coffee, so aromatic as to cause one to linger around in blissful ecstasy and just sniff and sniff; also pyramids of home-made pies and cakes, not bought ones, understand, but every one made by the good housewives and daughters of that vicinity, who are well up in that sort of thing and thoroughly understood the art of preparing wholesome dainties for hungry people. No pure-food problem in the cooking they put up — it's the genuine article and plenty of it.

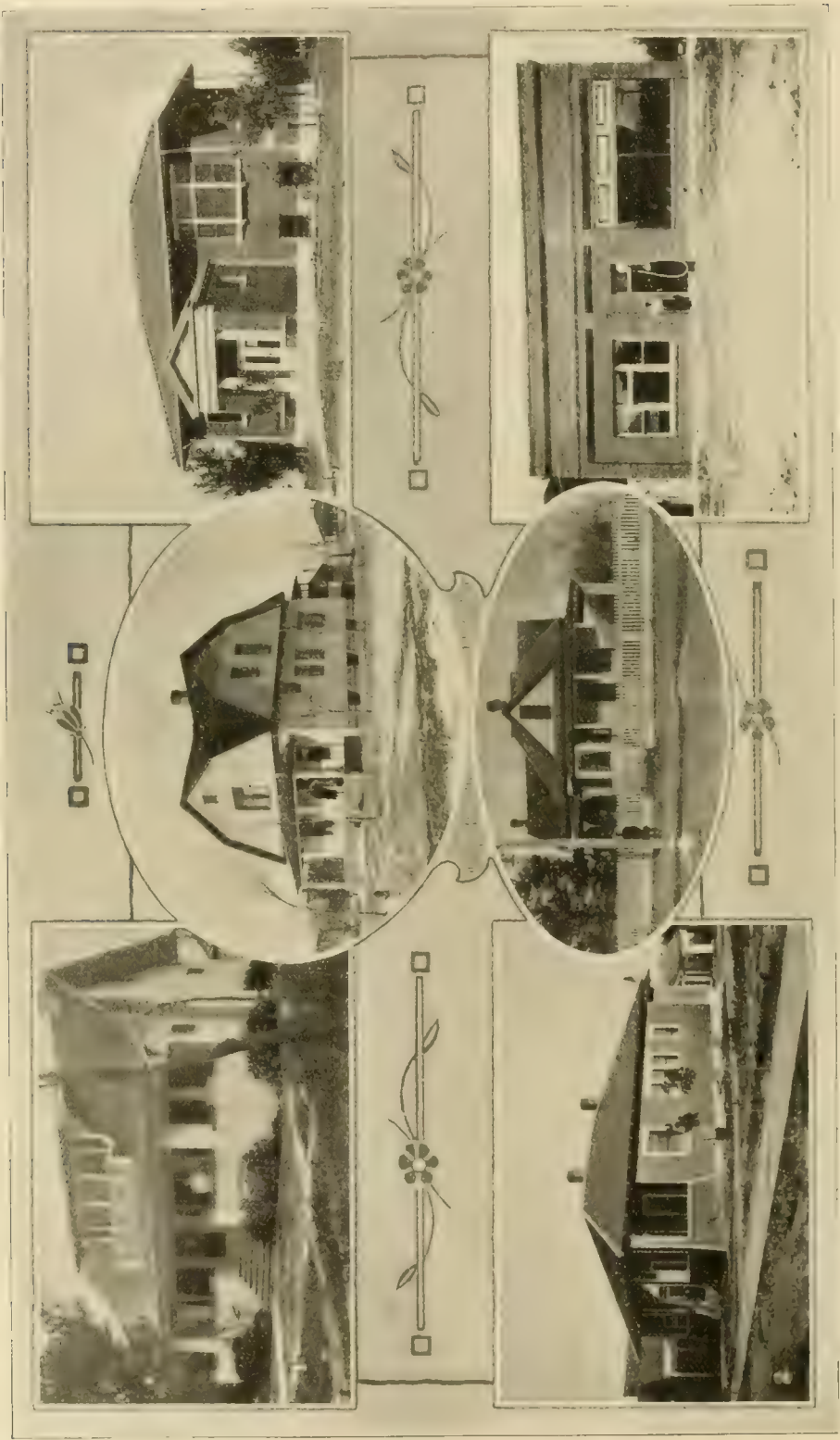
"The dinner was served cafeteria style. There were two large tents and as one entered the first he was given a wood plate, then came a sandwich, next a pickle, further on great slices of roast beef and pork, then fol-

lowed a big wedge of pie and a huge slice of cake, a tin cup containing coffee and then the knife and fork. About this time, your plate was so loaded down with good things that it was difficult for you to carry in that manner, so you passed into a second tent, seated yourself and proceeded to transfer the food to a place where it would do the most good. Then you passed out, deposited the cup among a heap of others, dropped the knife and fork into a receptacle placed there for that purpose, and threw the plate away. If your hunger was not satisfied, you were at perfect liberty to return to the first tent and repeat the performance. Talk about picnics. This had all the others of a like nature faded to an insignificant blur. And the best part of it was, the people were pleased. How could they help from feeling so, after the royal entertainment they had received?

"Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Reed, living in the oldest sod house in Arnold, issued invitation dinner-tickets to the railroad officials and heads of commercial clubs and their families. There are three large rooms in the house, and in each was a long table loaded with food and delicacies of all descriptions. Here the diners feasted to their hearts' content, and all voted Mr. and Mrs. Reed to be the very paragons, of what a model host and hostess should be.

"The afternoon was devoted to speech-making, music, and sports. Judge C. L. Gutterson and County Attorney Beal, of Broken Bow, both made short talks, as also did Rev. Mr. Fagin, of the Arnold Methodist church. They all spoke along congratulatory lines and highly complimented the citizens of Arnold upon the splendid effort they had made.

"Although the citizens all worked so well together, it necessarily remained for some one to supervise, and no small amount of credit is due Messrs. John P. Long, J. M. Samuelson, John Finch, and Rev. Mr. Fagin for the wholehearted way in which they circulated among the people and made them feel at home. Broken Bowites who were so fortunate as to be present, declare it to be the best arranged celebration they ever attended in this part of the country.



BUILDINGS IN MERNA

1—Residence of S. Van Buskirk. 2—Residence of W. E. Sweeney. 3—Residence of D. W. Widaman. 4—Residence of A. O. Gordon. 5—Merna Public Library. 6—Garage of B. S. Wells.

"The *Arnold Sentinel*, edited by J. H. Bedford, got out a souvenir edition for the occasion, numbering twenty-four pages. These editions, which were given to the visitors free of charge, contain all kinds of useful information about Arnold, its pioneer days and rapid growth of late years. The pages are finely illustrated with local scenes and pictures of prominent residents. It is a handsome edition and well worthy of the energetic town it represents."

VILLAGE OF BERWYN

At the time of this writing the village of Berwyn is thirty-two years old, and if it is small for its age, let it be understood that the size in no way reflects on the enterprising



BIRDSEYE VIEW OF BERWYN

spirit of the citizens. It is a convenient trading point and community center for the people on the adjacent farms and makes no pretensions to being anything else.

It was laid out in 1886, by the Lincoln Townsite Company, on the north side of the railroad grade that was then being extended up the Muddy valley. The location centers on the section line which runs east and west between sections 16 and 21, township 16 north, range 19 west. The half-section line running north and south through these sections divides the town east and west and forms the principal business street. In the same summer, J. O. Taylor, a substantial pioneer farmer, erected on the new townsite the first store and put in a stock of dry goods and groceries. About the same time R. P. McKnight put up another store building and used it jointly for

a store and restaurant. Later, McKnight made application for a postoffice and was himself commissioned the first postmaster of Berwyn. The following winter the Dierks Lumber Company established a branch office and put in a fine stock of lumber and such other accessories as generally pertain to the lumber business. A little later the West elevator was erected and a blacksmith here located early the next spring. About this time W. H. Mauk and H. S. Wayse put in a general hardware store, and the town was well started if not full fledged. It is today a prosperous vilage of modest proportions, with a population of about 300.

THE HUSTLING TOWN OF MERNA

One of the best little towns in the central part of the county is Merna, located twelve miles northeast of the county seat, on the main line of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. For many years it enjoyed the dis-



MERNA ELEVATORS

tion of being the grain market of the county. Before the Union Pacific was extended to Arnold and much of the grain from the West table found an outlet through that town, Merna handled and shipped more grain than any other town or railroad point west of Lincoln. In the days when the West table grain came down the west hill, Merna kept three elevators working almost night and day. She developed then the energy and push which present today a neat, brick-built village with modern homes and all municipal improvements.

The citizens of Merna are patriotic to a degree and in every war-drive have far exceeded their allotments or quotas. One of the most remarkable public sales ever held in the county



GROUP OF RESIDENCES, AT MERNA

1—Max Venger. 2—R. D. McCarty. 3—A. L. Woods. 4—Mrs. W. H. Reader. 5—A. L. Cosner. 6—J. W. Taylor. 7—R. R. Dimcan. 8—H. K. Atkisson. 9—C. W. Layton.

was the Red Cross sale held on the streets of Merna in May, 1918, in which donated articles to the amount of \$4,400 were sold and the proceeds contributed to the American Red Cross war work. This sale far exceeded the one held in Broken Bow one week previously, and stimulated the people of Anselmo to make a \$6,000 sale one week later.

ATKISSON SPEAKS FOR MERNA

H. K. Atkisson, one of the leading spirits of Merna, who has been long in the town, gives us the following concerning town history:

"In 1881 W. G. Brotherton took a claim where the town of Merna now stands, building a small sod house, which he occupied with his wife, as a home, postoffice and store, he being the second postmaster. Mr. Sam Dunning had been the first postmaster and the town was named after his daughter. Other early settlers in the community were C. P. Foote, Scott Hanna, S. H. Read, Reuben Gordon, Warren Gordon, William Reede, Andy Somner, Joe Siltter, Samuel Dunning, Al Thomas, Charles Thomas. Most of these men were unmarried, there being but three women in the settlement—Mrs. Brotherton, Mrs. Foote and Mrs. Dunning. These people were all farmers and homesteaders. In 1883 the postoffice and store, which comprised the town, were moved two miles west and north, in section 36, and a townsite company formed. J. D. Strong, Milt Casteel and W. E. Warren were added to the community at this time. Warren built a little shack and sold drugs, and Strong and Casteel formed a partnership with Brotherton in the general store. In 1886 the Lincoln Townsite Company purchased Brotherton's claim and relocated the town on its former site, and the 'town' moved back again. In the fall of 1886 the railroad was built through the place and on to Anselmo. The town has grown not rapidly, but steadily, and is now a prosperous village, with good farms surrounding it, and real estate sells at a figure that the pioneers would have considered an impossible dream in the early days.

"The postmasters have been as follows:

Samuel Dunning, W. G. Brotherton, C. P. Foote, R. J. Kelly, J. S. Francis, and Joe Fenimore.

"The first newspaper was published by E. R. Purcell. After his removal to Broken Bow the town was without a paper for some time. Then a young man named Miller started a paper. This was not very long-lived and again the town was without its local news. Then Albert Lazenby tried the field of journalism and found it barren. In 1906 F. E. Pinch came into the town and, being an old newspaper man, established a paying business, naming his new paper the *Merna Postal Card*. After two years he disposed of his business to Claude Hall, who was the owner and pub-



RESIDENCE OF DR. J. H. MORROW, MERNA

lisher for some four or five years, when he sold it to Mr. Dutton, who is the present owner and editor. The name has been changed to *Merna Messenger* and it is a live local paper, receiving a good support.

"Merna at the present time is prospering very satisfactorily. During the last year the large, brick store building belonging to H. K. Atkisson and occupied by the firm of C. R. Atkisson & W. Davis has been built, also the fine garages of B. S. Wells, and W. Ferritor. Several fine dwelling houses have been erected, among them are the homes of Mrs. W. H. Reeder, John Hipsley, Mrs. J. S. Francis, Miss Anna Kloven, and H. K. Atkisson. The business of the town consists of two general stores, one grocery store, two banks, one drug store, four garages, two blacksmith shops, one collecting agency, one hotel, one restaurant, one exclusive auto agency, one real-estate

agency, two hardware stores, two machinery agencies, one jewelry store, one furniture and undertaking establishment, one moving-picture theatre.

J. C. Moore has arrangements made for a new brick garage to be erected as soon as the material can be secured.

"The professional men are represented by two physicians, one dentist, three clergymen and a splendid corps of teachers in the public school. Merna has had fine Chautauquas for the past five years, and a lecture course every

valley, is located on the Grand Island and Wyoming branch of the B. & M. Railroad, fifty-seven miles northwest of Grand Island, twenty-three miles southeast of Broken Bow, and forty-five miles north of Kearney. The location of Mason City, situated, as it is, in almost the central part of the southeastern quarter of Custer county, is worthy of the attention of all who desire to locate in a town for which not only nature but also circumstances have provided for so abundantly, and one which will undoubtedly make a busy, hustling town of



[Photo by S. D. Butcher]

MASON CITY TWENTY YEARS AGO

year, much longer than that. The Chautauquas are well attended and self-supporting, the lecture course not quite so fortunate, as there are so many other attractions during the lecture course season.

"Merna furnished one soldier to the Spanish-American war, Roy Luce, who after the close of that unpleasantness returned safely and is at present living in Colorado. In all the contributions for the present war Merna and vicinity have done their part."

MASON CITY

Mason City, the "Queen City" of the Muddy

importance. The townsite was located by the Lincoln Land Company in April, 1886. The land on which the town now stands was purchased of Nels Anderson and Mrs. George W. Runyan, 160 acres being secured from each of these parties. About one-half of this 320 acres has been platted into lots, the other half being held by the company for the same purpose in case the growth of the town demands it. The slope from the hills to the valley is gradual, just sufficient for good drainage. Nearly all the different branches of business, trades, and professions are represented here by a live and energetic set of people. The following is a full list

of the different branches of business, and those who represent them as recorded by M. C. Warrington in 1901:

The Mason City Banking Company, with P. H. Marley, president, J. J. Marley, vice-president, and R. B. Walker, cashier. In addition to the banking business, Mr. Marley is extensively engaged in the real-estate business. The *Mason City Transcript* is the only newspaper published in Mason City. The paper was established by Martin & Dellinger in June, 1886. M. C. Warrington, the present proprietor and editor, has had active control of the paper since August, 1886, making him the oldest editor in point of service and continuous connection with one paper in Custer county. For some years past the editor has been ably assisted in the publication of the paper by William A. Anderson. The mercantile business of Mason City is represented by E. G. Burrows, general merchandise; W. C. Elliott, general merchandise; T. J. Wood, general merchandise; O. H. Moomey, general merchandise; S. M. Chase, general merchandise; A. O'Brien, hardware and groceries; G. P. Meek, fruit and groceries; Hurley & Warrington, hardware, harness, and farm machinery; P. A. Carlson, veterinarian; John M. Browning, hotel; J. H. McAdams, furniture; H. C. Chase, Jr., successor to Chase Brothers, druggist; J. P. Nelson, harness and machinery; Moomey Brothers, butchers; Deardorf & Duke, farm machinery, Miss Nannie Serveh, millinery; Mrs. O. H. Moomey, millinery; M. L. Lamb, collections and insurance; L. S. Ellsworth, attorney and solicitor; John Meek, livery; Dr. A. E. Robertson, physician and surgeon; John Taylor & Son, blacksmiths; J. T. Castellaw, blacksmith. Grain dealers: Central Granaries Company, W. C. Rusmisse, agent; Tierney & Wirt, James Fairfield, agent. Dierks Lumber & Coal Company, E. Myers, agent; M. B. Bunnell and James Fairfield, live stock; H. L. Crowley, dray and express; M. E. Kellenbarger, agent for the B. & M. Railroad; J. H. Welch, miller; G. F. Frasier, barber; Weimer Brothers, painters and paper hangers; Harvey Myers, photographer; H. W. Snook, optician and jeweler; Mason City Mill, John Seeley,

proprietor (former owner, J. W. Willis). The postoffice was established in 1886, George W. Runyan, postmaster, who was succeeded, in the spring of 1887, by W. C. Rusmisse. In April, 1889, L. B. Hill was appointed postmaster. M. C. Warrington succeeded Mr. Hill in September, 1893, and served until January 1, 1898, when he was succeeded by R. K. Miller, who is still postmaster.

The first merchant to do business in the village was A. Gates, who opened a store in July, 1886, in a small shed building. R. B. Walker was Mr. Gates' clerk. Mr. Gates retired from business in 1900. The first railroad train to



RESIDENCE OF JOHN T. WOOD, AT MASON CITY

enter the townsite was on July 27, 1886, and the then few residents of the town had a joyful celebration. Mason City was incorporated in 1887, and the school district, No. 169, was also organized in 1887. The schools of the village have always been kept up to the highest standard of excellence.

There have been some exciting occurrences in the history of Mason City. In November, 1886, a store building owned and occupied by Mack & McEndeffer, was destroyed by fire, and three persons, J. J. Hoagland, Malcolm Miller, and Malcolm McEndeffer, lost their lives. On July 2, 1892, a cyclone visited Mason City and vicinity, and damage to the amount of \$20,000 was done in the village. The schoolhouse, two churches, and many other buildings were destroyed. A great deal

of damage was done also in the country surrounding the town.

The religious interests of the people of Mason City were well looked after. There were three church buildings—the Baptist, J. R. Woods, resident pastor (this was the first church organized, and had a large membership); the Methodist Episcopal people erected a handsome edifice in 1899; the Catholic church organization has a neat and commodious place of worship, and services were supplied by Rev. Father Flannigan, of Dale.

The valley of the Muddy, in which Mason City is so favorably located, is from two to three miles wide and has been so often described by the enthusiastic tourist that to speak now of its superior advantages and adaptability in the requirements of the farmer and stockman would be superfluous. It is traversed throughout its length by the Muddy, a clear stream of pure, spring water, which at many places, and particularly at Mason City, has been utilized as water power of an almost unlimited capacity, by simply throwing a short dam across it. The valley at this point is about three miles broad. Going north across the valley we come to the hills, which at a glance seem rough, but a closer inspection discloses beautiful sequestered parks, broad terraces and level prairie land, very inviting to the eye of the agriculturist. Actual experience has demonstrated the soil of these lands to be as rich and productive as the valley land. Even the rougher hills and steeper declivities show the prolific nature of the soil by covering themselves to the very top with a luxuriant growth of grass that affords for stock a pasturage second to none in the Union. Further north a few miles is Clear creek valley, from two to three miles in width, thickly dotted over with unmistakable signs of thrift and prosperity. Here is one of the oldest settlements in the county, and the farmers are comfortably wealthy and happy. This valley extends from the northwest to the southeast, and is almost parallel with the Muddy valley, with which it unites some distance below. Mason City is reached from this valley through canyons which nature has provided as natural

road-beds, with easy road grades over the summit. An arm of this valley is called Elk valley and winds up to the high lands and spreads out, forming Lee's Park, a broad expanse of level land of several thousand acres in extent, and containing a thriving settlement of well-to-do farmers. This country is all tributary to Mason City. For a distance of three or four miles south of the town the country is gently rolling, well adapted to cultivation and grazing, and answering well the description of the country on the north side, except instead of terminating in several valleys, it rises to a level valley called "The Basin," which contains some ten square miles of extraordinarily rich farming land and is occupied by a class of farmers that would do credit to any country. What we say of the people of the basin, however, may equally apply to those of the whole country we are describing. They are Americans, as a rule, of education, and intelligence, with here and there one of the better class of Germans, Swedes, Danes, and Norwegians.

From Mason City, in every direction in the highlands, we find, in addition to the valleys and tables mentioned, a system of narrow valleys, small tables, high parks and terraces, separated by hills too steep and irregular for cultivation, but richly covered with a generous coat of native grass, which affords pasture much superior to the longer grasses upon the meadow of the valleys and tables. This pasture has a peculiarity which distinguishes it from all others. The grass is equally nutritious in winter and summer, and stock will fatten here in January, when there is nothing in a state of nature in the meadow to sustain life. The valley of Elk creek, one of the beautiful little valleys of Custer county, is almost wholly tributary to Mason City. This valley is settled by a good, thrifty class of farmers, who have fine homes and farms and are a prosperous and happy people. The shiftless, restless, migrating homesteader, who remained long enough to prove up and get a mortgage on his land, has given way to the more thrifty, more prudent, and more industrious farmer and stock-raiser. The business men and farmers of the southeastern quarter of Custer

county welcome the oncoming years with a feeling that there is still greater prosperity for all who apply business methods, honesty and industry to their transactions.

PRESENT-DAY BUSINESS INTERESTS

In the last decade and a half, Mason City has not made pretentious growth, but her business interests have been solidified and established on a permanent and paying basis. It makes no pretensions to be a city and has small ambitions in that direction. It does claim, however, to be a thriving village, with every facility for home-making that could be expected.

Concerning its business status at the present time M. C. Warrington, to whom the public is indebted for this story of Mason City, has this to say:

"Nearly every line of business and industry is well represented in Mason City. The different lines are represented as follows: The Mason City Banking Company is the oldest bank in Custer county, having been established in May, 1886, by Austin V. Hathaway. It is capitalized at \$25,000, and is recognized as one of the solid financial institutions of Custer county. Its officers are: R. B. Walker, president; P. H. Marley, vice-president; and Cornell Newman, cashier. Mr. Walker, under whose management it has been for the past fifteen years, has been connected with the bank for more than a quarter of a century. Mr. P. H. Marley, who is now a resident of Los Angeles, California, and who still retains large interests in Custer county lands, has been connected with the bank for thirty years, and it was his guiding hand which safely piloted the bank through the dangerous shoals and rough seas of panics and financial distresses, and drouth which overwhelmed the country in the '90s. The Mason City Banking Company has a large clientele of patrons and carries heavy deposits.

"The Farmers State Bank is another institution in which the people of Mason City take pride. This is comparatively a new concern, when its competitor is taken into consideration. The Farmers' State Bank was founded

nine years ago and its officers are: C. B. Lauridsen, president; E. W. Hiser, vice-president, and John T. Wood, cashier. The bank, which is capitalized at \$25,000, has a list of customers and patrons and carries a line of deposits which make it the envy of many older institutions. Since its establishment the Farmers' State Bank has been under the exclusive personal management of John T. Wood. Mr. Wood is a pioneer of Custer county, coming here at an early age, in 1884. He has had ex-



FARMERS STATE BANK, AT MASON CITY

perience as a farmer, merchant, and public official, serving four years as register of deeds, of Custer county. This bank erected for its own use, in 1916, a fine \$12,000 building.

"The *Mason City Transcript*, Mason City's only newspaper, so long owned and published by M. C. Warrington, is now owned and edited by J. F. Peebles, who is ably assisted by his wife. The *Transcript* has a big circulation in the country surrounding the town and is a factor for much good in the community. The paper is Democratic in politics.

"W. C. Elliott, E. G. Burrows, S. M. Chase, and H. L. Crosley have large stocks of gen-

eral merchandise. Mr. Elliott is the pioneer merchant of Mason City, commencing business in 1891. A. O'Brien, a resident of Custer county since 1882, now carries on an exclusive hardware store, but until recently also carried groceries. C. E. Bass & Company, with J. G. Bass as manager, carry hardware, farm implements, automobiles, windmills, pumps, etc. George J. Anderson is proprietor of the only meat market. R. H. Duke has the exclusive drug store. J. C. Nelson & Company have a harness and shoe-repairing store. Mrs. G. W. Whitehead has millinery and ladies' furnishings. Chase Brothers and Charles O. Lamb are proprietors of automobile garages. Mr. Lamb is completing a new cement-stone garage building, fifty by a hundred feet, for his business. Meek & Hawkins are proprietors of the livery barn. W. N. Hurley and J. W. Taylor are the village blacksmiths. Schultz Brothers, L. L. Narrazon, and T. J. Wood are the carpenters. Hans G. Arp and the Farmers' Shipping Company handle live stock. G. F. Frasier and Cleir Chrisman are barbers. W. C. Taylor is proprietor of a flour and feed store. A. A. Coxon and son maintain a restaurant. M. S. Fairfield has temperance drinking parlors. M. C. Carroll is resident agent and distributor for the Standard Oil Company, which has a large plant here. William F. Davis has the hydraulic-well and windmill business. E. W. Edwards and son have an automobile-repair shop. W. C. Elliott and F. S. Moomey are proprietors of the fine opera house, which contains three large store rooms on the first floor and a splendid hall and office rooms on the second floor. This beautiful building was erected in 1912. Dr. Ralph M. McClaughan is our resident dentist. Dr. A. C. Rumery and Dr. P. H. J. Carothers are the physicians who administer to the ills of the people. Dr. Carothers also maintains a fine, large hospital in connection with his practice. The Mason City Flour Mills is another local institution of which the town is justly proud. It is a large four-story structure, equipped with model machinery and uses water power furnished by Muddy creek. A. A. Karinow is proprietor and

enjoys a prosperous business. H. A. Doane owns and operates a cement plant in which a number of men find employment in the summer months. The Hotel Melvin is owned by Frank N. Mossman, and is operated by Charles Kennedy, a popular landlord. The Farmers' Shipping Company, a co-operative association, owns the creamery and handles cream, poultry, and live stock. Frank G. Hall is manager. The Central Granaries Company runs the elevator, with J. W. Fairfield as manager. Levi King and F. N. Mossman are land agents. The two banks also deal in lands. The pleasure and recreation of the people of the town are supplied by two motion-picture theatres, one owned by Lamb & Miller, the other by F. S. Moomey. There are two lumber and coal yards, Dierks Lumber & Coal Company, and the J. H. Melville Lumber Company, W. S. Moore, local manager."

The postoffice at Mason City was established in the month of October, 1886, with George W. Runyan as postmaster. For the first six months of the town's history the mail facilities were very poor and caused endless annoyance. The mail was brought across the country on a Star route to Algernon and then brought to Mason City by some one who volunteered to go after it on mail days. The letter mail was taken care of by H. B. Austin, cashier of the bank, while the paper mail was thrown into a box, for each individual to help himself. After holding the postoffice a few months Mr. Runyan resigned and was succeeded by W. C. Rusmisseil. On the change of administrations in 1889, Captain L. B. Hill, an honored veteran of the Civil war, was appointed postmaster. M. C. Warrington was postmaster from 1893 to 1898, when he was succeeded by R. K. Miller, who is also a Civil war veteran. J. W. Fairfield succeeded Mr. Miller, and was succeeded in turn by W. C. Rusmisseil, who is now postmaster. The postoffice has kept pace with the growth of the town and the surrounding country, and has two rural free-delivery routes and one Star route, supplying mail to a large territory. J. C. Spencer and Leo Spencer, father and son, are carriers on the free-delivery routes, and

E. W. Edwards on the Star route. It is rather an unusual incident that all the men who have been postmasters of Mason City live here yet except Mr. Runyan, who resides at Broken Bow.

OLDEST INHABITANTS

Among the present citizens of Mason City who were residents during the first year of the town's history are W. N. Hurley, H. L. Crosley, M. C. Warrington, and W. C. Rusmissell. Those who have lived in the town twenty-five years or more are: Messrs. T. J. Wood, G. F. Frasier, J. P. Nelson, E. G. Burrows, and Mesdames W. N. Hurley, H. L. Crosley, M. C. Warrington, Belle V. Robertson, Martha Chase, J. P. Nelson. Niels Anderson, from whom the west half of the townsite was purchased, with his family, has been an honored citizen of the village since he sold his homestead, in the spring of 1886, to the Lincoln Land Company.

FEDERAL OFFICERS

M. C. Warrington bears the distinction of being the only Mason City man who has been honored by appointment to a federal office outside of home. He is now register of the United States Land office at Broken Bow, having been appointed in May, 1916. Mr. Warrington was postmaster of Mason City under the second administration of Grover Cleveland. He has also been member and chairman of the village board, and has served as village clerk and treasurer, justice of the peace, chairman of the township board, besides serving ten years on the school board.

SARGENT

Sargent, a hustling village of over 800 inhabitants, is situated in the northeastern part of Custer county, in the midst of a fine agricultural and stock-raising district. It is located on the north side of the Middle Loup river, about one mile from that stream. Sargent is one of the oldest towns in the county, having been laid out in 1883. The first bank in the county is located here. The first building erected was the general store of J. K. Spacht, in the summer of 1883, and the loca-

tion was the middle of a field of wheat. The town grew rapidly and was particularly lively in the summer of 1888, when the B. & M. Railroad grade was built, and it was expected that the cars would be running into the town that fall. Owing to a big strike on the system, the road was not completed at that time. The drouth years of the early '90s caused the town to dwindle down to a mere shadow of its former proportions. In the fall of 1899, however, the railroad was built from Arcadia to Sargent, making the latter the terminus, and since that time the town has had a very substantial growth. The Independent Telephone Company, of Broken Bow, extended its line to Sargent in the fall of 1900. The same fall was erected a fine, two-story frame school



CITY WATER TOWER, SARGENT

building, which now houses one of the best schools in the county, under the charge of three teachers. Sargent has two churches, the Congregational and the Methodist. It has several fine business blocks, two newspapers, two banks, two grain elevators, and a creamery, with other lines of business well represented. Following is a complete business directory of the town, March 8, 1901:

Armstrong, D. E., windmills, pumps, and repairs; Austin, J. S., racket store, general merchandise; Barstow & Perrin, hardware, paints, and harvesting goods; Bridgford, Ben, druggist, R. W. Hicks, manager (Mr. Bridgford is an old pioneer and came to Mason City in 1886 with a drug store, which he ran seven years, and he is now located at Ord, Nebraska); Brown, M. F., contractor and builder; Brumbaugh, G. W., Commercial hotel and



RESIDENCE OF JAMES W. LUNDY, SARGENT



MAIN STREET, SARGENT



RESIDENCE OF A. P. SMITH, SARGENT



RESIDENCE OF DR. C. H. FENSTERMACHER, SARGENT



RESIDENCE OF W. B. KENYON, SARGENT



MAIN STREET, SARGENT

livery; Brown, E. R., Windsor hotel; Seers, Robert, contractor and builder; Currie Grain Company, grain and coal; Custer County Bank, James Haggerty president, Charles C. Gardner cashier, does a general banking business; (Charles C. Gardner is also postmaster and local agent for telephone line); Cropper, W. T., farm machinery; creamery, Beatrice Creamery Company proprietor; *Conhiser & Haggerty, general merchandise and groceries; Davis & Company, furniture, carpets, and undertaking goods; Dierks Lumber & Coal Company, lumber, coal, and building material, Frank Phillips manager; Fenstermacher, C. H., physician and surgeon; Freeman, Charles, liquors and cigars; Farmers & Merchants Bank, A. P. Cully, president, Charles Nicolai, cashier, does a general banking business; Graham, E. J., dentist; Geiser & Swanson, farm implements and hardware; Groff, Mrs. H., restaurant; Hendrickson, Charles, billiard hall; Harris, C. L., contractor and builder; Jacques & Barstow, grain and coal; *Leader*, newspaper, A. H. Barks editor and proprietor; Leininger, P. H., live stock; Little & Company, Farmers' Meat Market; McGregor Brothers, blacksmiths; Morris, Miss Gertrude, dress-maker; Mitchell, R. J., groceries, successor to B. W. Sullivan; Nelson, W. H., painter and paperhanger; Olson, T., restaurant; Perrin hotel, S. L. Perrin proprietor; Parks, C. W., live stock, successor to Parks & Cram; Pizer, J. B., New York Store; Savage, E. P., real estate and insurance, agent Lincoln Land Company; Savage Brothers, Star livery barn; Saunders, Walter, shoe and harness shop, general merchandise; Spacht & Lakeman, groceries and general merchandise; Saville, F. N., barber shop; Scriber, L. A., liquors and cigars; Semler, J. D., meat market; Shaw, D. M., brick mason and plasterer; the *New Era*, newspaper and job office, J. C. L. Wisely editor and proprietor; Toliver, John, auctioneer and salesman, restaurant and bakery; Tobias, A. A., jeweler and optician; Troxell & Johnson, hardware; Waynick, I. W., druggist, physician and surgeon; Werber, Rudolph, harness shop; R. H. Monroe, agent for the B. & M. Railroad and Adams Express Company;

Rev. Leslie, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church; Rev. Jones, pastor of the Congregational church; Professor H. H. Hiatt, principal of the Sargent schools, his assistants being Miss Mamie Cooper and Miss Nightengale.

ANSLEY

Ansley is an enterprising town of 1,000 population, located in the southeastern part of Custer county, on the main line of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad to the northwest.

The county around it is adapted to farming and stock-raising and these are the chief occupations of the people. The first settlement was made in the year 1886, in which year the Lincoln Land Company purchased from Anthony Wilkinson, a ranchman, the land upon which the town now stands, and platted the town, naming it in honor of a lady by the name of Ansley who had invested considerable money in real estate here. The first frame building erected was occupied by a lawyer by the name of George Snell. The second building was the store building of Edgar Varney, which he moved over from Westerville. These structures were soon followed by others, among them the Van Sant House, later known as the Commercial hotel, the drug store of Sam Royds, two bank buildings, the stores of E. H. Burrows and A. H. Shepard and the Eureka hotel. The private residences of E. H. Gaines and Dan Hagin were erected in 1887 and that of C. J. Stevens in 1888. Among the first citizens of Ansley may be mentioned A. H. Turpen, O. P. Allphin, Mrs. H. Stevenson, C. J. Stevens, Edgar Varney, Dan Hagin, E. H. Gaines, E. H. Burrows, D. A. Van Sant, Sam Royds, Thomas Blowers, A. H. Shepard, C. M. Dorr, James Davis, F. E. Gosselin, and A. L. and E. A. Butler, to whose enterprise and business judgment in those early times are largely due the later progress and prosperity of this community. Mr. E. H. Burrows, one of the old citizens, describes his first visit to Ansley in these words:

"I first struck the town in the middle of May, 1886. At that time, there was a tent and a wagon-load of lumber to mark the spot where



RESIDENCE OF CLARENCE MACKEY, ANSLEY



RESIDENCE OF J. T. MCGOWAN, ANSLEY



RESIDENCE OF C. H. F. STEINMEIER, AT ANSLEY

FIRST NATIONAL BANK AND STEINMEIER BUILDING,
ANSLEY

MODERN WOODMEN HALL, ANSLEY

the future metropolis of the southeastern part of Custer county was to be. I selected my lot for a building site at that time and went back east for a while, to await developments, returning about the 7th of July. On my return, I found more tents and more lumber on the ground, and a few shanties in the course of erection. We were compelled to haul our lumber for building purposes by wagon from Kearney, over sixty miles, which brought the price of six-dollar-a-thousand knot-holes up to the price of 'B' select. While staying at Ansley this time, I boarded at the West End hotel, a fine structure built of 'B' select, with kitchen, dining room, office, parlor, bathroom, and bedroom combined. Everybody was good-natured and the landlord expected his guests to 'double up' every night with whoever he saw fit to assign us, and at the first peep o' day the clerk would come and shake us, saying, 'Time to roll off them tables; the girls want to set the tables for breakfast,' with which request we cheerfully complied, pulling on our shoes as quickly as possible, going out of doors and leaning up against the knot-holes until the bell rang for breakfast, when we sat up to the table. The waiter then called out from the kitchen, 'Tea or coffee, which? you fellows on the north end.' Of course we said 'coffee' because it had more body than tea, which prevented us from seeing what was floating about between the bottom and top of the cup. The waiter brought in a plate of hot biscuits and another with eggs and bacon, set them on the table and said, 'Now, boys, help yourselves.' We waited for some time, wondering if we were expected to use our hands for plates and our fingers for knives and forks. We finally asked the waiter if that was the intention. He replied, 'Come off the dump! Shoo! Shoo! Shoo! There is your tableware.' And sure enough there it was. We had failed to remove the cover of fat, saucy flies that had taken possession of our plates as if they had expected to be waited upon first. Such was my first experience with Ansley. When I arrived a third time, after an absence of four or five weeks, I found that a great change had been made — from a brown prairie to a busy

village. I found about twenty buildings, in different stages of erection, my own among them, which was partly inclosed. I scraped a lot of shavings together, spread down my blankets and slept under my own vine and fig tree. But, alas! not alone. After I fell asleep, I dreamed I was a boy again and went down to the creek to take a swim, and just as I was ready to take a plunge into the water, I fell backwards into a bunch of nettles. I awoke, and as soon as I got myself located, I realized that it was not nettles, but fleas."

The railroad was put through Ansley in the fall of 1886. Mr. Fred Gosselin was the first operator. The putting of the railroad through not only brought Americans, but also folks from across the seas to share in the bounties of this western country. One of these, Mrs. Anna Thessen, in a letter from Mason City addressed to Mr. E. P. Gaines and dated June 16, 1918, tells of her first visit to Ansley:

"As I read the question in your advertisement, I thought that I would send in a few items. It is thirty years ago, the 21st of this month, that I, a young girl of seventeen, fresh from Germany, came to Ansley. As I couldn't talk American, I did the next best thing and got an English-German dictionary, in which I looked up such words as 'hotel,' breakfast,' 'how much,' 'coffee,' 'tea,' 'team,' 'livery barn,' and so on, and that way found the hotel, asked for breakfast, paid for it, hired a team and was taken to the farm of John Graf. The hotel was called the 'Cottage Hotel' and was kept by either Mrs. Van Sant or Mrs. Alex Moore; anyhow it was one of the two. The livery barn was kept by Ed. Sloan and was standing west of Harry McNulty's restaurant. I also bought candy at Edgar Varney's store. The bank, I think, was run at that time by C. J. Stevens."

The motto of Ansley is: "Push, that's Ansley," and the enterprise and thrift of its business men have proved its proper applicability. They are, and have generally been, men of unselfish service, broad vision, and community pride — men whose aim is, and has been, to serve the community as well as themselves. And whatever this town may become, it will

owe much to those sturdy pioneers who, in defiance of hail, hot winds, and drouth, blazed the trail that others have followed to success and opulence.

ANSLEY'S BANKS

The first bank in Ansley was established in the year 1888, by C. J. Stevens, F. M. Rublee, and B. F. Haeke, and was known as the Ansley Banking Company. In 1902 C. Mackey, Frank Young, and T. T. Varney bought out the banking company and reorganized it as the First National Bank. It continued as such until 1916, when it was changed to the State Bank of Ansley. Its present officers are : President, C. Mackey; vice-president, B. J. Tierney; cashier, R. A. Studley; assistant cashier, E. O. Morris; other stockholders and directors, Andrew Sherbeck and Anthony Wilkinson. Its present capital and surplus aggregate \$40,000 and its deposits \$500,000.

In the year 1887 Peter Fowlie and William West organized the Bank of Ansley, but this failed in the year 1890.

The Farmers' State Bank was organized in 1905. Its first president was Walter E. Newcomb and its first cashier was George E. Richtmyer. Mr. Newcomb was succeeded by Frank Baker and he by George E. Richtmyer, who continued as president up to the time of his death, October 1, 1917. The present officers are: President, Frank Baker; vice-president, Lewis S. Newcomb; cashier, Grover A. Holeman; assistant cashier, A. C. Van Horne. In the 1907 panic this bank never refused to cash a check. Its present authorized capital is \$25,000 and its deposits amount to over \$200,000.

The Security State Bank was organized February 5, 1915. Its first president was A. P. Dobesh and its first cashier was F. N. Austin. Its present capital and surplus amount to \$21,000 with deposits of \$220,000. Its resources have increased from \$57,840.97 in August, 1915, to \$244,983.89 in August, 1918. Its present officers are: President, William Ihlow; vice-president, Henry Schmid; cashier, E. P. Gaines; assistant cashier, D. C. Thompson.

ANSLEY'S MERCANTILE ESTABLISHMENTS

The first merchant in Ansley was Edgar Varney, who moved his store over from Westerville and put it in charge of his son, T. T. Varney, in the early part of the year 1886. The same year, Thomas H. Blowers also moved from Westerville. About the same time, W. D. Fritz opened up the first hardware store, in the building with Edgar Varney. The following year saw the advent of E. H. Burrows, A. H. Shepard, Gaines & Hagin, and the Butler Brothers. Burrows continued in business up to the year 1912, when he disposed of his interests to E. L. Kelley and removed to Los Angeles, California. A. H. Shepard was in business up to 1916, when he disposed of his stock of goods to his son, Archie H., and his daughter, Myrtle C., and entered the post office. Gaines & Hagin ran their business until 1909, when they dissolved partnership, Hagin disposing of his interests to Gaines and, later, starting a new store, which he continued to run until 1913. Gaines continued at the old stand up to the time of his death, January 2, 1915, when his sons disposed of his stock of goods. Thomas H. Blowers, in the early part of the '90s, traded his mercantile business for the milling interests of A. W. Hawk, who operated it with C. J. Stevens and I. Clark about ten years. Of the present merchants, C. J. Stevens started his present store in 1895, J. H. Kerr in 1899, F. P. Hawk in 1903, L. F. Landmesser in 1907, J. H. Varney in 1914, and Shepard & Shepard in 1916.

The first furniture and undertaking establishment in Ansley was run by Fred Gosselin, who opened it in 1889 or 1890. The R. G. Applegarth Furniture and Undertaking Company have been in business since 1906. Mr. Applegarth died in the year 1916, since which time the manager, H. D. Reed, who has been with the company from the first, has had sole charge. Mattley & Hoover and C. J. Stevens both carry a line of furniture, while the former also do an undertaking business.

The first hardware dealer was W. D. Fritz, but the Butler Brothers and Gaines & Hagin also carried a full line of hardware and farm machinery. In 1902 W. S. Mattley began sell-

ing hardware and farm machinery, disposing of his business to his brother, Charles E., in May, 1914. In April, 1916, the firm became Mattley & Hoover, through the admission of C. B. Hoover. D. W. Thompson sold farm machinery from 1903 to 1913. The present dealers in farm machinery are J. D. Knapp and Hiser & Detwiler. Mr. Knapp has been in his present business since 1906 and Messrs. Hiser and Detwiler since 1914.

From the start, all of the general mercantile stores carried lines of clothing. Our present clothier is Roscoe G. Secord, who keeps a full line of men's furnishing goods—hats, boots, shoes, rubbers, neckties, and collars. Our tailor, Otto Winter, who came in September, 1916, also takes orders for suits, besides doing a cleaning and pressing business.

The first milliner in Ansley was Miss Wilhelmína Mengel (now Mrs. M. C. Warrington, of Mason City), who opened a shop the year that the village was started. Then came Miss Nettie Worden (now Mrs. R. M. Hayslip). She was followed by Mrs. Mary Wakelin, and she by Miss Augusta Worden. Later the Worden sisters, then Mrs. Hoover and Mrs. Holman, entered the millinery business and conducted it for several years. The present milliner is Miss Mary Geeseman, who has been in the business since 1914. Others who have carried a line of millinery since the beginning of the town have been E. H. Burrows, A. H. Shepard, and C. J. Stevens.

ANSLEY'S MILLS, SHOPS, LIVERY STABLES, ETC.

The first blacksmith was C. M. Dorr, who came at the founding of the town, or soon after. A few months later, William Davis entered into business with him. This partnership continued for several years, when Davis sold out his interest to Dorr, who continued to run it for a few months longer, when he finally disposed of it to Joel F. Lannum. Later William Burdett went into the carriage and wagon business in the same building, hiring a blacksmith to do his iron work. Shortly after the location of Dorr, Charles Gessright opened up a wagon shop on the lot where the home of T. N. Southard now stands.

Dana M. Saville was also a blacksmith here, removing from Westerville in May, 1904, and continuing in business until October, 1914, when he was forced to quit, by reason of ill health. The present blacksmith is George Gravley, who came to this place in 1914.

The first barber shop was run by A. H. Turpen. The present barbers are S. P. Varney and R. D. Breeden.

In the fall of 1886, A. W. Hawk and his son, C. W., bought from the Martin Brothers the Algernon flouring mill, which, in 1890, they moved to Ansley. This mill they later traded to Blowers & Clark. It finally came into the hands of C. J. Stevens, and it was burned in the year 1906.

Ansley's first carpenters were O. M. Geeseman, Sid. Harris, Ed. Harris, Racine Wiget, Henry Klick, Jack Storey, Henry Hogg, and Al. Hoover. The first baker was J. A. Mauler. He came in 1903 or 1904. He was followed in 1909 by J. F. Russell, who has been in the business ever since.

Joe Moore opened the first garage, in 1908. In 1915 Templin & Wozney built their large garage, at a cost of \$6,500. This garage is now run by the Marsh Auto Company, composed of H. Guy Marsh, G. H. Holeman, and A. C. Van Horne. The garage of E. A. Butler & Son was erected in the fall of 1916, and, including stock and fixtures, represents the value of \$20,000. E. A. Butler and his son, Harry, are salesmen for the Ford automobile company, of Detroit. The Hollenbeck garage, which makes a specialty of repairing cars, is run by the manager, C. R. Woolley. E. H. Norden runs a machine shop and makes a specialty of automobile repairing.

The first shoe repairer was Henry Abbey. Next came E. Clark, who sold his shop to Frank Mills, who in turn, in 1905, disposed of it to its present owner, Perry Foster. Mr. Foster also carries a full line of footwear.

A. J. Hookum has just installed a new Sano mill, with the capacity of fifty barrels of flour per day. The first meat market was run by Anthony Wilkinson. Others who have engaged in the meat business are John Davis, William Zimmerman, Clerk Hanna, O. H.

Moomey, Wes. Moomey, Jake Paine, Norton Amsberry, Fred Simpson, E. B. Hyatt, George Hatfield, Will Garten, and Al. Govier. The present markets are the Ansley market, conducted by Perry Lanum, and the Sanitary market, conducted by Fred Maulick.

The first to engage in the well business was George Haines, about 1889. Henry Wakelin and Al. Harvell also were engaged in this business in the early years of Ansley. E. A. Butler sold windmills and well material from the commencement of the town. Hiram Curtis has been in the business since 1897, moving into his new building in 1917.

In 1887, Joe Rambo opened the first livery barn, where Butler's garage now stands. This building was later removed to the Lanum lots and is now one of the buildings belonging to Grand and John Lanum, who use it for a feed and sale stable. Others who have been engaged in the livery business are Alex. Moore, At. Sloan, James McMannus, Wallace Busic, F. P. and C. W. Hawk, Russell & Lanum, W. O. Phillips, and E. F. Hollenbeck.

D. A. Van Sant opened the first hotel in Ansley, the Commercial House, in August, 1886. It was afterward sold to Mrs. Eggleston, who ran it for a number of years. It is the building now occupied by Pat's Cafe. The Central hotel was opened by Fritz & Michael, on the lot that lies just east of the postoffice. The Cottage hotel stood where Harry McNulty's restaurant now stands and was conducted for a number of years by Mrs. Alex. Moore. Harry McNulty and Mrs. Edna Gaylord now conduct the two restaurants of the place, while our large rooming house is owned by Mrs. R. M. Hayslip.

J. W. Comstock has been in the harness business continuously since the beginning of the town, in 1886—first with a partner, Henry Abbey, and latterly, in 1907, with Fred Mills, since which the firm has been known as Comstock & Mills.

The jewelry business in Ansley was first represented by Henry Kirk, who came either in 1886 or 1887 and occupied a building near where the postoffice now stands. After three or four years, he disposed of his stock and left

the town. He was followed by Elsa Harsin, who had his shop with Walter Theobald, druggist. When Charles Hare bought the Theobald drug store he also purchased Harsin's jewelry equipment, and he continued to mend watches up to the time of his death. In the meantime a jeweler by the name of Snook opened a shop in the little building formerly occupied by S. P. Varney as a barber shop. He must have been a very good man, for, although we have consulted a score of the old citizens, we have been able to obtain but three facts in regard to his life: he was a jeweler, a Seventh-day Adventist, and his name was Snook. When Charles Hare died, in 1905, A. L. Butler purchased the jewelry business, which he has conducted ever since.

D. A. Van Sant was the first drayman and the first to make a business of moving buildings. He moved the flouring mill of Hawk & Son from Algernon to Ansley, in 1890. The present draymen are Clyde Pinckley and Andy Case.

The Star Theatre is owned by Mrs. Joyce Wellman and is operated by her manager, William Burdett.

There are at present seven creamery agencies in Ansley. The David Cole Company, of Omaha, is represented by A. W. Kimball; the Lincoln Pure Butter Company by Norton Amsberry; the Beatrice Creamery Company by J. D. Knapp; the Kirschbaum & Sons Creamery Company, of Omaha, by Fred Maulick; and the Farmers' Shipping Association, and the Fairmont Creamery Company by A. J. Hookom and William Mannen.

ANSLEY'S LUMBER AND COAL YARDS

The first lumber company to do business in Ansley was the Chicago Lumber Company, which entered the field in June, 1886. Its representative was a young man by the name of Cox, and he, with a small pile of lumber, landed here before any buildings were erected. In the fall of 1886 the Stevenson Lumber Company was established. Its manager was Brome Stevenson. The father of the manager was the first man to die in Ansley—from the effects of injuries received in being thrown

from a buggy. In this same year E. A. and A. L. Butler went into the coal business, remaining in the same until 1894, when E. A. went to work for the International Harvester Company and A. L. engaged in the restaurant business, removing the fixtures from Seward. The Dierks Lumber Company, which has been on the ground for a number of years, is represented in this place by its genial manager, O. D. Dean. Its investment here is \$60,000. The J. H. Melville Lumber Company, successor of the Turner Lumber Company, represents an investment of \$27,000. Its manager is Percy Reed. Both yards deal in coal and lumber. The Farmers' Shipping Association also deals in coal.

ANSLEY'S SHIPPING ASSOCIATION

B. J. Tierney began in the grain and livestock business in Ansley in the year 1887 and has been engaged in this line continuously ever since. In 1917, alone, he transacted business to the value of \$100,000. The Farmers' Grain & Livestock Shipping Association was organized in 1909. Its organic capital is \$10,000. Its stockholders number 125 and it has paid-up capital of \$21,000. Its president is A. P. Dobesh; secretary, James Allen; and manager, Sam. P. Negley.

ANSLEY'S DRUG STORES

The first druggist was Sam Royds, who was also postmaster. He came in 1886 and, upon his death, in 1888, his wife (now Mrs. B. J. Tierney), succeeded him. She conducted the business until it was sold to Charles H. F. Steinmeir, in 1906. Mr. Steinmeir now conducts a Rexall store and the value of his enterprise is estimated at \$40,000. The second drug store in Ansley was that of Rev. Walter Theobald, a Baptist minister, and it was opened shortly after that of Royds. This store was later disposed of to Charles B. Hare and was run by him for a number of years—until his death, in September, 1905, when the stock was sold to C. H. F. Steinmeir. Shortly after the death of Royds, his clerk, O. P. Allphin, opened a drug store, and he continued in business until 1912, when the stock was disposed

of to Dr. E. A. Hanna. Hanna, in turn, disposed of it, October, 1917, to Charles Chandler, who now conducts one of the best pharmacies in the state. The value of his investment is \$15,000.

ANSLEY'S PROFESSIONAL MEN

The first lawyer on the ground was George Snell. Shortly afterward J. A. Armour moved over from Westerville; he later served two terms as county judge. In the spring of 1888 came Hugh McConelly. Judson C. Porter became an inhabitant of the village in 1898 but died in 1903. J. R. Rhodes hung out his shingle October 1, 1893, and has practiced his profession here ever since, with the exception of four years (1894-8) which he spent in Broken Bow, as county judge. F. M. Bentley began the practice of law in March, 1904, but died two years later, in December, 1906. N. Dwight Ford, the present county judge, was also a resident of Ansley for some time.

Ansley's first physician was Dr. C. H. Morris, who practiced here from 1886 to 1893. Part of the time contemporaneously with Dr. Morris was Dr. Hawes, who left the town in 1894. Other physicians who have practiced in Ansley are Drs. Thomas, Anderson, Mullins, Imah, and Jennings. Dr. Grace M. Lewis, a sister of Mrs. J. H. Kerr, also practiced medicine here, from 1898 to 1902. Of the present physicians, Dr. E. A. Hanna came here from Elmo, Missouri, in 1895; Dr. W. R. Young came in 1897; Dr. C. L. Housel, in 1907; Dr. R. P. Higgins, in 1913; and Dr. H. C. Stadden in 1916. Dr. Hanna is a graduate of the Ensworth Medical College, at St. Joseph, Missouri; Dr. Young, of the State University of Iowa; Dr. Housel, of the Lincoln Medical College; Dr. Higgins of the University of Nebraska, and Dr. Stadden of the Creighton College of Medicine. Dr. Housel and Dr. Higgins have been serving their country in the medical corps, in connection with the world war.

Ansley's first located dentist was Dr. Kramer, now of Hyannis, Nebraska. Dr. W. A. Housel opened his office in Ansley upon his graduation from the Lincoln Dental College,

in 1905. His assistant is Dr. Curtis McCalister, also a graduate of the Lincoln Dental College.

ANSLEY'S ELECTRIC-LIGHT, WATER, AND TELEPHONE SYSTEMS

Ansley was the first village of the state, west of Grand Island, to have both city water and electric lights. The Ansley Electric Light & Power Company's plant was built and owned by C. J. Stevens and was enfranchised by the village, September 20, 1892. The waterworks company was organized and the plant completed in 1893. For this purpose, four thousand dollars' worth of bonds were voted and issued in 1892. The light plant, however, was destroyed by fire in the fall of 1904. Peter W. McTaggart & Company succeeded the Electric Light & Power Company, October 1, 1906. This plant, in turn, was also destroyed by fire, April 13, 1910. It was succeeded by the Municipal Light & Power System, June 6, 1910. This latter plant was completed the following year, at the approximate cost of \$21,000.

The first telephone company in Ansley was known as the Central Telephone Company and the plant was installed in the year 1903. The first manager was A. L. Butler and the first operator was Miss Grace Butler, now Mrs. Fred Maulick. The first 'phones in town were those of A. L. Butler, E. A. Butler, and J. H. Hiser. The present telephone company, known as the Ansley Telephone Company, had its origin in the year 1909, through the purchase of the plant of the Central Telephone Company. Its present officers are: C. J. Stevens, president; John McCullough, vice-president; Roy Patterson, secretary; R. A. Studley, treasurer. It has local and long-distance connections and 682 subscribers.

ANSLEY'S NEWSPAPERS

The following facts relative to the newspapers of Ansley have been furnished by Mr. C. N. Harris, himself at one time a publisher in the village. A short time after Ansley was founded, James Westervelt purchased the *Western Echo* of Westerville and, removing it to Ansley, published it here. This name was

later changed to the *Ansley Chronicle*, with two brothers, Will and Harve Chapman, as joint editors. In 1895 the plant was sold to Thomas Wright, who was its sole editor until about 1902. About the year 1900 A. H. Barks started the *Citizen* which, about 1902, was combined with the *Chronicle* and called the *Chronicle-Citizen*, Wright and Barks being joint editors and publishers. About two years later Barks sold his interest in the paper to Wright, who continued to publish it until 1907, Barks starting a new paper, the *Nebraskan*, which was discontinued after a few issues. Then, in 1905, Barks purchased the *Argosy* of Dr. McArthur, of Westerville, moved it to Ansley and published it here. In 1907 he purchased the *Chronicle-Citizen* of Wright and combined the two papers under the name of the *Argosy and Chronicle-Citizen*. June 1, 1908, this plant was sold to C. N. Harris, who continued to publish the paper as the *Argosy* until July 11, 1914, when the establishment was destroyed by fire. Thereafter the town was without a paper until the beginning of 1915, when Wright purchased the *Beacon* plant at Broken Bow, moved it to Ansley and began the publication of the *Ansley Herald* which he continued until June, 1918, when he sold it to J. A. Wallace, of Gilby, North Dakota, its present editor and publisher. During the years 1894-6 James Amsberry published in Ansley a Populist paper, which was called the *Advocate*.

ANSLEY'S POSTOFFICE

The first postmaster was Sam Royds, appointed. He died before his term expired and his wife, now Mrs. B. J. Tierney, filled out the term. In their order the postmasters, since Royds, have been Major E. S. Ellison, A. H. Turpen, T. T. Varney, Thomas Wright, E. P. Gaines, and A. H. Shepard. The first rural route was established in 1904, with Joe Hyatt as the carrier. There are at present three regular and two Star routes.

ANSLEY'S PATRIOTISM

The sons of Ansley have fought both in the Philippines and the world war. Those who

fought in the first were E. A. Miller, C. C. Cooper, H. L. Kerr, C. V. Pinkley, William Lawson, Oliver Winch, Seymour Burton, Nat. S. Sims, F. C. Rucker, Lemuel Clay, Alvin Coxan, Parlie Busic, Fred Peterson, and Walter Ashworth, the last named having died of disease, in the Philippines.

Up to August 15, 1918, Ansley had made the following contributions to the financial support of the government. She has purchased bonds to the amount of over \$151,000; she has bought war savings stamps to the amount of \$53,000; she has contributed to the Red Cross \$4,441.75; to the Young Men's Christian Association, \$1,100; and to the Knights of Columbus, seventy-five dollars. The town has stood ready to do all that was demanded of it in the giving of its sons and the contributing of its wealth to the cause of liberty.

Up to August 15, 1918, ninety-nine of our boys have answered the call and were either in training camps or on the battlefields of Europe. They are: Argyle Knapp, Art Dobesh, Paul Martin, Hermie Dewey, Dr. C. L. Housel, Albert Thessen, Dr. R. P. Higgins, Claude Hoover, Orrie Amsberry, Walter Anderson, Raymond Dewey, Glen McCollister, Perley Comer, Clyde Oglevive, Earl Harris, Earl Case, Clyde Geeseman, Edwin F. Lund, Lee McCollough, Wehland Hayslip, William McCormack, Harvey Porter, Roy Shepard, William Moore, Rosil Draper, Floyd Junk, Fred Graff, George Martin, Arthur Stuckey, Norman Spalding, Leon Fowler, Art James, William Rigby, Clark Springman, Clyde Wills, Everett Carothers, Ray Lockhart, Richard Thessen, Otto Price, William Mackey, Arthur Hein, Lawrence Berry, Ernest Wilson, Glen Brisbane, Clifford Paine, Roy Burton, Lawrence Bristol, Earl Fox, Charles Armour, Fred James, Lawrence Lowery, Fenton McEwen, Vernon Devine, Harry Zahn, Ralph Smith, Richard Thessen, H. R. Norden, Edwin Burrows, Harry Hildebrant, Joseph W. Cassell, Roscoe Coleman, Ivo Dewey, Earl Watson, Levert Farrel, Emil Malm, Noel Ritenour, Fritz Baalhorn, Sam Hoblyn, Roscoe Rhodes, Edgar Haines, Frederick E. Butler, Clinton

Applegarth, Bert Morrison, Clarence C. Arnold, Charles H. Munn, Wesley J. Anderson, John A. Crist, Alfred B. Mills, William Dudley Pester, Harry B. Duncan, Kresten Ray Jensen, Clyde Willis, Fayette Corlin, Henry Brown, James Rigby, William Ray Van Sant, Chester Harris, Wesley James Anderson, Henry Wrasse, G. Herbert Evans, Lynn Payne, Walter Smith, Alden Draper, Glen Glover, Frank Bubak, Jesse Holeman, Harry Hickenbottom, Leslie Nider.

Ansley! Fairest city of the prairie! May no portentous cloud arise to darken thy horizon! May thy sons ever be strong and thy daughters fair. And may the coming years behold naught but thy unfolding glory and increasing strength.

ANSLEY'S LIBRARY

The Ansley public library was first started by the Woman's Federated Club, in the fall of 1916, with books donated by the members and with a small purchase of new books. In 1917 the township elected a library board, consisting of Dr. W. R. Young, Mrs. D. W. Thomson, B. J. Tierney, F. B. Housel, and Lewis Newcomb. They also put a three-mill levy on the township for library purposes. At present we have on our shelves about 500 books and have made quite an extensive purchase besides. A large number of magazines have also been donated. The books are free to all residents of the township, but non-residents are assessed twenty-five cents per quarter. The board has an application in with the Carnegie library people and is awaiting their decision. If the decision is not favorable, a move will be made to build a building ourselves. The library is open Saturday afternoons and evenings. The weekly output of books is from thirty to fifty. Mrs. H. L. Fowler is the librarian.

THE STORY OF ANSELMO

[The story of Anselmo is contributed by Mrs. J. C. Moore.]

The village of Anselmo derived its name from Anselmo Smith, who was a civil engineer and who platted the towns along the Bur-



1 MAIN STREET, ANSELMO 2 STREET SCENE IN ANSELMO 3 COMMUNITY BUILDING, ANSELMO

lington Railroad for the Lincoln Townsite Company.

When he arrived on the ground where the town was to be platted, he was so impressed by the beautiful surrounding country, that he suggested this site would bear his given name, and to harmonize with this he named the streets and avenues after the men who settled on the land in the early '80s, namely, M. R. Foster, Harvey Said, and Walter Scott.

Anselmo Smith, being a man of vision, in looking through his field glass, probably foresaw the future of the village that was to bear his name. Looking north and west, before him lay the virgin soil, which few thought it necessary to cultivate, and the great, dry, sandy plains which up until this time had been left to the hunter and his prey.

To the south and east the engineer saw the beautiful agricultural valleys of Eureka, Ortello, Dale, Victoria, and New Helena, overshadowed by vast table land, together with Victoria creek, rising in the plains to the west, passing underground through Anselmo and coming to the surface again, in the form of mineral springs, in the New Helena valley.

A pioneer with vision, once looked beyond what had been done and saw what might be done, then did it. H. B. Andrews, one of the pioneers of the early '70s, saw in these vast prairies an opportunity to make a fortune out of the cattle business, and how well he succeeded, would be a history in itself. For the next quarter of a century, Mr. Andrews was a familiar figure in the saddle, looking after his vast interests. C. R. Mathews, another pioneer of the early '70s, who blazed the trail across the tortuous west, found ample compensation for the travail he endured, in the superb fruitfulness of his labors—coming as he did from far away Virginia. Only the pioneer can appreciate his early struggles.

The common remark, that the world is now in the engineering age, is well borne out by the history of the years now under consideration, namely the spring and fall of 1886. It was signally manifest, in that it marked the entrance of the first train over the Chicago,

Burlington & Quincy Railroad into Anselmo—a line of railway having been surveyed from Grand Island to the Black Hills—and Anselmo was platted in the fall of 1886 (November 20).

Henry Kelley erected the first building in the village, to be used as a drug store; C. F. Graves followed with a building to be used as a grocery store. Dorr Heffleman was already on the ground, located in a tent, in which, while his building was in the course of construction, he conducted a bank, afterward known as the First Bank of Anselmo.

While the town was being built, Harvey Said conducted a hotel in a sod house one-half mile from town. The first restaurant and short-order house was built by Thomas Flood, followed by what were then called modern hotels—the Bowman House, built by Crate Bowman; the Poor House, erected by Charles Poor; and later the Ong House, which is now known as the City hotel. The Bowman House was transferred to a new location by Moore Brothers, in 1911, and named the Commercial hotel. The present owner of the property is Al. Willet. The Poor House has long since gone out of existence. Weander Brothers conducted the first general store, after these came E. C. Gibbs, C. D. Pelham, Humphrey Smith, T. R. Brayton, T. P. Riley, James Phillips, William Fishroff, Fairchilds & Bodine, J. H. Brandenburg, Joe Michele, Hugh McKee, Pierce Cain, C. L. Tupper, Kelley Sisters, Doctors Stack, Hamilton, Kelley, and Gilligan, Thomas Russell, Otis Scovill, John Jessen, Kloman and Arnold, James Zane, William Stater, James McDermott, William Boyd, and others.

These were the merchants and business men of Anselmo from its infancy until 1895, and all did a thriving business. Then Anselmo met with reverses, on account of the drouth of 1894, and time passed slowly for the next two or three years, when business revived again, with G. M. Williams, store and postoffice; Lee Gordon, general store; H. K. Atkisson, general store; Wilson Brothers, elevator; W. E. Warren, elevator; Dierks Bro-

thers, lumber; H. B. Andrews, stock buyer; Charles Smith, hardware; Warren & Bass, general merchandise.

The old corporation was revived, after a slumber of four years. A village election was held and gave to the village board the following personnel: F. C. Wilson, chairman; H. K. Atkisson, clerk; W. E. Warren, Henry Kelley, and Crate Bowman as village trustees. The little town once more began to show signs of life, and so went Anselmo until 1903, when come J. J. Tooley, with the Anselmo State Bank; Moore Brothers, general merchandise; B. C. Empfield, hardware, (succeeded by W. H. Danielson); Frank Taylor, meat market; Williams & Johnson, general merchandise.

Among the prominent business firms and corporations now in the city are Moore Brothers, wholesale automobile dealers; Anselmo State Bank, with Charles Sanders president and Dave Christen cashier; People's State Bank, with Henry Kelley president and R. E. Thompson cashier; Farmers' Mercantile Company, Aloin Daily manager; Moulton & Bass, general merchants; Williams & Taylor, general merchants; W. W. Bass & Company, and Moore Brothers, hardware; J. W. Crist, Frank Taylor, meat markets; Kelley & Wills, H. S. Mittonberger, drug stores; John Runner, jeweler; Mrs. Barr, hotel; Jay Barton, restaurant; Henry Doty, T. P. Maroney, pool halls; Harrington Brothers and George Tappan, dray lines; Henry Morrissey, Roy Parsons, barbers; Jack Wells, blacksmith; H. L. Day, Frank Willson, wells and windmills; Dierks Lumber Company, Melville Lumber Company, Central Granaries Company, Farmers' Elevator company; J. R. Kalar, doctor; Moore Brothers, Dennis & McMurtry, William Knight, Thomas Mahar, garages; M. C. Leonard, R. H. Miller, real estate; C. G. Empfield, J. E. Fodge, contractors; *Anselmo Enterprise*, R. H. Miller editor; Mrs. May Gibson, millinery.

POSTOFFICE HISTORY

The first postoffice in the vicinity of Anselmo was named Wirt, with W. E. Ross post-

master; it was located two miles north of Anselmo. In the spring of 1886 Joe Michele was appointed postmaster at Anselmo and the Wirt postoffice was discontinued.

With the different administrations of the government Anselmo's postmasters changed, and in the following order the local postal service was efficiently looked after by Hugh McKee, Harvey Said, Henry Kelley, Granville Adkins, George Williams, Henry Kelley, Roy Atkisson, B. C. Empfield, Fred Brechbuhl, and Patrick Leonard, the present postmaster.

TOWN IMPROVEMENTS

From the early beginning of Anselmo the people of the community were optimistic and determined, as was well represented by men who made life a success. The buildings in the beginning were of frame construction, neatly planned and well taken care of.

Anselmo has always been blessed with real "boosters"—men who had enough faith in the town to put their money back of their ideas—such men as Dorr Heffleman, William Moore, David Christen, Fred Brechbuhl.

Confident progressiveness has been manifested by the organizations of the Workmen and Masonic orders, Moore Brothers, F. C. Wilson, the community (in building the Community Hall) and others who had seen the bright side of an optimistic life.

A municipal water system was established and a voluntary fire department was organized in 1911. On April 21, 1913, Anselmo had its first electric lights installed, by Christen & Brechbuhl.

It may not come amiss here to mention the beginning of the Ford motor car in Custer county. On May 17, 1910, the firm of Moore Brothers made a contract with the Ford Motor Company and estimated forty cars for the Custer county territory. On May 26, 1910, they received their first shipment, and on the following Sunday they delivered the first car, to E. Knoell, of New Helena. Anselmo was also the beginning of the Dodge Brothers' production in Custer county, by Moore Brothers. This firm received the first Dodge car

March 11, 1915. This car was sold May 12, 1915, to Jacob Geiser, of Sargent, who still owns it.

ANSELMO NEWSPAPERS

Anselmo very early in its existence had a newspaper, called the *Sun*, which illuminated the darkness that then prevailed. The first issue was from a tent, with S. I. Meseraull as its editor. J. H. Zerung, Ben Sanders, J. J. Tooley, and others tried their hands at making the *Sun* shine, but it eventually lost its luminary power, in 1890, causing a total eclipse, and was finally gathered into the bosom of whomsoever represents Abraham in the newspaper heaven.

The *Enterprise* was founded by B. C. Empfield and H. G. Campbell, and the first number made its appearance May 11, 1906. A few months after the establishment of the paper Mr. Empfield sold his interest to his partner, Mr. Campbell, who conducted its affairs until within one week of the close of the first volume, when he sold it to O. C. Anderson, who had been in the business of painting and paper-hanging in Anselmo for some time. He assumed charge with the issue of No. 52, volume 1, and conducted it for a little over two years, when he disposed of the plant and good will to Sherman Bly, of Hastings. Mr. Bly assumed charge with the issue of No. 10, volume 2, published July 10, 1908.

During this year the paper was increased to its present size, and with No. 50, volume 3, E. E. Philpot became the editor. He continued in charge of the paper until the first number of volume 7 was issued, when the paper was purchased by K. K. Smith, who issued his first paper under No. 2, volume 7, on May 10, 1912. After two and one-half years, C. M. Anderson became the owner and publisher. He remained in charge until August 1, 1917, when the business was sold to R. H. Miller, the present publisher.

In its initial number the editors announced the politics of the *Enterprise* as non-partisan, which, however, is not interpreted as being owned by a non-partisan league. The *Enterprise* has filled its niche as a paper for Anselmo

and vicinity, and is enjoying the liberal patronage of the community.

ANSELMO FIGHTS THE KAISER

The American soldier and sailor of to-day stand in the public view as do no other individuals. Anselmo has contributed her share to the conflict. All honor to them! Men die for no better cause than theirs.

Those who have responded to the call of their country from Anselmo and vicinity are: Adlai and Elwyn Johnson, Ed. Baird, Walter Smith, Ervin Miller, Hubert Wilson, Harry Frye, Albert Campfield, Harold Kepler, Oak Kepler, Ora Dennis, Joe Wanischke, Walter Spooner, Ray Ross, Ralph Lewis, Fred Carr, Scott Winchester, Ray Adams, Nay Dishman, Russell Lehmanowski, Frank Crist, Davis Crist, Henry Cain, Dr. C. L. Wills, Lawrence Ray, George Spelts, Martin Gallington, Willard Mayfield, Talmage Smith, Ivan Province, Fred Hodapp, Shirley Parkison, and Peter Muys.

Few events in the history of Anselmo have been more inspiring than the zealous response to the appeal of the war fund, Red Cross, Young Men's Christian Association, and Knights of Columbus.

Anselmo has risen to the occasion magnanimously, gloriously. She has given sterling evidence not only of her patriotism, but also of power of organization, power of pushing a big thing through.

ANSELMO CHURCHES

Religion, the great bulwark of our ideal democracy, providing ever for the betterment of the masses, is represented by three denominations, namely: Methodist, Catholic, and Christian.

The Methodist church building was located in 1887, on a little knoll overlooking the town, with James Eads as pastor. The little building in a few years outgrew its usefulness, and in 1902 a modern structure was erected, on the corner of Dorr street and Foster avenue.

Long cherished hopes and ambitions were realized by the Catholic people of Anselmo and vicinity when, in 1905, St. Anselm's church was dedicated. Previously to this date

the mission was attended, from Dale, by Father Flanagan. Rev. M. L. Daley succeeded Father Flanagan, and was successful in raising the money to build the church. Then came Rev. Father Donnelly, and during his administration the parsonage was built. He was succeeded by Rev. Thomas Minogue, the present pastor, who has built up the parish to one of the choicest in the Grand Island diocese and who enjoys the good will and esteem not only of his own congregation but also of the public at large.

ANSELMO FRATERNAL SOCIETIES

Social and fraternal orders had their beginning in Anselmo in the year 1895, when the Ancient Order of United Workmen was organized, on March 23, with Arthur P. Smith as master workman. Then followed Cedar Lodge, No. 185, Degree of Honor. The camp of Modern Woodmen of America was organized February 20, 1900, with Frank Britton, venerable counsel. The Modern Brotherhood of America was organized March 5, 1900. The Odd Fellows were organized on March 20, 1904, with M. J. Johnson as noble grand. The Masonic lodge was instituted June 7, 1905, with J. J. Tooley, master, and Chal Empfield, secretary. The Eastern Star was instituted May 8, 1907, Nettie Tooley, worthy matron. The Royal Neighbors was organized February 8, 1909. Woodmen of the World was organized June 27, 1913, Joseph C. Moore, counsel commander.

THE STORY OF OCONTO

Oconto is located on the Kearney & Black Hills branch of the Union Pacific Railroad, fifty-two miles from either end, thus making it the exact center of one of the most prosperous and best paying branches of the Union Pacific system. It is situated in the Wood River valley, known over the central United States as one of the most prosperous and fertile valleys to be found.

Oconto was located in the fall of 1887, by the Lincoln Townsite Company, which bought 160 acres of land, of Wallace Highbee, for that purpose. R. G. Crossett and a Mr. John-

son built the first general store, hauling the material from Plum Creek, now the town of Lexington, and the same building is now occupied by the Jones Drug Company. The next store building was moved from Lodi, being the pioneer building used as a store in this portion of Custer county, and having been built by John Moran, now postmaster of Callaway. This building was occupied by W. D. Cox as a general store. H. Bockman built the first hotel and Lewis Wambsgan built the first livery stable, which was run by Gottlieb Bensler. Mr. Crossett, at the same time, acted as first postmaster.

On April 25, 1905, Oconto was honored with the first edition of the *Oconto Register*, a paper started and edited here by Bryner Brothers, Fred and Walter, who conducted the paper for a few years, when Fred bought the interest of his brother Walter, who moved to Eddyville, purchasing the paper there. Fred edited the paper, and also acted as postmaster, until 1913, when he sold the newspaper plant and business to F. J. Dunn, of Callaway. Mr. Dunn manipulated the type for a couple of years, when he sold the paper to F. C. Ferguson, who was editor in chief until the fall of 1917, when he sold to Ashton Henderson, of Callaway. Mr. Henderson conducted the paper but a short time, when it was again sold, to the Queen Publishing Company, making it one of a line of papers owned by this company, along the Kearney & Black Hills branch of the Union Pacific Railroad. U. A. Brown was temporarily placed in charge as manager, but at the present time Fred Bryner, the original editor, is conducting the news-gathering.

Oconto has been given state-wide prominence by Orel Jones, of the Jones Drug Company, who has just closed a five years' term of service for the state, as a member of the state examining board in pharmacy, and this past year he was state delegate to the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy as well as to the national meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association, whose meetings were held at Indianapolis, Indiana.

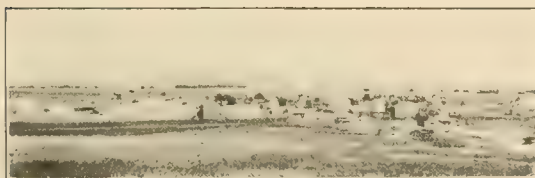
In the world-war crisis, Oconto went over the top in everything asked of it. In the



STREET SCENE AT OCONTO



A RESIDENCE STREET IN OCONTO



BIRDSEYE VIEW OF OCONTO



OCONTO DEPOT AND ELEVATOR



A BUSINESS SECTION OF OCONTO

stamp, bond, Red Cross, and other war activities it was to be found near the head of the column. It has been well represented in the fighting part, by about fifty of its best young men, and more were awaiting their call at the time when the historic armistice came. There has been maintained also a home guard organization of seventy-seven members, with G. Campau as captain.

Educationally, Oconto had one of the first schools in this part of Custer county. In 1909 a nice, four-room building was erected, only three of the rooms being occupied until 1913, when the fourth teacher was added. At the present time there is an accredited eleventh-grade high school, with Miss Georgina Tolbert as principal; Miss Helen Paine, grammar teacher; Miss Nellis O'Nele, intermediate; and Miss Allegra O'Nele, primary teacher.

Oconto has three churches. The Catholic church was the first to be established, in 1889, and Rev. Father Pedlock, of Kearney, officiated. At the present time Rev. Father Moynihan is pastor. The Episcopal church

was organized in 1890, being supplied from Kearney. In April, 1901, a church building was completed and dedicated by the United Evangelical church, with Rev. B. Hillier, now presiding elder for this district, as one of the first pastors. The following pastors have served since then: Rev. J. H. Williams, four years; J. F. Hendricks, one year; H. S. Tool, four years; J. A. Lemming, one year; Frank Majors, one year; J. N. Melton, three years; and W. H. Garries is completing his first year.

At the present time Oconto is considered one of the best business towns in this part of the state, all classes of business being well represented by hustlers in their respective lines. Oconto has a doctor, a weekly paper, two well stocked drug stores, two restaurants, two banks, two lumber yards (which also handle coal), three garages, three well stocked general stores, two cream stations, two blacksmith shops, two implement dealers, a harness shop, two barber shops, electric lights, two elevators, and one of the most up-to-the-minute opera houses to be found.

CHAPTER X

THE SCHOOL SYSTEM IN SOD AND BRICK

THE BEGINNING — DISTRICTS ORGANIZED — FIRST COUNTY INSTITUTE — THE MASON CITY SCHOOLS — BROKEN BOW — ANSLEY — ANSELMO — ARNOLD — CALLAWAY — COMSTOCK — SARGENT — OCONTO — Merna — JAYNESVILLE — BERWYN — LOWER LODI — DISTRICT No. 97 — KING — HOOSIER VALLEY — LONGWOOD — SAND VALLEY — IN GENERAL

The present-day school system of Custer county has long been heralded to the world as one of the best in the central west, and the facts bear out the reputation. No county in the state has made greater development or achieved such a signal success in forty years. The initial years were largely handicapped by conditions which must always prevail in a new country. There was no money for school purposes and the first districts had to resort to all kinds of schemes to secure any kind of school privileges.

The first school houses were built of sod, and from these the entire system has developed until to-day there are to be found in every town in the county great brick structures into which all grade-schools graduate fine classes of young Custerites. The road from sod to brick has been long and the toil of development sometimes irksome but the tireless efforts of the teachers and the sacrifice of the patrons have banished the "soddy" and ushered in the great, brick high school.

For the data which follow the present county superintendent of public instruction, C. T. Grimes, is to be given credit.

THE BEGINNING

The people of Custer county have always held the education of children in high regard, and the very first settlers gave the matter considerable attention. In the spring of 1874 Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Eubank settled in the unorganized territory which afterward became Custer county.

At that time there was neither school district nor school, but during the fall Mrs. Eubank brought this important matter before the settlers and they were delighted to have her organize and conduct a private school for them. She gives the following account of her experiences:

"We could not have a public school, because there were no funds. At last I concocted a plan. I would organize a neighborhood school. 'But where is your salary to come from?' my husband asked. I replied, 'I will teach without any stipulated salary. I will take what each feels he can give.' Accordingly I drew up a subscription paper and presented it to my neighbors. They were delighted. They had very little money, but there were vast herds of elk and many antelope and deer; the men were good marksmen, and killed many elk. So it came to pass that the most of my salary consisted of elk meat. This was in the winter of 1874-5. That fall, 1875, we built a kitchen of logs, and when it was completed I used it for a school-room. That was the first school in what is now Custer county."

About the same time the cause of education was attracting considerable attention along Victoria creek, in the community of New Helena. During the summer of 1876 a private school was taught by Miss Callie Dryden, in the home of Mrs. Forsythe. In order to secure a certificate, Miss Dryden would have to make a long and unhappy journey over to North Loup, in Valley county, where the superintendent, having supervision over the



EARLY-DAY SCHOOLHOUSE AT MILBURN



ARNOLD SCHOOLHOUSE AND PUPILS



FIRST SCHOOLHOUSE IN NEW MERNA
DISTRICT AND PROBABLY THE FIRST
ONE BUILT IN THE COUNTY. ORIG-
INALLY IT HAD A SOD ROOF



SOUTH SIDE SCHOOL, BROKEN BOW



OCONTO PUBLIC SCHOOL

schools of this section, then resided. This the young lady refused to do. To overcome this inconvenience Judge Mathews, the sage of New Helena, evolved a new plan. He decided to conduct the examination himself. Accordingly he drew up his questions and submitted them to the teacher. She wrote her answers in the best manner she could, considering writing material to be had and other inconveniences. After she had completed her writing the Judge gathered up the answer papers and carried them to North Loup. He laid the case before the county superintendent, Oscar Babcock, who, after due consideration, decided that the case was very unusual, but nevertheless, the exigencies of the occasion demanded that the certificate should be issued, and it is altogether likely that no other Custer county certificate was ever issued in such manner. The next year the lady secured a regular certificate from Superintendent Eubank, and she was one of the first certificated teachers in Custer county. During the summer of 1878 was erected a splendid cedar-log building which for several years served the people as an educational and social center. This building is still standing.

DISTRICTS ORGANIZED

In the fall of 1877 E. D. Eubank, the first superintendent of Custer county, was elected and for four years he was busy organizing new districts and re-arranging boundary lines to meet the rapidly changing centers of population. During his term of four years he formed twenty-seven school districts.

Early in the administration, petitions were received from the people of what are now districts No. 1 and No. 2. No. 2 was the first presented, but a remonstrance was filed against the formation of the district and action on it was deferred. Later, the objections were finally withdrawn, but not until after another petition had been presented, and thus it came about that the first petition presented resulted in the establishing of the second district by number, that is, No. 2.

District No. 3 was organized in 1880, covering the greater part of the southwest quarter

of the county and comprising 900 square miles of territory, but before this organization was effected Alfred Schreyer taught a term of school in an upstairs room in the home of David Sprouse. The next year a sod house was built, and for many years it was the seat of attraction for almost every kind of public entertainment, from preaching and Sunday school on down to political meetings and general elections.

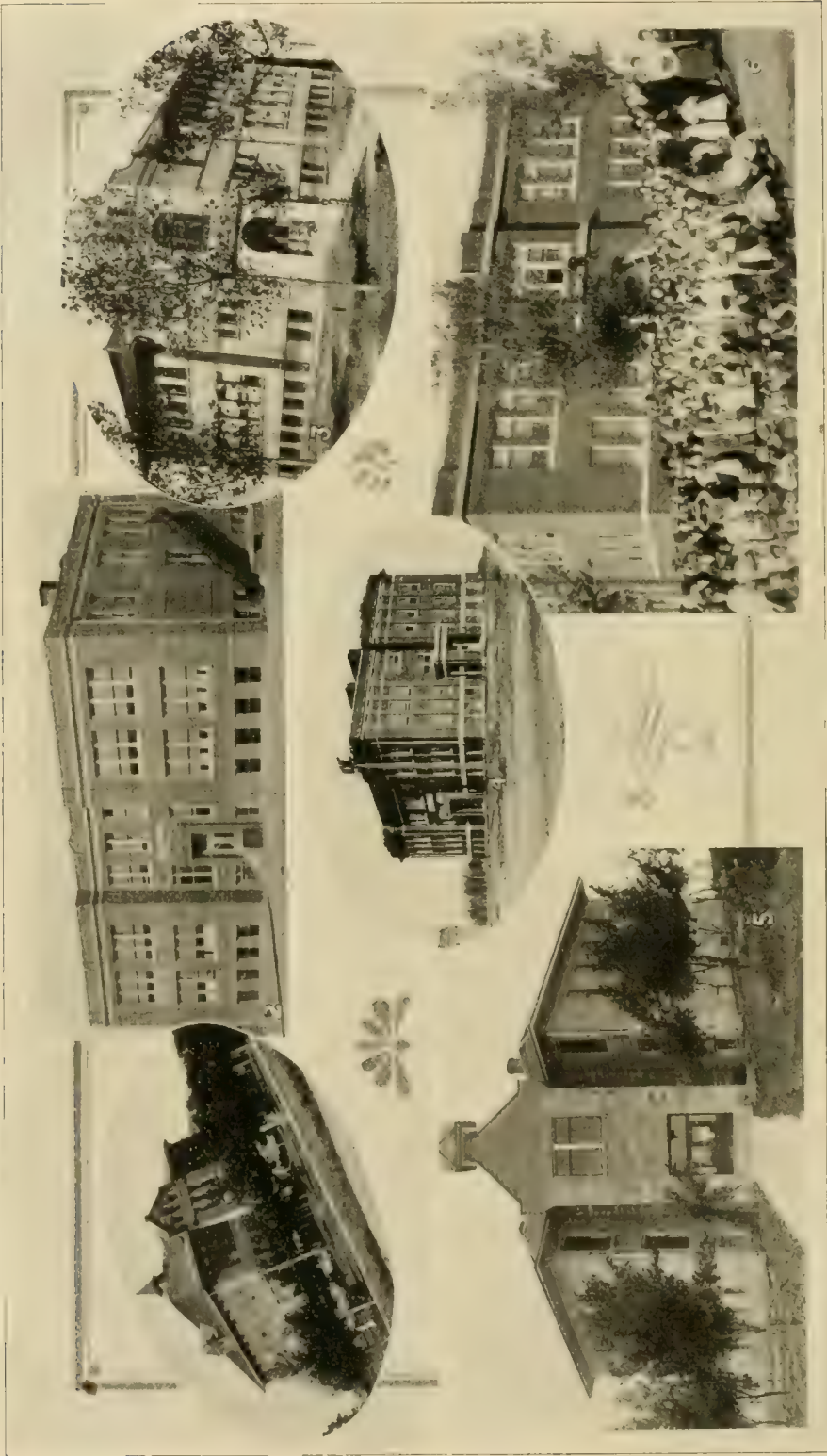
Before the close of the year 1881, districts Nos. 23, 26, 27, 34, and 42 were carved out of this territory, and within a short time thereafter Nos. 73, 88, 89, and 102 further reduced the size. Before the close of the year 1885, Nos. 106 and 113 were cut off, and so the territory of this district continued to be divided and subdivided until nearly a hundred schools are now being supported within the limits of what once was district No. 3.

About the year 1882 settlers came into the county in great numbers, and educational affairs became very interesting. Schools were established in almost every part of the county. D. M. Amsberry, superintendent from 1882 to 1888, organized more than 160 districts, and changed the boundaries in many places.

The first teachers' examination ever held in Broken Bow was conducted by Superintendent Amsberry, on the third Saturday in January, 1882. Miss Raymond was the only person taking the test.

FIRST COUNTY INSTITUTE

During the month of August, 1882, Mr. Amsberry organized and conducted the first county institute for the county. It was held in a wareroom of the lumber yard at Westerville. Only a few teachers were in attendance and the superintendent was his own general manager, instructor, and conductor of the whole affair. The next year he changed his place for holding the institute, called it for Broken Bow and held it in the room now occupied by the *Custer County Chief*. He secured the assistance of several experienced instructors and laid the foundation of what has come to be one of the important factors in the educational system of Custer county—the teachers' institute.



1 CALLAWAY HIGH SCHOOL. 2—SARGENT HIGH SCHOOL. 3—MERNA PUBLIC SCHOOL. 4—BROKEN BOW HIGH SCHOOL. 5—MASON CITY HIGH SCHOOL. 6—ANSLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL.

THE MASON CITY SCHOOLS

The following description of the Mason City schools, written by M. M. Warrington, will give a suggestive idea of the varying scenes and changes through which most of our graded schools passed—from the little sod shanty to the splendidly built and well equipped institutions of learning that adorn all of our towns.

"The town of Mason City was started in April, 1886, and continued to grow in rather an apathetic manner until the arrival of the railroad, in July of that year, and then things went on with a boom.

"Among the things to be provided were school facilities. The only building in the way of a schoolhouse in sight was one of sod, north of Muddy creek, near town, which was the schoolhouse of the district as it was then formed.

"Henry M. Kidder, a young attorney who had cast his fortunes with the embryo city, was employed to teach the fall term of school, which was attended by the boys and girls from the town. The population of the town grew so rapidly in the fall months that the winter term of school was held in a sod house north of the railroad track, near where the railroad section-house now stands. Miss Lincoln Groat was the teacher, this term being under the old district arrangement.

"School district No. 169, the Mason City district, was organized in March, 1887, by electing John A. Hall director, C. H. Coricks moderator, and Mrs. Ellen O. Gates treasurer. The lady finally refused to qualify, and Judson C. Porter was appointed treasurer in her place. J. J. Tooley, now secretary of the state banking board, was elected teacher, which position he held for three years. The first term of school was held in a store building which had been moved from old Algernon. The second school year another teacher for the primary department was added, in the person of Mrs. J. H. Kerr.

"The red-brick schoolhouse, of two rooms, was built in the summer of 1888. This building was partially destroyed by a cyclone on

July 2, 1892. One story of it was rebuilt that year, and a vacant store-room rented for the primary department. This arrangement continued for two years, when an additional frame structure of two rooms was built. The present two-story-and-basement school building was erected in 1905. The first high-school work done in the Mason City schools was under the superintendence of J. H. Hays, in 1895 and 1896, when the first class was graduated. Now seven teachers are employed in the Mason City schools, and the schools occupy a prominent place among the other good schools of Custer county."

BROKEN BOW

Broken Bow school district was the twenty-fifth district to be formed within the county. It came into existence during the last part of the closing years of Superintendent E. D. Eubank's term of office. The first school was taught in the spring of 1881, by Mrs. Martha E. Lewis, wife of Moses Lewis, who resided on his homestead a mile east of the north part of the city. Since her three boys, John, Amos, and George, constituted the greater part of her pupils, the school was taught in her sod house. In the fall the school was moved to a sod shanty located a block north of where the Grand Central hotel now stands.

The school site had previously been located a mile or more from town, and to remedy this inconvenience, the director, C. D. Pelham, called a meeting of the district, at the post-office in Broken Bow. The site was placed where the South Side school now stands and in the next year a new house was put up. In the meantime school was held in a frame store-room on the southwest corner of block No. 2 of the original townsite. In 1885 a new frame building was put up in the southeast part of town, but this was abandoned when the North ward school was formed. During the year 1888 the present South ward building was erected, and it was not until January 1, 1911, that the full, complete system, including the high school was established. The Broken Bow high school represents an outlay of about

\$50,000 and is not only the best in the county, but also one of the modern and well equipped high schools in this part of the state.

ANSLEY

The Ansley district was organized during the year 1888, with Miss Michael as teacher. Her school was composed of twelve pupils. The school population increased very rapidly, so that in 1890 a second, or primary, teacher was employed. It was not long until a larger building was required and this, after rapid succession, was supplanted by the present beautiful, brick structure, erected at a cost of \$27,000, with an equipment valued at \$8,000. The district employs ten teachers, carries a course of twelve grades, is accredited as a normal training high school, and has an enrollment of about 300 pupils. The personnel of the present school board is as follows: A. F. Pinkley, president; E. P. Gaines, secretary; J. T. McGowan, treasurer; and H. D. Reed, D. P. Scott, and E. O. Morris. Professor Clem Wilder has been engaged as the superintendent for the year 1918-19.

ANSELMO

The Anselmo district came with the busy times between 1884 and 1887, with J. A. Homis teaching the "young idea how to shoot." He carried on his work in the Methodist church. In 1888 a two-room building was put up and two teachers were employed. This number of teachers was found adequate to the needs of the district until 1905, when a third was found necessary.

The present beautiful, brick schoolhouse was erected in 1916, at an expense of \$11,000, four teachers being employed and eleven grades introduced. That same year the school was organized as a high-school district. The school equipment is valued at \$7,000, five teachers are employed, and more than 150 pupils are enrolled. Already the building has come to be too small for the accommodation of the rapidly increasing school population, and the people are beginning to plan for an addition to their educational plant.

ARNOLD

No community in the county has shown a greater interest in school affairs than that manifested at Arnold. The district was found necessary during the early '80s, but because of the lack of railroad communication with other points, the school population did not increase very rapidly. In 1911 two teachers were introduced and an attempt at high-school work was begun. Progress was made so rapidly that by the fall of 1915 it was found possible to open the school in a most beautiful, convenient, and commodious brick structure that had cost, including equipment, the goodly sum of \$25,000.

The district is accredited for high-school purposes, and eleventh-grade work is given. Six teachers are employed. Like many other school plants in Custer county, this one has become inadequate and before many years will have to be enlarged.

CALLAWAY

During the closing year of Mr. Amsberry's term of office, the Callaway high-school district was organized. It was one of the hundred or more to be carved out of the original and interesting district No. 3. The first building was greatly impaired, and a second was erected in its stead. Not only was this structure found to be too small, but the location proved unsatisfactory, hence, in 1906, the present site was secured and new building erected, at a cost of practically \$30,000 for the entire plant. The school grounds are ample, and are well provided with trees and shrubbery, thus giving a very attractive appearance.

The school maintains eleven grades, employs seven teachers, and has enrolled as many as 325 students.

COMSTOCK

District No. 28, including the village of Comstock, was the first to be organized by Superintendent Amsberry in the early part of the year 1882, and Mrs. Ida Strop was installed as teacher. Her school was made up of ten or twelve pupils, varying in age from

five to twelve years. For some time the school did not grow very fast, and not until 1907 or 1908 was any attempt made at organizing a high school. From 1911 to the present time a good eleven-grade school has been maintained. There are six teachers, with 155 pupils. The present building was erected in 1905 and with furniture, grounds, and fixtures represents an investment of \$10,000.

SARGENT.

Sargent not only has a very progressive people, with enthusiasm for the education of the youth of the community, but also one of the most beautiful, convenient, and expensive school equipments in Custer county. The district was organized in 1884, with Mrs. A. R. Humphrey as teacher. Twenty-five pupils engaged her attention.

In 1897 a second teacher was found to be necessary, and from that time the school has increased in enrollment and grown in importance. In 1914 the school site was changed and a new house was erected, at a cost, including furnishings, of about \$30,000.

The school carries twelve grades and is fully accredited to the State University. It is also accredited for high-school purposes. The school requires and employs ten teachers.

OCONTO

The Oconto district was one of the last graded schools to be established. Originally the territory of this district was a part of district No. 34, but in 1896 the people from the country turned out at the school meeting in a body and voted to move the schoolhouse out of the village and to locate it more than a mile in the country. This so much displeased the villagers that they immediately petitioned the county superintendent to detach a part of the territory and form the present district No. 256.

One teacher was employed until 1908, when a second teacher was engaged. During the year 1909 the present building was erected and a third teacher was added to the corps of instructors. The school now employs four teachers, gives eleven grades of training and enrolls 120 pupils.

MERNA

The Merna district seems to have been named after a previously discontinued district. In the early days cattlemen had a custom of organizing large tracts of land into school districts. They invariably chose territory on which very few, if any, settlers lived, so that a school would not be needed. Two purposes were accomplished by this plan. First, it avoided the school tax and, second, it prevented the annexation of unorganized territory to other organized districts for school taxation. In the course of time the county superintendent would discover that the district existed only in name and he would give some new district that number. This, it seems was the case with district No. 15. However, in 1884, there being a school population of more than twenty pupils within the community, the county superintendent granted the petition that added the Merna district to the list of schools. Miss Affie Gordon was the first teacher and twenty-five pupils were enrolled.

In 1905, a high-school, with four teachers, was supported. Three years later the present building was put up, at an expense of \$25,000. Nine teachers are employed and 193 pupils are attending school.

JAYNESVILLE

District No. 33 has been constantly in the lime light since the year 1914, and has been written and talked about a great deal. Many magazines, including the *Ladies' Home Journal* and practically every farm paper in the United States, have written articles about this school. The picture of the building and a depiction of its floor plans have been printed in many publications. The plant was erected in 1915, at a cost of about \$4,500. It has a teacherage, a barn, and a complete equipment. Two teachers are employed and ten grades are taught.

BERWYN

When the state rural-school inspector visited Berwin in 1916, he was quite generous in his commendations of the Berwyn school property, which he declared to be one of the best three-

teacher buildings he had ever seen. When completed the entire plant cost about \$7,000. It stands on an elevated plat of ground and faces down the main street of the village.

Considering the fact that the school district is very small and the village itself has just recently begun to grow, the people deserve to be given great credit for their school. A good ten-grade course is given and the teachers have been unusually strong in their work.

LOWER LODI

Unfortunately the Lodi community has two schools where one could well supply all the needed school advantages, thus dividing the interest and needed success. District No. 73 has for the past three years employed two teachers and maintained a good ten-grade school. The people are interested in such affairs and are looking forward to a better school condition. Ten grades are maintained and successful work is being done in each.

DISTRICT NO. NINETY-SEVEN

Nine miles northeast of Broken Bow another ten-grade, two-teacher school is maintained. It was opened in September, 1917, is growing in popularity, and the number of attendants is increasing. Grades nine and eleven are open to students.

KING

District No. 32 is an interesting two-teacher school, organized in 1917. It is located in the valley of Muddy creek, about seven miles southeast of Broken Bow. The people are enthusiastic over their new building and the results of their efforts. The building is well equipped and the grounds contain numerous new playground devices. The ten-grade work usually done in such schools is being accomplished.

HOOSIER VALLEY

In the sand-hill region of Custer county has lately been organized what is known as the "Hoosier Valley High School." It was formed by combining districts Nos. 210, 252, and 262. It is composed of fifty sections and has about ten miles of railroad to help defray the expense of the school. When completed the

plant will comprise a two-room school, with a teachers' residence, a good well, and a barn. This will be the first school of the kind in the county and its progress will be watched with interest.

LONGWOOD

The Longwood school is especially interesting because of its splendid building and grounds. It is the best equipped one-teacher school in the county and one of the best of its kind in the state. The building has a large school-room, a porch, a vestibule, a cloak-room, library, dinner room, and a full basement, which is reached either through the dinner room or from an outside entrance. This plant is standard as to light, heat, and ventilation. The entire plant is valued at \$3,000. A good salary is paid the teacher and, of course, none but a good teacher is ever secured.

SAND VALLEY

About seven miles southwest of Callaway, in a beautiful community known as Sand Valley, is found a very successfully conducted ten-grade school. It is district No. 95. It came into usefulness with the rush of school organizations between the years 1882 and 1888. This school is well located and well equipped, with two pleasant rooms, so arranged that they may be thrown together, thus forming a large assembly room. It is well lighted and heated. Trees have been planted and a splendid well, with a windmill, adds to the advantages. There is a barn for horses and a large yard for carriages. The course covers ten grades.

IN GENERAL

For the last five or six years the school sentiment of the county has grown to a very high order. Nearly all of the schools have good, comfortable houses which are well kept. More than 150 room-furnaces are in use and a half hundred wells give good drinking water. The teachers are earnest, progressive, and thorough; the children are interested and happy, and the patrons are earnestly endeavoring to bring the Custer county schools up to the realization of what they should be — "Things of beauty and a joy forever."

CHAPTER XI

CHURCHES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS

A COWBOY PREACHER — A STORY OF EARLY CHURCH WORK — AND NOW THE METHODISTS — THE ANSLEY CHURCH — THE BROKEN BOW METHODISTS — GATES AND WALWORTH — ARNOLD METHODIST CHURCH — SARGENT METHODISTS — MERNA METHODISTS — WESTERVILLE METHODIST CHURCH — METHODIST CHURCH OF CALLAWAY — BAPTIST PIONEER WORK — THE BAPTIST CHURCHES THAT LIVE — THE BROKEN BOW CHURCH — NEW BAPTIST CHURCH AT BROKEN BOW — MASON CITY CHURCH — THE MERNA BAPTIST CHURCH — THE ANSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH ORGANIZED — THE EUELLS — LOMAX AND LODI — BETHEL UNION — HIGHLAND — THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH — THE PRESBYTERIANS — BROKEN BOW PRESBYTERIANS — THE ANSLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH — EPISCOPALIAN WORK IN THE COUNTY — CALLAWAY PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH — THE BROKEN BOW EPISCOPAL CHURCH — THE CHURCH OF GOD — CHRISTIAN CHURCH — CHRISTIAN CHURCHES OF ARNOLD, LIBERTY, BROKEN BOW, ANSELMO, WHITE PIGEON, ANSLEY, COBURG, MASON CITY, LILLIAN, SARGENT, BANNER SCHOOLHOUSE, AND MILBURN — CUSTER COUNTY CATHOLICS — BEGINNING OF CATHOLIC WORK IN DALE — THE BROKEN BOW CATHOLIC CHURCH — THE OCONTO CHURCH AND MASON CITY CHURCH — ANSLEY CATHOLIC CHURCH — UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST — THE UNITED BRETHREN BEGIN AT CUSTER CENTER — SUNDAY SCHOOLS IN CUSTER COUNTY — COUNTY SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION — THE REORGANIZATION WORKS WELL — STATE SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION AT BROKEN BOW — COMPARISON OF CONVENTION ATTENDANCE

Governor Bradley once said that at the end of every buffalo's tail was a Methodist preacher going west. That was a fine tribute to the pioneer work of the Methodist people. It is a tribute, too, that they deserve in connection with Custer county, as subsequent history of Methodism in the county will disclose.

But on the Middle Loup at least one buffalo's tail was ornamented with a Christian preacher instead of a Methodist, and that animal seems to have led the herd, for the preacher referred to, the Rev. E. D. Eubanks, was probably the first preacher in the county and the one who preached the first sermon and performed the first marriage ceremony.

In 1875 Rev. Eubanks held services in different homes of the Douglas Grove community, and accordingly he was the first representative of his denomination, or of any de-

nomination, to pre-empt the field for Christian work.

Also in the same year came a Methodist preacher, by the name of Lemin, and held the first Methodist services of which any record can be found. Rev. Lemin, like Rev. Eubanks, made the homes of the people the sanctuaries of worship. It was in the home of A. A. Higgins that the first Methodist quarterly meeting was held by the pioneer divine. Rev. Lemin is, therefore, credited with beginning Methodist work some time late in the fall of 1875.

As will be seen under the head of Baptist Pioneer Work, a Rev. J. P. Cook began the denominational work for the Baptists by holding services and conducting Sunday schools in the settlers' homes of Lee's Park, in 1878.

In 1880 a minister from West Virginia settled in the New Helena district and, like the

other pioneer preachers, began a series of house meetings. His denomination is not recorded by the historian who chronicles his advent in the country, but as the work he began was followed up by that of a Presbyterian minister, L. L. Burbank, who came afterward, the work of the Rev. Stevens is accredited to the Presbyterians.

This puts the denominational work of the churches in Custer county in the following order: First, Christians or Disciples; second, Methodists; third, Baptists; fourth, Presbyterians. Other denominations early on the field were the United Brethren, the Lutherans, the Catholics, the Church of God, the Free Methodists, and perhaps others were among the pioneers, but their advent did not affect the order named above.

A COWBOY PREACHER

One of the pioneer preachers who seems to have been effective and practical in his work, even if he was lacking in theological training, is described by James Whitehead as a cowboy preacher, in the following paragraph, written twenty years ago. He is not credited with any denominational affiliation:

"Although most of us had held membership in different churches in our former homes, no minister of any denomination had come among us, and no preaching services had been held in that vicinity. With the erection of a schoolhouse we were anxious to make amends for this apparent neglect and begin life aright in our new home. Mr. Crewdson, who was an Episcopalian, assured us he had a man in mind that could be secured, and soon thereafter services were announced with Rev. L. G. Brooker, 'The Cowboy Preacher,' officiating; owing to reports that had reached us relative to the man's past, great interest was attached to this first sermon. The Rev. Brooker, or 'Brooker,' as he was commonly called, was a character as unique, and possessed a personality as striking as in their day did Lorenzo Dow or Peter Cartwright. He owned and lived upon a farm in Platte valley, twenty-two miles to the south, had been converted some four years before, and became so strongly imbued with the con-

viction that he was 'divinely called' to preach that he could find neither rest nor peace until he had consecrated himself to the ministry. Ordained by the Evangelical Association, he had been engaged in the work about three years when, in the fall of 1885, he preached his first sermon on Buffalo Table. It was the first religious service or meeting that some who were there had attended in two years. His efforts were well received and in due time he made fortnightly appointments, which, in connection with other points, he continued to fill for three years. As an evangelist and organizer this unlettered Bonarges had but few equals, and, measured by results, he attained a success denied to many whose entire lives had been devoted to the study of theology and rhetoric."

A STORY OF EARLY CHURCH WORK

The late E. N. Bishop leaves us this story, in which early church work is graphically pictured:

"Early in the spring of 1880 a preacher from Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, named Stephenson, took the claim now owned by Robert Ross and commenced preaching at New Helena, but as he tired of keeping 'bach,' he returned east and left the people without a minister. Learning that a Presbyterian minister of the name of Burbank, living at Georgetown, on the South Loup, could be procured to preach once a month, the people of all denominations interested sent for him. He came, organized a Presbyterian church, and preached about two years, or until the Methodists made arrangements to start a class which included this appointment, on the Westerville circuit, with preaching every two weeks. Some years later, I have forgotten the date, a preacher of the name of Ross, living in Indiana, offered to come to Broken Bow if the church there would pay his fare to Grand Island. As Broken Bow was not able to support a preacher at that time, the class at Gates united with them and helped to pay the passage of the Indiana preacher to Grand Island. He came, reorganized the class and preached in the old sod schoolhouse, near where the Gates school-

house stands at this time. Since that time this church has always maintained an organization and Sunday school, even keeping a minister during all the years of the drouth. About 1888 the Christian church organized a society at the White Pigeon schoolhouse, and have maintained it ever since, as have also the Free Methodists at the Oxford schoolhouse and the Lutherans at Round Valley. In the fall of 1880 A. N. Peale taught a three months' school in district number 13, now generally known as the Oxford district. As this was the first and only school within fourteen miles, the children either went to it or went fishing. During the first years of our settlement the ranchmen and new settlers consumed everything the farmers could raise, but when farming became more general and on a larger scale, and new settlers ceased to come in so fast, the farmers commenced to raise hogs to consume their produce; consequently when the fall of 1890 came, the country was full of hogs. Having no corn to feed them, some of the farmers sold their stock hogs to eastern feeders, some knocked them in the head, while others let them stand around and squeal. Under these conditions church work had a hard beginning."

AND NOW THE METHODISTS

The Methodists now cover the county with ten circuits or stations, the headquarters of which are located in Ansley, Arnold, Anselmo, Berwyn, Broken Bow, Callaway, Mason City, Sargent, Merna, and Westerville.

The denomination owns fifteen church buildings, valued at \$60,000. Two of them, the Sargent and Arnold buildings, are modern brick edifices, of the latest type, and would do splendid credit to much older communities. There are ten parsonages now in the county, all for the most part modern cottages, which as many Methodist preachers with their families occupy. These parsonages are valued at \$20,000. The ten pastors receive good salaries and the churches have a combined membership of 1,856, with a family constituency of approximately 3,600 persons.

THE ANSLEY CHURCH

Prior to the founding of Ansley, Methodist itinerants rode over the hills and valleys, preaching in schoolhouses and homes. One of these men was Rev. J. C. Dorris. In September, 1886, Rev. William Esplin, who was homesteading seven miles southwest of Ansley, was appointed as the first regularly located pastor of the Methodist body of Ansley and vicinity, and preached alternately at Pleasant Valley and at this point. At first, services were held in the new Burlington depot, but when the Presbyterian church was built, the services were held there. The church was organized July 12, 1887, and in 1890, under the pastorate of Rev. D. M. Ellsworth, the present church building was erected. The pastors who have served this church up to 1918 are as follows: William Esplin (1886-7), Francis Brock (1887-8), D. M. Ellsworth (1888-90), H. H. York (1890-1891), B. F. Peck (1891-2), John P. Crane and D. W. Denny (1892-3), L. W. Chandler (1893-5), A. Gibson (1895-7), W. H. Forsyth (1897-1900), M. S. Foutch (1900-1901), L. W. Chandler (1901-3), Selden Ewing (1903-5), Raymond Rush (1905-8), John Carton (1908-9), W. S. McCallester (1909-1914), R. H. Carr (1914-15), E. O. Johnson (1915-16), W. L. Hadsell (1916-18). Under the pastorate of Rev. O. E. Johnson, the church building was greatly improved, by the addition of a basement. The church now has a membership of 200, a Sunday-school enrollment of 180, an Epworth League membership of thirty, and a Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of twenty members. The officers of the church are: Trustees, J. H. Hiser, T. F. Elliott, Albert Arnold, E. O. Morris, W. O. Phillips, Andrew Sherbeck, and A. J. Hockom; stewards, L. S. Newcomb, Mrs. George Nelms, O. D. Dran, Mrs. Clem Wilder, Mrs. A. J. Hockom, and R. M. Hayslip; Sunday-school superintendent, L. S. Newcomb; president of the Epworth League, Mrs. Curtis McCallister; president of the

Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, Mrs. L. S. Newcomb.

The first Methodist class was organized in the Chicago, Burlington, & Quincy depot, July 12, 1887, by the Rev. William Esplin. Nineteen charter members formed the roll of this new class. The names of these members are as follows: Mrs. D. A. Vasant, C. J. Stevens, W. A. Cross, T. T. Daniels, James Davis, Mrs. James Davis, William Hawk, Sarah Gilbert, Anna Hawk, May Hawk, J. Harson, Mrs. J. Harson, Mary McCarger, J. M. Porter, Mrs. J. M. Porter, and C. D. Munson and family.

THE BROKEN BOW METHODISTS

Broken Bow has always been the county's stronghold of Methodism. The first Methodist church of the county-seat town is one of the strongest churches in the county, of any denomination. It was organized in May, 1883. In the same month of the class organization, the first sermon was preached by Rev. M. R. Pierce, in a store building. The following were the charter members of the class: W. A. Gandy, A. M. Graham, Howard Graham, L. McCandless, J. S. Benjamin, John Roland, L. Trefren, Emma McCandless, Bertha Gandy, H. J. Reeder, Wesley Vannice, W. M. Herbert, and L. H. Jewett.

Since the organization of this class, services have been maintained without any interruption, and in later years, with added strength of numbers in the membership, came added influence and prominence in the community.

The pastors of this church began life in a two-room sod parsonage and in this palace of "prairie marble" many couples were united in marriage and started on their careers as pio-

neer home-makers. Many social functions held sway in the neat rooms of this sod bungalow.

In 1883, the same year of the organization, a small, brick church was erected in the south part of town, and this did duty as Methodist sanctuary and community auditorium until 1898, when the present structure, on the block west of the court house, was erected, under the direction of the Rev. W. H. D. Hornaday. This structure is still in good repair and its auditorium is the largest in the town. It was

built at a cost of seven thousand dollars.

The second parsonage, and the one which supplanted the pioneer soddy, was erected in 1886, during the pastorate of the Rev. F. H. Calder. This dwelling was afterward outgrown, and the third parsonage was erected in 1902, during the



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AT BROKEN BOW

first pastorate of the Rev. George P. Trites, who is to-day closing the second year of his second pastorate. Two years ago (1916) the parsonage was again remodeled, and was made thoroughly modern. The present membership of this church is between three and four hundred. They maintain a live Sunday-school, ladies' society, and all missionary societies working in connection with Methodist polity.

In the roster of pastors who have served this church are many of the strongest Methodist preachers of the state, among whom are R. H. Thompson, A. A. Randall, and the present incumbent, the Rev. George P. Trites, who is a strong man in the pulpit, a faithful pastor, and who, withal, belongs to that class of genial spirits commonly called "good mixers."

GATES AND WALWORTH

Gates and Walworth are country churches. They were intended to be city churches, but the respective cities of Gates and Walworth have been slow to materialize; consequently, the churches stand in country places, each beside a lone store and postoffice.

The first Methodist service at Gates was held in the sod house of Stillman Gates, who was one of the river pioneers. This service was conducted by Rev. M. R. Pierce, in 1884. The class was organized the same year, with nine charter members: Mr. and Mrs. Stillman Gates, Mr. and Mrs. R. Young, Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Bishop, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Herbert, and Will Athey.

The present church building was erected during the pastorate of the Rev. J. M. Eads, in 1905. The pastoral work at this point is supplied from Anselmo.

John W. Cole, whether a reverend or not, is not recorded, held the first Methodist service in Walworth, in 1881, in the home of John Walker. A Sunday school was organized in the same year. There were but few charter members who constituted the first class. Only the names of Mr. and Mrs. John Predmore and Mr. and Mrs. John Walker are recorded. The present church building was erected in 1907.

ARNOLD METHODIST CHURCH

One of the best Methodist churches in the county is the Arnold church, concerning which no data have been obtainable. It is the strongest church of the community and has a corps

of stalwart supporters. They have a fine, new church, built in the year 1915, during the pastorate of Rev. Mr. Gettys. The church has been served in the past by such men as Rev. George B. Mayfield, Rev. Charles Bottom, and others.

SARGENT METHODISTS

The Methodists were among the first on the ground at Sargent, yet little data are obtainable. They commenced with a very few members and have steadily grown until to-day they really have the best church property of any church of their denomination in the county. Herewith is submitted a splendid picture of the church, which was built a few years ago.



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AT ARNOLD

MERNA METHODISTS

A splendid little church has been maintained by the Methodists of Merna since 1885. The first sermon of this denomination was preached by the Rev. John F. Haney, who is today a resident of Broken Bow. The first class was organized by Henry Reeder. The present church building was built in 1901, by the Rev. W. C. Swartz. It is a small, four-gabled building, with class-room attachments, and makes a very neat appearance, in its location on the principal street of Merna. The attractive five-room parsonage was built in 1909.

The phenomenal success of the Methodists is largely due to their pioneer work. They never neglected the sparsely settled country. Wherever they could find a Methodist home, there they had a Methodist sanctuary. And if a "circuit-rider," a "local exhorter," or "class

leader" could be procured, a Methodist service was held, a Methodist Sunday school organized, and Christian work commenced in that community.

WESTERVILLE METHODIST CHURCH

The date of the Westerville organization is not given in any record at hand, but it was effected some time in the early '80s and was one of the first churches in the county. Mrs. Floy Leech Cannon, who wrote the Westerville story in 1900, makes the statement that the Westerville Methodist church was the first frame church-building erected in the county. The church bell, which was placed in the belfry, was the first church bell that ever rang out upon Custer county air. It was



FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AT
SARGENT

freighted from Kearney, and its Sunday morning performances gave the Westerville church a citified air of unusual dignity. Mrs. Cannon also makes the statement that a Rev. Mr. Brooks was the first regular minister and that Rev. Mr. Hale, of the Orleans district in western Nebraska, was one of their early pastors. The church to-day is prosperous, and maintains regular services, with Rev. Mr. Gettys in charge.

METHODIST CHURCH OF CALLAWAY

In the early winter of 1880-81 Rev. Asbury Collins, one of the bold pioneer preachers whose labors are known throughout the whole of western Nebraska, preached the first sermon in or near the settlement of Delight. This service was held in the sod schoolhouse, which stood at the foot of the hill, one mile west of

the present site of Callaway. At Mr. Collins' next appointment, which was probably in January, 1881, he organized a society of the Methodist Episcopal church, with nine members, four of whom lived in the immediate neighborhood, the remaining five coming as far as ten miles from their homes in Wood River valley. Mark H. Deems was appointed class-leader, which office in the church he held until he moved away from Callaway. Mr. Collins' work was principally organizing new churches and forming new circuits, and he came to Delight only once a month during the spring and summer following the organization of the church. In the summer of 1881 Rev. Charles H. Savidge, a local preacher from Wisconsin, came into the community and lived with his son at the Cottonwood ranch, about three miles from Delight postoffice. Because of his own heavy work, Mr. Collins placed the church at Delight in the hands of Mr. Savidge, who preached regularly for over two years.

In the fall of 1884 the church received, for the first time, a minister regularly appointed by the annual conference — Rev. D. M. Ellsworth, who had just come from Illinois. Mr. Ellsworth had shipped his goods to Kearney, where the conference was held that year. In order to have a home for his family, he filed a homestead on a quarter-section of land and put up a little house. The preaching places in the circuit were Delight, Roten Valley, and Cliff. There had been a gradual increase in the membership, and after a protracted meeting, held in a sod schoolhouse, in the winter of 1884-5, the membership was thirty-five. The salary paid this year was \$340, to which was added \$125 from the missionary society of the church. In the summer of 1885, the people united in building a neat sod church, on the timber claim of Ira Graves, not far from the sod schoolhouse where they had heretofore worshipped. The trustees were Ira Graves, Mark H. Deems, I. F. Miller, O. C. Murphy, and William Engels, who were elected by the quarterly conference July 18th. The lumber for the roof and floor of the new church was hauled from Cozad, a distance of forty miles, and the chairs for seating from

Plum Creek, now Lexington. The church was dedicated in November following, Rev. George W. Martin, presiding elder. During this year Arnold was added to the Delight circuit.

When the town of Callaway was laid out, in the summer of 1886, the services were moved from the church, which was nearly a mile out, to the dining room of the Deems hotel, then in course of erection. After the hotel was completed and occupied, the church services were held in Smith's hall, over a hardware store owned by Smith & Needham. This hall was commonly known as the "Callaway Opera House." For its use the church paid two dollars each Sunday and the same amount for each prayer meeting or extra service.

Rev. Thomas H. Thurber was the next pastor, coming to the charge in the fall of 1886. His family made their home in a sod house belonging to Mark H. Deems and reserved by him when he sold his homestead for the town-site. Mr. Thurber himself was "holding down" a claim in Dawson county, and so moved his family back to the claim in the spring, where they remained until he made final proof, in the fall. Mr. Thurber was re-appointed for another year, and immediately after his return from conference, the people commenced the building of the first frame church in the town of Callaway. The building cost \$1,000 and was considered at that time quite an undertaking, but the trustees and members were determined in their efforts and the people of the community responded generously. The church was dedicated December 4, 1887, by Rev. Leslie Stevens, at that time presiding elder. Only \$300 yet remained unpaid, but to those who had already contributed all they felt able, it seemed like attempting the impossible to try to raise that amount. Unwilling to fail at the last moment, eight men agreed together to give each twenty-five dollars more, and when the call was made and these eight in succession subscribed so liberally, others also responded, and in a few minutes the whole amount was raised. After returning from their homestead, the pastor's family had occupied a single room over one of

the stores in the town, for which they had to pay twelve dollars per month, and it was not difficult to see that a parsonage was an actual necessity. Accordingly, as soon as the church was completed, the trustees took shares in the building and loan association and immediately commenced work on the parsonage. It was completed in February, 1888, and from that time a good home — small, but cozy and comfortable — has been ready for the Methodist minister and his family. The securing of a church building and parsonage may be considered as closing the pioneer history of the Methodist church of Callaway, and, having laid aside its swaddling clothes, it has had only the ordinary experience of a church — hardships, opposition, and varying degrees of success — important in themselves but not of sufficient interest for a pioneer history.

BAPTIST PIONEER WORK

The following facts and data concerning the inception and progress of Baptist work in Custer county have been furnished by Mrs. J. H. Kerr, of Ansley, who for a number of years, has been the clerk of the Baptist Association.

The first work inaugurated by the Baptists in the early days, when pioneers were struggling with the conditions incident to all new countries, was the holding of intermittent services in Lee's Park, by Rev. J. P. Cook, an aged Baptist minister, familiarly called Father Cook. Father Cook was a scholarly man, with a theological training, and during his early ministry held some very important pulpits. He homesteaded on the Middle Loup in the spring of 1878, and, following his natural inclination for missionary work, gathered the settlers together in some available home, and held preaching services and maintained Sunday school work. His work in Lee's Park resulted later in the organization of a small Baptist church, which held together for a few years, but in the process of western moving and shifting, the constituent members moved to other localities and the church was short-lived.

The second Baptist minister to adopt Cus-

ter county as a missionary field was the Rev. Amos Weaver, who preached his first Custer county sermon in the fall of 1880, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Amsberry, on the Muddy creek. Rev. Weaver, too, was a missionary man and was then engaged in western missionary work with his field of labor mostly in Valley county. During the last session of the Baptist Association, held June 28-30, 1918, at Mason City, the announcement of his death, which occurred only a few weeks before, was made. The association interrupted its business and caused a tribute to be paid to his life and character, besides ordering a fitting resolution of respect to be incorporated in the associational minutes.

The Baptists were the third denomination to begin work in the county, and since the inception of church organization, in 1881, nineteen Baptist churches have been organized within the limits of the county. These have had a more or less checkered career. Out of the nineteen, only eleven survive until this present time. In the eight dead churches, like in the seven churches of Asia, there was much to commend. Their work is done, and the workers, for the most part, have transferred their Christian activities to other fields. Among the churches that were, and now are not, is the Baptist church of Clear Creek, which was organized some time late in 1881, by Rev. I. D. Fleming. This was the third church organized in the county. It survived but a few years. W. T. Powers, then of Westerville, was the church clerk. The second in this list of deceased churches was the Oconto Baptist church, organized in 1884, by Rev. J. E. Ingham, assisted by B. W. Southwell, of Gibbon, and Mark King, of Broken Bow. I. H. Edmisten was the first clerk of the Oconto church. Rev. J. W. Osborn, a general missionary, preached the first Baptist sermon in Oconto. The Oconto church lasted five years. No building was ever erected, and since 1889 no Baptist work has been maintained.

Lee's Park church was organized probably in 1888, but we have no records or information concerning its organization. It was admitted into the association in 1889, and prob-

ably passed out of existence without ever having a settled pastor.

Ash Grove Baptist church, Dale Valley Baptist church, and Ortello Baptist church, have likewise a paucity of recorded history. We know but little concerning them. The Ortello church seems to have died the same year the Dale church was born, but removals soon disbanded the Dale church. Of the Ash Grove church there are absolutely no available records concerning its work, other than it died in 1894.

Some time in 1887 Rev. William Elliot organized a church known as the Union Valley Baptist church, eight or nine miles south and west of the present site of Broken Bow. This church flourished for a little season. Within the year 1888 they built a sod meeting-house and they maintained for some time community services. There is no record that they ever had a settled pastor. J. Q. Daggett, who was then a regularly ordained Baptist minister, preached for them and did considerable pastoral work. The following year, 1889, the little church encountered the difficulties of a changing, shifting population, and after a few of the stalwart leaders moved away, the few remaining members disbanded.

In 1894 a church was organized at Spring Creek, with Rev. D. S. Hulbert, pastor. That is all the record that is obtainable of the Spring Creek organization.

THE BAPTIST CHURCHES THAT LIVE

The Baptists of Custer county now maintain eleven live and more or less prosperous churches. All of them, with one exception, have buildings adequate to their needs. They have seven parsonages, located as follows: Lomax, Arnold, Merna, Broken Bow (two), Ansley, and Mason City. This parsonage property is worth approximately \$12,000.

Ever since 1884 an associational organization, made up of delegates from the various churches named, has been maintained. The first session was held in Broken Bow October 24, 1884. Five churches were represented in that meeting, namely: Broken Bow, Oak Springs (now Mason City), Clear Creek,

Oconto, and Merna. The late Edmund King, of Broken Bow, was elected moderator and J. H. Edmisten of Oconto, was elected clerk. Since that time, without any interruptions, the association meetings have been held at some place where the delegates have been the guests of the entertaining church. For the last eighteen or twenty years, D. M. Amsberry, of Broken Bow, has served as moderator and Mrs. J. H. Kerr, of Ansley, has served as clerk.

THE BROKEN BOW CHURCH

The county seat being the metropolis, it naturally would be expected to have the strongest church, and in this expectations are realized. This was the first Baptist church organized in the county. The date of its organization was July 5, 1881. Lucky or unlucky, there were thirteen charter members — Edmund King, Emily King, Mark King, Martha King, Cyrus King, Moses Lewis, Martha Lewis, Henry C. Reyner, Emma Reyner, Jacob Mauk, Catherine Mauk, Samuel A. Miller, and Laura Miller.

The church was organized by Rev. I. D. Fleming, who served as first pastor. In 1885 they erected a small but commodious building that met the needs of the little congregation in those days. In 1897 this building was remodeled, enlarged, and made more attractive. In 1887 this church built the first Baptist parsonage of the county, a building which still stands, on lower Broadway, and is owned by W. A. Tooley. A few years later, another parsonage was built, on the corner of Broadway and Tenth avenue, beside the remodeled church. This building is a five-room cottage, modernized, and located, as it is, in close proximity to the church, it makes an ideal home for the janitor. Last year, 1917, the church bought a valuable property in the same block, fronting on Broadway, and converted it into a pastorium, located in a beautiful grove of maple and mountain ash. It adds much to the appearance and value of the church property and equipment. Since the organization of the church the following pastors have served, in the order named: Rev. I. D. Fleming. Rev. J. E. Ingham, Rev. D. W. Hall. Rev. Charles Davis. Rev.

James Sheppard, Rev. A. J. Fleming, Rev. E. G. Boyer, Rev. T. F. Schlosser, Rev. J. S. Hadden, Rev. J. W. Megan, Rev. W. S. Richards, Rev. S. P. Morris, Rev. A. W. Yale, Rev. A. M. Lavack, Rev. J. D. Brady, Rev. A. T. Norwood, Rev. A. E. Rapp, Rev. W. L. Gaston, Rev. J. B. Taylor, and Rev. W. L. Gaston.

In 1912, during the pastorate of Rev. A. E. Rapp, a new building enterprise was undertaken. The old church, on the corner of Broadway and Tenth avenues, directly south of the court-house, was sold and moved away, and preparations were made for the erection of a modern brick edifice in its place.

At this time Rev. Rapp tendered his resignation, and the succeeding pastor, Rev. W. L. Gaston, who was a resident of the county, was called to the pastorate and assigned the task of building the church. Mr. Gaston is now (1919) serving Nebraska as assistant secretary of state.

The membership of the church, however, were united, harmonious, and in working spirit, and the task was not a hard one. Generous assistance was given by the members of other churches and the town people generally.

NEW BAPTIST CHURCH AT BROKEN BOW

In striking contrast to the primitive sod sanctuary, or the private dugout, in which were set up the first altars before which Custer county pioneers worshiped, is the modern brick edifice standing on the corner of Broadway and Tenth avenue in Broken Bow. Because of the striking contrast, a description of the church, written five years ago, just before the church building was dedicated, is appended.

The final dedicatory services of the handsome new Baptist church, which is now fully completed, will be held the coming Sunday, both morning, afternoon, and evening. This splendid house of worship as it stands, cost approximately \$15,000 and is thoroughly modern in every particular. The finely equipped basement, with its spacious Sunday-school room, is worth going some distance to see.

This place can be turned into the finest banquet room in the city and is perfectly equipped in the way of culinary paraphernalia. Up-to-date lavatories and toilets also are to be found here. This banquet room, by the way, served to splendid advantage during the land registration. The ladies of the church conducted a dining-room here at all hours of the day and night, and during the two weeks succeeded in taking in a magnificent sum of \$1,200 or over. This will make a good showing in the church-debt fund.

But it is up in the auditorium, where the beautiful colored windows of opalescent glass

as the Good Shepherd, which was donated by the Junior and Busy Bees classes.

The Talbot memorial is on the south side, and was given by the children of Dr. and Mrs. R. C. Talbot, while the children of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob F. Mauk have donated a like memorial. Then there are the windows given by the boys' and primary classes, the prevailing colors in them being delicate shades of green and yellow.

On the west, immediately back of the choir gallery, is a very unusual window, there being no other like it in the United States. It is an original design by Rev. W. L. Gaston, pastor



BAPTIST CHURCH AT BROKEN BOW

are, that the visitor is really impressed. These windows, of which there are sixteen, were manufactured in St. Joseph, Missouri, and are really works of art. In the large hall of the church is the American flag window, which was donated by the Ladies' Missionary Society.

On the east side of the auditorium are two column windows in green and amber, one presented by the Sunday school to Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Amsberry; while the other is a King memorial, presented by the relatives of Edmund and Mark King, who were prominently connected with the church in an early day. Between the column windows is a rich and beautiful piece of coloring, showing Christ

of the church. Across the top of the window is a double bar of music with the words: "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow." This window was donated by the choir, in honor of Mrs. Willis Cadwell, who has been the church organist for many years. The color scheme of this window is about the same as the rest.

Directly in the west is a square window, in the center of which, portrayed in rich color is Hoffman's "Ecce Homo," which shows the agony of Christ, on whose head is the crown of thorns. This is the gift of Mrs. W. L. Gaston and children, Gladys and Orvin. Next to this is a memorial window, donated by Frank Kelsey in honor of his mother.

In the pastor's study, the Ladies' Aid Society has placed its window. Another window in the west is modest in design and is historical, not to say unique. At the top is a picture of the old church and pastorium. Below the picture are names of all charter members and complete list of pastors up to the present time. There are also the names of the present officers and the building committee. This is a gift of the young ladies of the church. There is only one other window like this in the world, and that is in the Baptist church at Creston, Iowa.

On the north side of the lecture room is a Calvary window, showing the scene of Calvary in the distance, with three crosses. It is an elegant painting and is the gift of the young men. The Bible-class window is also shown on the north side.

MASON CITY CHURCH

Ten days after the organization of the Broken Bow church, another Baptist church was organized, at Oak Springs, in the vicinity of old Algernon. This was called the Oak Springs Baptist church. John A. Hall was elected as first church clerk. This church seems to have been a strong, vigorous organization, composed of representative people who were alive to their opportunity and very willing to make sacrifices for the cause. Rev. I. D. Fleming was the organizer and first pastor of this church.

With the building of the Chicago, Burlington, & Quincy Railroad up to the Muddy, old Algernon disbanded and the Oak Springs church removed to Mason City, where it is today a strong, prosperous organization. The church has passed through many trying times and has encountered many difficulties, but its members have hung together, weathered every storm, and are now out on the open sea of smoother sailing. The evolution of their church buildings would be hard to describe, other than to say that to-day they have a beautiful, commodious, not over-pretentious edifice, which will meet their requirements for a few more years.

In 1917 the church tore down the old pas-

torium and erected a new one in its place. The new building is the finest pastorium owned by any denomination in the state, west of Grand Island.

The membership represents a good deal of wealth, so that the church is able to secure the services of able preachers and maintain all branches of denominational work. The membership approximates two hundred. During later years they have been served by strong men, among whom the present pastor, Rev. Paul Scheuk, rates high.

THE MERNA BAPTIST CHURCH

The Merna Baptist church was organized in 1884, by J. E. Ingham, assisted by Mark King. Rev. William Elliott was called as first pastor and F. M. Frazier was church clerk. Here was a handful of devoted spirits, who were never able to make much progress but who have maintained worship, erected an edifice and a pastorium, and who at the present time maintain a local pastor.

This organization seems to have nearly collapsed, and later, in 1887, there was a reorganization, by Rev. Sterns, of Grand Island. He conducted revival meetings, which resulted in a number of conversions and increased the membership to thirty-five.

About this time the Lincoln Townsite Company promised a lot to the denomination that built the first church. The Merna Baptist church took advantage of this offer, and at once solicited a building fund, as a result of which the present building was dedicated in the fall of 1887.

The charter members, with the exception of two, have either died or moved away. The exceptions are J. B. Smith and Mrs. Nona Filkins. Among the pastors who have served the church are Rev. W. M. Jewel, W. A. Farrell, F. A. Reisner, J. D. Brady, W. L. Gaston, and the present incumbent, the Rev. C. C. Van Gorkon.

THE ANSLEY BAPTIST CHURCH ORGANIZED

The Baptist church of Ansley was organized September 19, 1886, at the close of a sermon by the Rev. J. E. Ingham. There

were thirteen charter members, as follows: A. B. Fleming and wife, C. F. Davis and wife, Mrs. Jane Amsberry, M. S. Coffman, Walter W. Theobald and wife, Mrs. E. H. Burrows, Mrs. Charlotte A. Stevenson, James Westervelt and wife, and J. G. Amsberry. It was first represented at the Custer Association, held at Broken Bow, September 24, 1886, by the following delegates: Mrs. Charlotte Stevenson, W. W. Theobald, James Westervelt, and the pastor, J. E. Ingham. Meetings were first held in the town hall and afterward in the Presbyterian church. The church entertained the Custer Association in September, 1887. Rev. Theobald came next as minister and preached until Rev. L. W. Gowen was called for part time. Rev. Mr. Gowen was pastor also at Mason City and continued to serve the two churches until November, 1889. Having no church building and losing by removal its efficient church clerk, W. W. Theobald, and by death one of its most faithful members, Mrs. E. H. Burrows, it had no regular services from 1889 to 1899. On August 8, 1899, Rev. S. C. Green, secretary of the Nebraska State Baptist Association, reorganized the Baptist church, the meeting being held in the parlor of Mrs. C. R. Stevenson. Those going into the new organization were: Mrs. Charlotte Stevenson, J. H. Kerr and wife, N. Amsberry and wife, Arthur, Myrtle, and Minnie Meyers, A. H. Lewis and wife, E. J. Owens and wife, and Verla and Esty Lewis. The officers chosen were: Rev. J. R. Woods, pastor for part time; deacon, N. Amsberry; clerk, A. H. Lewis; trustees, J. H. Kerr, Henry Zimmerman, and E. J. Owens; treasurer, Mrs. J. H. Kerr. On August 20, 1899, the church was given recognition and again received into the Custer Association as a Baptist church, regularly organized. In 1901 J. H. Kerr was appointed to purchase three lots for the church building. These lots were located on Main street, and on October 25, 1903, the church was dedicated. In February, 1906, two more lots were purchased and a parsonage built. In 1917 a basement was built, at a cost of \$2,000. Pastors who have served the church: J. E. Ingham, L. W.

Gowen, J. R. Woods, D. J. Briggs, W. K. Markland, J. M. F. Heuman, Frank C. Barrett, F. A. Conners, R. Richards, C. T. McKee, J. T. Brown, C. A. Spaulding, and the present pastor, R. Richards. The church has always been a missionary church and has contributed largely to all the denominational interests. In 1911 a branch of the church was organized at Happy Hill schoolhouse, J. E. Staab, Lyman Amsberry, and Ray Zimmerman being the officers. The present membership is 165. The church property is valued at \$8,000. The present officers are: Pastor, R. Richards; deacons, N. Amsberry, William Ihlow, and Chester Loyd; trustees, J. H. Kerr, William Price, and W. J. McCullough; treasurer, Mrs. J. H. Kerr; Sunday-school superintendent, J. B. Jones; Sunday-school secretary, Elsie Butler; Sunday-school treasurer, Mrs. Mabel Lewis; organist, Miss Crissie Southard; chorister, Mrs. J. H. Holeman; B. Y. P. U. president, Mrs. Fannie Austrand. At the reorganization of the church in 1899, a Mission Circle was formed, of which Mrs. J. H. Kerr has always been the president. Mrs. E. W. Pester is at present the secretary-treasurer.

In 1906 a new parsonage was built, which has since been improved and modernized, and it is to-day occupied by the incumbent pastor, Rev. R. Richards.

THE EUELLES

Rev. J. M. Maxwell, an able and educated minister, from Indiana, located at Cumro and in 1886 organized the first Eudell Baptist church, with Nc George as church clerk. Shortly after its organization, a sod church was built, and this served the purposes of the congregation and community for a number of years—until it was replaced by the frame building which is now in use. The work in this community has been steady, never large, but always the faithful resident members have sustained Sunday-school and, most of the time, preaching services.

The church to-day is under the pastoral care of Rev. W. C. Walcott, who serves this church in connection with the field at Sumner. In 1891 a branch of this church was organized,

by the Rev. J. M. Maxwell, at a point six or seven miles east of the first church, and this newer branch organization is now called the Second Eudell Baptist church.

The career of the second church has been much the same as that of the first. A few substantial Baptist families, such as those of William Eleo and B. F. Nicholas, have contributed both the life and support of the church for the last twenty years or more. At present the church employs a pastor for half time. Rev. W. E. Stilson serves this church and also that of Bethel Union, eight miles north of Broken Bow.

LOMAX AND LODI

Owing to the missionary work of O. A. Buzzell, two small churches were organized in the Wood river and South Loup country, at Lomax and Lodi. These organizations were effected some time in the early '90s. Both have secured frame buildings and a comfortable parsonage has been built at Lomax. These are both rural churches and preaching services have been more or less intermittent. In each neighborhood, however, reside one or two staunch Baptist families, who have managed to keep church expenses paid and the church door open. At the present time both churches are without pastors.

BETHEL UNION

On January 20, 1901, the Bethel Union church, eight miles north of Broken Bow, was organized in the home of Mrs. Amanda Holcomb. Seven persons were present, and only a few charter members were obtained, but meetings were held in a schoolhouse and the people of the community, generally, gave the church their support. Several additions were made to the church as the result of evangelistic meetings.

In 1906 the church built the present building and dedicated it, free of debt. The regular services have been maintained most of the time since. The Rev. J. R. Woods served as pastor for a number of years next after the organization.

Rev. W. L. Gaston, then of Merna, com-

menced afternoon services in August, 1909, and continued them every two weeks until the close of 1915. Since that time the church has been without services most of the time. Rev. W. E. Stilson is present pastor and is spending much time upon the field. Only a few of the original members remain, removals and death having changed entirely the first church roll.

HIGHLAND

The Highland church is the baby church of the association, as the result of a meeting held on the extreme west and southern rim of the West Table, by the Rev. F. A. Reisner, in the fall of 1916. A few families were banded together into a church organization, known as the Highland Baptist church.

The work they have been doing, which consists mainly of maintaining a Sunday-school and an occasional preaching service, has been largely of a union character. Rev. C. C. Van Gorkon, pastor of the Merna church, is now serving the Highland church with afternoon appointments. The organization has no building, but maintains services in a schoolhouse.

THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH

The Free Methodist church of Ansley has a membership of twenty-five, but they are holding no services at present. They own a parsonage, the value of which is \$1,800. The trustees of the church are M. V. Hawk, J. H. Brand, and John Daniels. This denomination has a small following throughout the county, but their work has been intermittent and confined to localities in the country precincts. They have no church buildings at the present time and no county organization.

THE PRESBYTERIANS

The first Presbyterian services of which there is any record were held in the home of S. C. Stuckey, on Burr Oak creek, in 1879, by Rev. Mr. Cornett, who was then located at Lexington.

The first Presbyterian organization, as stated elsewhere, was in the New Helena district, in 1880, at which time a minister named Stevenson, from West Virginia, lo-

cated on a New Helena homestead. Stevenson stayed but a short time, perhaps less than one year, but during that time effected a local organization of some nature, which later was carried on by Rev. Lysander T. Burbank, who in the same year located in the vicinity of Burr Oak. Afterward, however, this New Helena and Lillian work was taken over by the Methodists, who supplied the preaching stations from Westerville.

Some time in the spring of 1880 a Presbyterian church was organized at Burr Oak, by a Rev. Mr. Little, who was the first synodical missionary to do Presbyterian work in Custer county. Rev.

Dr. Burbank, who arrived in Custer county October 1, 1880, came to assume the pastorate of this church, which he served for a number of years without salary. Aside from being a preacher, Dr. Burbank was a physician, and he practiced

medicine up and down the South Loup in the early days. The records show that he was a student under Mark Hopkins, the illustrious president of Williams College. President Garfield and ex-Senator John J. Ingalls were both upper-class men in this institution while Dr. Burbank was an undergraduate.

This Burr Oak church is maintained at the present time, but has no pastor.

BROKEN BOW PRESBYTERIANS

The Presbyterian church of Broken Bow was organized in 1885, by a Rev. Mr. Doremus, who at the time was serving the Ansley church. The charter members were E. A. Hemsworth, Mrs. Hemsworth, G. H. Tuttle, Mrs. Addie Tuttle, Mrs. Jennie Biggerstaff, Mrs. R. E. Martin, and Mrs. Kimel Barnes.

For some time services were held in a public hall, the congregation awaiting the time when they felt they would be able to build the church home they required. This was done in 1893. A very commodious, beautiful structure, for the time, was erected on the north side of the railroad, on Tenth avenue, at a cost of about \$3,500. The Rev. George Bailey was pastor during the building and dedication of the church. This was at the time the best church building in the county. In 1904 the structure was destroyed by fire, and it was rebuilt in the fall of the same year. It was dedicated in April, 1906.

The following account of the dedication is

from a denominational paper published at the time:

"More than a year ago this church lost its pleasant house of worship through a visitation of fire, and the people were forced to meet in a rented hall — as in the early days of their organization. At



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT BROKEN BOW

once they began to plan for a new church which would be larger and more convenient than the one destroyed. As a result of their energy and liberality, a building costing about \$6,000 was dedicated on April 10, during the session of Kearney presbytery, which was being held at Broken Bow. Rev. George A. Ray, D.D., of St. Paul, preached the dedicatory sermon; the pastor, Rev. A. A. Mitchell, conducted the formal service of dedication, Rev. Dr. Thomas C. Clark, of Grand Island, offering the prayers. During this same session of the presbytery a formal call was presented from the Broken Bow church to Rev. A. A. Mitchell, and he was installed as pastor, on the evening of April 11, 1906. Since that time the church has had renewed life, receiving on one Sab-

bath forty new members into its communion."

While Rev. A. A. Mitchell was not settled as pastor until the time of dedication, he had been acting as stated supply and it was due to his labor that the church was built.

The church has a membership of approximately 150 and is a very liberal contributor to every denominational and benevolent cause.

The church erected a manse which is a splendid, two-story, modern structure, equal to all the needs of a minister's family. The present pastor, Rev. A. H. Frazer, has been eight years with the church, loved by his people and respected by the community.

THE ANSLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Presbyterian building was the first church structure erected in Ansley. It was built in the spring of 1887 and was dedicated in July of the same year, Rev. Mr. Sexton, of Seward, officiating. The first pastor was Rev. Mr. Doremus. Being the only church in the town, it was used by all denominations until each was able to erect a church edifice of its own. Several ministers, whose names are not now remembered, served the church before 1893. But in that year Rev. Mr. Mitchelmore became its pastor. He continued in that capacity up to 1894, and thereafter, on account of the drouth, the church stood vacant for several years. The next pastor was Rev. Paul Naylor, since whose pastorate the ministers whose names we have been able to secure, have been Rev. Mr. McCachran, Rev. Mr. Strickler, and Rev. Mr. Thomas. The church is now inactive.

EPISCOPALIAN WORK IN THE COUNTY

Although the people of the Protestant Episcopal church were not among the early pioneers, they have, nevertheless, been missionaries of no mean dimensions. They have operated, in a small way, in most of the towns of the county. Their people were among the early settlers in most localities, although, in most instances, not numerous enough to warrant the establishing of a church.

At the present time they maintain service at

Broken Bow and Callaway, where they have strong churches and good equipment.

CALLAWAY PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

While an occasional service was held in Callaway by the missionary resident of Broken Bow, under the direction of the Right Reverend George Worthington, bishop of the diocese of Nebraska, it was not until the consecration of Right Reverend Anson R. Graves, January 1, 1890, and the setting aside of the jurisdiction of the Platte, that any regular services were held in Callaway. Bishop Graves visited Callaway May 16, 1890, and arranged for regular services by Rev. W. S. Sayres, rector at Broken Bow. Under his active encouragement and help, Holy Trinity church was erected and the mission built up. The church building cost \$1,500 and was erected in 1890. To the ceaseless energy of Mrs. Georgia Ingram, more than to any other one person, is due the credit for the erection of the largest church building in Callaway. Its corner-stone was laid, with due Masonic ceremonies, November 25, 1890, this being the first instance in which this symbolic service was held in Custer county. The officers present were: M. W. Robert E. French, grand master; and R. W. Lee P. Gillett, grand custodian. They were assisted by forty master Masons, local and visitors. Broken Bow sent twenty-six Masons. In the furnishing of the church many beautiful and useful articles were received from various liberal churchmen, among which were: Silver communion service, by the sons of O. M. Carter, Omaha; Holy Bible, Church of the Heavenly Rest, New York; bell, John Taylor & Company, Laughborough, England; altar linen, altar hangings, and dosal curtain, beautiful white set, Mrs. Georgia Ingram, San Diego, California; purple set, Mrs. Graves, wife of the bishop; green set, Ladies' Guild; alms basin, Rev. R. G. Osborn, of Platte Collegiate Institute; corner stone, cross, Mr. Osborn, of Kearney granite works; candlesticks, gilt and silver, Arthur Bird; vases, V. G. Gurinian.

The year 1893 brought a financial panic and a failure of crops. A tornado, on June 4,

1894, threw the church off its foundation and injured everything in the building. In this year of misfortunes, the church was moved to a new location, was repaired, a furnace was put in, and a rectory built, necessitating an expenditure of \$950 in cash. By some strange coincidence, the greatest material advance to Holy Trinity church has seemed to come in times of greatest financial depressions. The church was consecrated, free of debt, January 1, 1895, and organized as a mission, under the rules of the bishop of the Platte, July 7, 1895. The jurisdiction of the Platte was abolished and the jurisdiction of Laramie took its place in 1898. At first, services were held once a month, sometimes once in two months, but the church has so prospered that since 1900 regular morning and evening services have been held every Sunday. The rector does missionary work along the Kearney & Black Hills Railroad and around Callaway. The following rectors have had charge of this mission under Rt. Rev. Anson R. Graves, S. T. D., bishop of Laramie: Rev. W. S. Sayres, Rev. S. A. Potter, Rev. H. E. Robbins, Rev. Austin F. Morgan, Rev. E. P. Chittenden, Ph. D., Rev. John Powers, Rev. A. E. Osborn, Rev. R. A. Russell, Rev. Charles Ferguson, Rev. R. M. Herdman, Rev. J. M. Bates. The number of communicants on May 1, 1901, was fifty. The, then, official members of the church were: Senior warden, H. H. Andrews; junior warden, George O. Benger; clerk, Mrs. Clara Benger; organist, Miss Emily Holloway; lay-reader, H. H. Andrews. To the chief shepherd of the flock, Bishop Graves, is due chief praise for his good work in his mission, giving it the best of his clergy and ever raising funds to improve its property.

The Ladies' Guild of the Protestant Episcopal church was organized by the Rt. Rev. Anson R. Graves at the time of his first visit to Callaway, on May, 16, 1890. This organization was completed May 27, 1890, by the adoption of the by-laws and the election of the following officers. President, Mrs. Lydia F. Bird; vice-president, Mrs. Catherine E. Nixon; secretary, Mrs. Georgia A. Ingram; treasurer,

George S. Smith. The following members were first enrolled: Mrs. Lydia F. Bird, Mrs. Anna Tyson, Mrs. Catherine E. Nixon, Mrs. Etta Bergman, Mrs. Georgia A. Ingram, Mrs. Fannie Sherwood, Mrs. Martha Pike, Miss Lucy J. Johnston. From this nucleus sprang not a large but a very active guild, which has been the mainstay of Holy Trinity church. The history of the guild is the history of the church. The guild really was the prime mover in building and furnishing the church. It purchased the historical organ—the organ which for years was the only one in town, one which was used to every occasion, and which finally, through the liberality of the guild, found a resting place within the church, where it now dispenses sacred music as sweetly as it did secular harmonies in its youth. The guild furnished the seats of the church, the communion rail, and the altar. It paid for half of the English bell and paid freight and custom duties on it. The bell was a half-gift from John Taylor & Company, Laughborough, England. So not only is the church in communion with the Church of England, but the congregation assembles every Sunday at the ring and call of its English bell. The guild has supported in part the rector's salary, paid incidental expenses, sexton and organist, and made up deficiencies in general. During the drouth of 1890, the guild disbursed needful articles to the indigent and worthy poor, and the same was true of the great drouth of 1894. It is the active, working organization of the church, rich in good deeds and worthy of the highest praise. The officers at that time were: President, Mrs. Hattie Andrews; secretary, Mrs. Clara Benger; vice-president, Mrs. Josephine Phillips; treasurer, Mr. H. H. Andrews. The membership is about twenty.

Holy Trinity Sunday-school membership has remained about stationary. The superintendent, from the time of organization, has been H. H. Andrews. Teachers: Olive Phillips, Mabel Decker, Emma Conly, Emily Holloway, and Emily Brega.

THE BROKEN BOW EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The ministrations of the Episcopal church

were first brought to Broken Bow during the days of the late Bishop Worthington, who, in 1886, sent Rev. M. Fullforth out from Omaha to look over the field. There being but a small handful of Episcopalians in this community at that time, Rev. Mr. Fullforth called them together during his church service in August, 1886, in what was then the Opera House. This new church was organized as St. John's Protestant Episcopal church. Later that year, or in the early part of 1887, Rev. Dr. Zahner came to Broken Bow and obtained something like \$800 in subscriptions for building a church, the land being given by the Lincoln Land Company for that purpose. In 1887,

following a short stay by Dr. Zahner, came the Rev. Oliver J. Booth, who was the first settled rector. The church services were held in various places, among which were the Burlington hotel and the homes of some of the

members. It was during the Rev. Mr. Booth's pastorate that a church building was erected. Operations were begun in April, 1889, and finished in September of the same year. The first service held in the new edifice was a marriage ceremony. Bishop Worthington paid an episcopal visit to this new field in September, 1888.

During the time between Bishop Worthington's visit and the completion of the church building, Bishop A. R. Graves was made bishop over this part of the state of Nebraska, and he made his first visitation to Broken Bow January 9, 1890. At the time of this visit a subscription for supporting a clergyman was begun, and also a fund for wiping out the indebtedness created by building a church.

The woman's guild, which was organized in February, 1887, offered their services, took

over the indebtedness of the church and pledged themselves to pay it off at a rate of \$200 each year for five years.

Between the resignation of Rev. Mr. Booth, in October, 1889, and the arrival of the Rev. W. S. Sayres, May 30, 1890, services were not held with any regularity. Upon Mr. Sayres taking charge of the work the services were held weekly, except for one Sunday each month, when he went to Callaway for service. This arrangement prevailed until January, 1893, when the Callaway church obtained a rector for itself, thus releasing Mr. Sayres for other work, in Ansley, where he managed to hold services every Sunday afternoon. In

June, 1893, the church received its first coat of paint. Very shortly after this, July 4th, Mr. Sayres resigned to take up work in another field. During his stay here he held services at different times in Litchfield, Mason City, Ravenna,

Ashley, Custer Center, Merna, Sargent, West Union, Hyannis, Sand Valley, and Callaway.

From July 12 to September 28, 1893, this work was taken charge of by Rev. F. M. Bacon, deacon, and Broken Bow was given weekly service. Throughout the following year the Rev. R. L. Knox had charge of the work. Mr. Knox, upon leaving Broken Bow, took charge of the church at Arapahoe. His place was filled in Broken Bow by the Rev. H. E. Robbins, deacon, who remained until July 30, 1895. During a period of nearly two years only occasional services were held by ordained clergymen, the interim being supplied by lay-readers. The Rev. George Green was in charge of St. John's church from June, 1897, until the following August. In October, 1897, the Rev. J. B. VanFleet took charge of the



BROKEN BOW EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND RECTORY

work, and after remaining one year, he removed to Norford, Nevada.

From October, 1898, to September, 1899, the Rev. Charles Ferguson had charge, and during his pastorate he held a monthly service at Callaway, where he resided during his last month in the state, whence he went to Tucson, Arizona. While in charge of Broken Bow and Callaway, he prepared for publication his book entitled "The Religion of Democracy."

Then followed a period of more than two years during which the sacraments of the church were administered only occasionally, the most of the services being conducted by a lay-reader.

From January, 1900, to May, 1902, the Rev. Walton H. Daggett held the pastorate in Broken Bow. It was during his charge here that many minor improvements were made in the church building and the rectory, which had been provided by the Woman's Guild. Among the improvements in the church were an altar, brass candle-sticks, brass cross, a hymn board, etc., besides vestments for the choir.

The Rev. William H. Xanders then took up the work, and he remained from May, 1902, to January, 1910. During his pastorate other improvements were added to the church and rectory, the rectory being enlarged.

Mr. W. C. J. Dumville, a lay-reader, had charge of the work from May, 1910, to November, 1912. While in charge of this work he pursued his theological studies, and in March, 1911, he was made a deacon, by our present bishop, Rt. Rev. George Allen Beecher, D. D.

From November, 1912, until 1914, the Rev. L. A. Arthur, of Grand Island, ministered occasionally to the people of Broken Bow, and early in 1915 the Rev. F. A. Henry took up the work. He remained until March, 1918.

Sunday, June 9, 1918, Rev. T. W. Morgan, deacon, was advanced to the priesthood, in St. John's church, and he immediately took charge of the work of this parish, of which he has since continued the rector.

THE CHURCH OF GOD

The early work done by the pioneer preachers of the Church of God should be recorded along with the account of work done by devoted men of other denominations. This body of devoted people have never lacked in enthusiasm, and when it is considered that they have not been backed by a large denomination which could render outside support, and have been led by an unpaid ministry, they have made a creditable showing. Their pioneer work was done mostly at Weissert and Berwyn. The most prominent, and perhaps the ablest, of their preachers is the Rev. Richard Bellis, who during the years has conducted farming operations in connection with his ministry. The fertile fields of Custer county soil, if not the spiritual fields of Custer county churches, have rewarded Rev. Bellis and his good wife with a competency for their old age, so that they now live in comfortable retirement on their farm near Berwyn.

This denomination maintains at the present time, two organizations, in Custer county, one at Weissert, where they have a frame church building, and the other at Berwyn, where they have a very neat, three-gabled building, nicely furnished, and adequate for the needs of the small town. These two churches are served by the Rev. John Armour, who, like his predecessor, depends upon the good soil of the realm for the staff of life, and "eats his bread in the sweat of his brow." Rev. John Armour, preacher and farmer, is young and vigorous, and his Sabbath ministrations are carried on with a zeal and fervor unrestrained by the farm labor of the week.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Rev. W. A. Baldwin, of Broken Bow, has furnished the following summary:

To Elder E. D. Eubank, now a resident of Broken Bow, must be given the honor of opening Custer county to the plea of the Disciples of Christ, commonly known as the Christian church. He moved here in 1874, and settled on the Middle Loup river near Wescott. In

common with all preachers of this communion, he was full of the desire to preach the gospel wheresoever he found himself, and it was not long until he began to gather the people together for worship. Mrs. Eubank led in forming a Sunday school, as well as gathering the few children of the neighborhood into her own home for a day school. As a result of this beginning, there was effected, in 1875, a small organization, with Mr. Guthrie as elder, and this continued to hold services for a time. The members thus drawn together in this early day mostly united with the church at Sargent, at the time of its organization.

Elder Eubank had the experience that often met the pioneer preacher, and frequently had to walk to places of meeting. At one time he was called across the Loup for a funeral, and went over in the morning on the ice. On his return, in the afternoon, he was taken to the river in a conveyance by one of the neighbors, who drove away at once and the preacher wended his way to the ice. A change had taken place during the day, and, before he was very far along, the ice was showing signs of breaking up. Finally he had to wade the water, 'midst floating ice, because of a rift that separated him from the shore. He preached the first funeral sermon in the county and married the first couple—Edgar Denial and Miss Josephine Eubank. He served as the first county superintendent of schools. Two other men preached in those early days at Wescott—Elders Reuben Manning and S. A. Kopp. Both of these have passed to their reward, Mr. Manning being buried at Sargent July 26, 1918.

ARNOLD

The next organization effected was at Arnold, or more correctly at Henry Brothers' cattle ranch, then occupied by Morgan S. Parks and William W. Frazier and family. Elder Landis J. Correll, a veteran pioneer preacher, held services April 1, 1883, with about twenty-five persons present. Regular preaching was had thereafter, and on July 11, 1884, the church was formally organized,

with the following charter members: L. J. Correll, Martha Correll, Marcellus Sargent, Lena Sargent, William W. Frazier, Laura J. Frazier, Charles Tremmel, Mrs. Charles Tremmel, A. Moffett, Mrs. A. Moffett, Anna M. Saunders, Allen Holeman, and Amos S. Gamble. The record of the first officers is not available, but Elder Correll continued to minister to the congregation for a number of years and doubtless served as elder.

Twelve members were added during the year of 1884 and as a result of a meeting held in the fall of 1885, by Elder Henderson and L. J. Correll, nine others united with the church. During this year a frame building was erected, at a cost of \$1200, and was dedicated by R. C. Barrow, state evangelist, December 19, 1885. February 14, 1886, John T. Smith, of Nebraska City, conducted a series of revival meetings, lasting four weeks, and seven members were added. Again, in 1893, Evangelist Smith was called, and twenty-one additions resulted from the meetings held. "Father" Correll, as he was familiarly called, still served as pastor.

All of this time a regular Bible school was conducted by the church, but the names of officers cannot be given. D. A. Youtzy followed L. J. Correll as pastor. Owen J. Owens served six months in 1897; E. D. Eubank a like period in 1890; Ford A. Ellis, from April to September 1, 1906, during his vacation while attending Cotner University; and E. J. Ratcliffe in 1907; N. S. Carpenter in 1908; Ford A. Ellis again in 1911-12; J. G. Slick one year, 1913; G. W. Gentry, part of 1914; and F. H. Gerrett a part of 1916-17. School is held regularly every Lord's day, with an enrollment of fifty. John M. Saunders is the superintendent. The church now numbers eighty-three members, with the following officers: Elders, Charles Sanderson, John Samuelson, Warren Copeland; deacons, George Ransier, John Backes, Charles Backes, Oral Gunter, Harry Shaw, Arthur Scott; trustees, John Backes, Charles Sanderson, John Samuelson; deaconesses, Lydia Backes,

Verda Smith, Sis. Bassett; clerk, Etta Backes; treasurer, Martha A. Morrow; organist, Oma Brown.

LIBERTY

The church at Liberty was organized on Clear creek, about ten miles east of Ansley, following a meeting held by M. A. Sweeney in October, 1883. There were about twenty-five charter members, of whom John Sargent and A. W. Hyatt served as elders. About the year 1886 H. L. Burns held a meeting at the Kimball schoolhouse, seven miles northwest of where the first church was organized, and a new organization was effected, of which Bradford Rose, Cain Moody, Ernest House, and Joseph Hyatt were deacons. The two churches came together in 1887, midway between the two locations, on the farm of J. W. Bryan. There they built a large sod meeting-house, in which they continued to worship, under the name Liberty Christian church, until the year 1903, when a neat and comfortable frame structure was built, the same having been dedicated the same autumn, by the state secretary, W. A. Baldwin. The following ministers have served as pastors, beginning with the first organization, in 1886: A. M. Sweeney, C. A. Miller, H. L. Burns, E. D. Eubank, S. A. Kopp, Jesse R. Teagarden, J. P. Waldron, Carl Knapp, Fred Galliger, P. G. Dennis, and Charles A. Shook. At this writing the organization is defunct, through death and removal of the members. A number of the remaining members are now identified with the Banner church, organized by Charles A. Shook, in December, 1917.

BROKEN BOW

The beginnings of the Christian church in Broken Bow date back to May, 1886, when the state evangelist, N. B. Alley, formed an organization which met for a time in the Baptist church building and then, again for a brief period, in a hall. Among the charter members were John Van Horn, J. B. Farrell, J. J. Brown and wife, David Brinson and wife, W. S. Boyce and wife, Mrs. Nellie Humphrey, W. R. Wiley, B. W. Blair, Nettie Atkinson, and E. E. Hastings. The evangelist appointed

the following officers: Elders, J. J. Brown, W. R. Wiley, and B. W. Blair; deacons, John Van Horn and E. E. Hastings; deaconesses, M. Louisa Brown, Nettie Atkinson, and Mrs. Nellie Humphrey. The work did not flourish for a time, because of lack of pastoral care, and in December, 1886, Elder E. D. Eubank held a meeting of a month, in the Baptist church, thereafter serving the congregation as its pastor. During this meeting three trustees were elected, as follows: John Van Horn, David Brinson, and J. J. Brown. This church has enjoyed the usual vicissitudes meeting those who would establish the Lord's work on the very frontiers of advancing settlements and civilization. Periods of growth and exaltation were intermingled with times of depression and discouragement. The common lot of a new organization in the midst of a moving and shifting population was theirs. But throughout the years the church has been able to maintain its organization and for the most part has had pastoral oversight. The loss of the original records makes it uncertain whether the following list of preachers is exactly correct, but it is substantially so. Following E. D. Eubank, they are as follows: D. A. Youtzy, Porter, Pace, Surgeson, Shields, Sherman Hill, J. R. Teagarden, T. L. McDonald, George Boomer, L. R. Harman, C. V. Allison, A. J. Hargett, J. S. Early, N. T. Harmon, Z. O. Doward, W. C. Lessley, J. E. Ferguson, and the present pastor, W. A. Baldwin. Several of these were supply men only and some were students, serving only through vacations. J. R. Teagarden served at several different periods, being called to the work in connection with other business.

In 1887 a frame building was erected, at the corner of Eleventh avenue and P street, and this housed the congregation during the years intervening until 1907, when J. S. Early was serving the church. Mr. Early took up work begun in the summer by A. J. Hargett, who was filling the pastorate in his vacation. He had raised a part of the subscriptions toward a new building and a lot was secured on the corner at Tenth avenue and O street. Under the businesslike leadership of Mr.

Early the present house of worship was completed, at a total cost of \$6,000. It was dedicated by F. M. Rains, of Cincinnati, Ohio, secretary of the Foreign Christian Missionary Society. The old church building and site were sold to J. C. Moore, who converted the building into a comfortable residence, which is now occupied by the pastor, W. A. Baldwin.

This church has always maintained a Bible school from the earliest days. The first list of officers was lost with the records. It now has an enrolment of 105 and the officers are as follows: Superintendent, Mrs. W. R. Morgan; assistant superintendent, G. Dillard Lessley (at this time serving his country and

part, accounts for the large list of non-resident members.

The present officers are as follows: Elders, J. M. Fodge, E. W. Morrison; deacons, C. W. Beal, B. F. Williams, B. H. Headley, J. D. Lemmon; deaconesses, Mrs. Belle Barratt, Mrs. E. I. Irvin, Mrs. G. E. Pennington, Mrs. W. R. Morgan; church clerk, H. C. Kimball; treasurer, Dr. G. E. Pennington; trustees, J. C. Moore, B. E. Williams, B. H. Headley; chorister, Mrs. E. I. Irvin; pianists, Mrs. Mabel Darnell, Miss Ethel Roberts.

Officers absent in the service of the United States at the time of this writing are: Elder G. Dillard Lessley, Hospital Train No. 39, American Expeditionary Force; deacons Mauritz Malm, Company B, 342, 89th Division, Machine Gun Battalion, American Expeditionary Force; Walter Ellis, Headquarters Company 339, Field Artillery, 88th Division, American Expeditionary Force.

Two women's societies are maintained, the Sisterhood doing a social and helpful work in the affairs of the church. President, Mrs. C. H. Holcomb; secretary, Mrs. William Darnell; treasurer, Mrs. G. B. Landis. The missionary society known as the Christian Woman's Board of Missions Auxiliary, with Miss Maude Baldwin president; Mrs. J. H. Johnson, secretary; and Mrs. H. C. Kimball, treasurer. Mrs. J. Beckwith is literary superintendent.

The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor has a membership of fifteen. Miss Bessie Latzke is president; Miss Atlanta Tuttle, secretary and treasurer; Miss Ethel Roberts, corresponding secretary.

ANSELMO

In 1887, at the Grandview schoolhouse, a Sunday school was opened, with Charles Jones as superintendent. Preaching services were conducted by George Dixon. The work was continued until, in 1889, as the result of a meeting held by J. R. Teagarden, in which some twenty-five persons were converted, an organization was consummated at Windy Point schoolhouse. Practically the same group who were interested in the first work, went



CHRISTIAN CHURCH AT BROKEN BOW

humanity "Somewhere in France"); secretary, Miss Alice Francis; treasurer, Miss Bessie Latzke; pianist, Miss Atlanta Tuttle. The school is following modern methods in Bible-school work, using graded lessons in the primary and intermediate departments. Two strong Bible classes among the seniors are taught by J. C. Moore and Hon. C. W. Beal.

In the matter of membership in the church, the earlier information is lacking, but it has grown with the passing of the years. At present the roll shows 231 members, including an absent list of more than forty. Many revival meetings have been held and have always given additional names to the list of members. Many students from other places have come in and then returned to their homes. This, in

into the latter. This church met with varying degrees of success and failure as the years slipped by. In May, 1911, S. R. McClure, evangelist of the Nebraska Christian Missionary Society, who was in a meeting at Lillian, visited Anselmo and, finding there a desire for the work to be revived, he arranged to begin a meeting in the town the same month. The results were unexpectedly gratifying, eighty-four persons coming out on the side of the Lord. Steps were immediately taken to build, and by the time the meeting closed the new house was well along toward completion. It was fully fitted out that summer, at a cost of \$2,000, and in the early fall it was dedicated, by W. A. Baldwin, state secretary of the missionary society that had supported the evangelist in the work. Of the eighty-four persons coming into the church during the meeting, fifty-three were received by confession and baptism. Twenty of the former members joined with the new material to form the new congregation. Frank Reeder served as pastor for a short time thereafter, as he had been preaching for them previously. A Bible school has been maintained regularly, and William V. White is now the superintendent.

The following preachers have served the congregations during the period from the beginning: George Dixon, E. D. Eubank, Frank J. Emerson, Ford A. Ellis, J. R. Teagarden, Frank Reeder, W. C. Lessley. Mr. Lessley has been serving, as his time would permit, for several years and is still looked to for preaching when he can give them time. William White is elder, and Mrs. William White is church clerk. There are about thirty members.

WHITE PIGEON

At White Pigeon schoolhouse, E. D. Eubank held services and organized a small congregation into a working church in 1888. Most of these members later became members of the Lillian church. It remained a preaching point for a number of years.

ANSLEY

The Christian church of Ansley was or-

ganized in March 1889, following a meeting held in a hall over C. J. Stevens' store, by the state evangelist, R. C. Barrow. The charter members were Dan Hagin, Mrs. Dovia Hagin, Frank Hagin, John Sargent, Laura A. Sargent, Simon Rigby, Alice Rigby, Mary Hagin, George Rich, Marie Rich, Fanny Gaines, Mrs. Anthony, and Jeanette Stevenson (now Mrs. Frank Housel). The officary consisted of two elders, John Sargent and George Rich, and two deacons, Dan Hagin and Simon Rigby. In 1892 the present house of worship was erected, at a cost of \$3,000, and it was dedicated in August of that year, by Dr. W. P. Aylsworth, dean of the sacred-literature department of Cotner University. The succes-



CHRISTIAN CHURCH AT ANSLEY

sion of pastors is here recorded: W. H. Hedges, Fred Hagin, J. Sherman Hill, J. W. Walker, George Bailey, Jesse R. Teagarden, C. V. Allison, T. C. McIntyre, D. G. Wagner, F. D. Hobson, P. G. Dennis, and the present pastor, Charles A. Shook. The church now has an active membership of 153 and an outlying membership of about thirty-five in the church organized at the Banner schoolhouse in December, 1917, by the pastor, Charles A. Shook. It has a Bible school enrollment of about 150, with an average attendance of seventy-one. C. W. Hawk is the present superintendent. The Christian Endeavor Society has thirteen members and Miss Eva Stuckey is president. There is a strong woman's missionary society, known as the Christian Woman's Board of Missions Auxiliary, with

thirty members. Mrs. J. T. McGowan is its president.

The present officers of the church are: Elders, Frank Housel, Charles W. Hawk, J. N. Trout, E. C. Moody, and Charles A. Shook; deacons, J. T. McGowan, William Housel, Roy Waters, B. F. Crouch, and Ed. Ming; clerk, J. T. McGowan; treasurer, W. C. Housel.

This church has sent out one preacher, Fred Hagin, son of Dan and Mrs. Dovia Hagin, and he has been for some years a missionary in the foreign field, at Tokio, Japan. This has been one of the strong churches of the Disciples of Christ in this county. It has maintained its vitality and has a prominent place in the village of Ansley and the community round about.

COBURG

The church at Coburg began its work in a sod schoolhouse, about the year 1890, E. D. Eubank and Reuben Manning leading in the organization and afterward both of these men ministered to the congregation. The list of charter members is not available, but the officers chosen were as follows: Elder, L. L. Wood; deacons, J. S. Amos, John Jorn; clerk and treasurer, Richard Eubank. A Bible school was organized, with Richard Eubank as superintendent. Regular services were maintained, with occasional vacancies in the pastorate. In 1913 a meeting-house was constructed, and it is now the home of the congregation.

The following preachers have served: S. A. Kopp, E. D. Eubank, R. D. McCance, H. L. Denton, A. O. Startwood, A. L. Field, N. C. Carpenter, and J. S. Reel, the last named being the present minister, in co-operation with the Sargent church. The present membership is forty-five and the officers are: Elders, J. Jorn, Emmet Bebout, Lester Thompson; deacons, Elmer Galaher, Wayne Amos, J. L. Amos, Roy Durham, Charles Bedford, Henry Eggers; clerk, Mrs. J. L. Amos; treasurer, Lester Thompson; Bible-school superintendent, Wayne Amos. The enrollment of the Bible school is sixty-three. The value of the church property is \$2,000. During the life of

this congregation two of its young men have declared for the ministry.

MASON CITY

In October, 1906, O. A. Adams, pastor of the church at Ansley, with Louis Epler as singing evangelist, held a meeting in the opera hall at Mason City resulting in an organization with the following officers: Elders, Sherman Knox, Oren Dolen; deacons, George Chipps, Vannie Reed, William Davis, Ross Rhodes; church clerk, Oren Dolen.

The following named persons were charter members: Mrs. W. T. Whitehead, Mrs. William Russmisell, George Chipps, Ella Chipps, Blanche Weaver, Hannah Anderson, Ovidia Anderson, Iva Browning, Bessie Reed, Viola Gouley, Oren Dolen, Vannie Reed, William Davis, Rose Davis, Jennie Weaver, Lewis Weaver, Mabel Chipps, Howard Chipps, James Gouley, Ellen Gouley, Ross Rhodes, Sadie Thorne, Mary E. Shelton, Martha E. Dolan, Sherman Knox, Frances Knox, Marie Knox, Frank Knox, Felix Shelton, Elva Rhodes.

The following preachers have ministered to the church: E. D. Eubank, J. R. Teagarden, William Sumpter, Fred Galiger, Carl Knapp, F. C. Wilson, George P. Brammel. Early in 1907 the church began the erection of a house of worship, and it was completed in June. It was dedicated June 16th, by State Secretary W. A. Baldwin. The church has maintained a Sunday school, which was for a time under the superintendency of W. T. Whitehead. At times the congregation was without preaching and suffered from removals and the inability to support a pastor. At the present time there are thirty names on the records, with Mrs. R. F. McCloughan, clerk and treasurer, and Mrs. W. T. Whitehead, superintendent of the Sunday school.

LILLIAN

The beginnings of the church at Lillian are found in a meeting held by Elder S. A. Kopp in the Lillian schoolhouse. An organization was effected December 12, 1906, following the meeting. They called Elder Kopp as their

pastor and he served them until his death, March 28, 1910. The officers elected were: Elders, W. W. Barnes, O. L. Swick, I. P. Bell; deacons, W. F. Myers, C. H. Leisure; clerk, Harry Swick.

The following named persons united to form the organization: Wm. W. Barnes, Mrs. Lorena Barnes, Lura Barnes, Mrs. Alice Bartlett, Eva Bartlett, Ethel Bartlett, Isaac P. Bell, Mrs. Mary Bell, Jabez Bowman, Mrs. Sarah Bowman, James Dare, Mrs. Mary Dare, S. A. Kopp, Charles H. Leisure, Robert Metzger, William F. Myers, Mrs. Kittie Myers, Oliver L. Swick, Mrs. Hope Swick. Later, protracted meetings were held by the pastor and brought in a large number of the young people of the community, most of them young men. At one time the pastor baptized thirty at the Broken Bow church. A Bible school has been maintained since the spring before the church was organized, W. W. Barnes serving as its first superintendent.

A house of worship was planned and erected on a site adjoining the school grounds, in the fall of 1908, and was dedicated in January following, by N. T. Harmon, pastor of the Broken Bow church. It is a most comfortable building and has become a center of community interest in that portion of the county. Following the death of its pastor, the church was served by E. D. Eubank, Frank Reeder, Joseph Lamm, and W. C. Lessley, who is still the pastor, having served since September, 1914. Under his ministry the work has grown and prospered. The present officers are: Elders, W. F. Myers, O. L. Swick; deacons, E. H. Myers, S. D. Myers; clerk and treasurer, D. E. Banning; superintendent of Bible school, William J. Books.

This church has maintained its preaching service and worship, with the communion, since the beginning, without interruption. Pastorless at times, it yet went steadily forward in the support of worship, never forgetting to assemble on the Lord's day. The success of this work lies especially in its faithful leadership. Maintaining preaching service only on alternate Lord's days, it has nevertheless demonstrated the power of the local rural

church to do its work successfully. The country church need not die if its members are simply faithful.

SARGENT

The Sargent church came into being as a result of a meeting held by State Evangelist Samuel Gregg in March, 1908. J. H. Currie, of Bradshaw, Nebraska, having business interests and large acquaintance in the Sargent district, asked the state missionary society to consider that field and send this evangelist, whom he was supporting through the society, to organize a church in that town. The Congregational church was secured for the meeting and the organization resulted, following that meeting. The first officers were: Elders, L. L. Wood, C. C. Davis; deacons, J. D. Crownover, Charles Howland, A. B. Hartley, W. B. Kenyon; clerk, Zella M. Wood; treasurer, A. C. Davis. Sixty-three persons joined in the new organization, as follows: Allona Wood, Lena Kaohn, Ernest Kaohn, Ross Wood, Irma Crownover, Harold Crownover, Kenneth Crownover, Sadie Hesselgesser, Jeannie Kenyon, Mrs. W. B. Kenyon, W. F. Abbott, Mrs. Emma Wyckoff, Mrs. Livia Kaohn, Mrs. W. F. Abbott, O. W. Davis, Mrs. O. W. Davis, Florence Debusk, Rufus Manning, Alfred Grim, Mrs. Inez Grim, Mrs. Laura Core, James Debusk, Lucy Debusk, Grace Deforest, Mrs. Westopher, Mrs. Forest Abbott, Mrs. Sarah Evans, Elsie Chase, Paul Chase, C. H. Chase, Mrs. C. H. Chase, L. L. Wood, Minerva Wood, W. H. Wood, Zella M. Wood, E. M. Wood, Gustie Wood, Seth Austin, Mrs. J. D. Crownover, J. D. Crownover, A. C. Davis, R. J. Kennedy, A. B. Hartley, Mrs. A. B. Hartley, O. S. Pulliam, W. B. Kenyon, C. Howland, Eliza Brumbaugh, Mrs. C. A. Liminger, Mrs. Alice Pulliam, Della Sturm, Mrs. Ella Armstrong, Candace Lawson, Mrs. C. Howland, Robert Hesselgesser, Emma Hesselgesser, J. D. Holt, Augusta Kaohn, Eunice Kaohn, John Clifton, Sr., John Clifton, Jr., Bessie Hartley, Mabel Hartley.

R. D. McCance became the pastor of the new church, and later called Z. O. Doward for a meeting, the same being held in a taber-

nacle structure on the main street. A move to build a new house of worship followed, and resulted finally in the purchase and remodeling of the Congregational church building, in which the church had been meeting, maintaining a union Bible school with the Congregationalists. The building purchased is still the home of the church. The membership at this time is 110, and the Bible school has an enrolment of 120. Services are maintained regularly, under the ministry of J. S. Reel, and in connection with the Coburg church, each taking half-time services. The ministers who

MILBURN

In March, 1917, Rev. W. C. Lessley, of Broken Bow, and pastor of the churches at Lillian and Anselmo, held a meeting in the Community hall at Milburn. In spite of bad weather and worse roads, the meetings were well attended and a decided interest was manifested. There were twenty-six conversions, and arrangements were made for the evangelist to visit them regularly on Sunday afternoon each alternate week during the summer and winter. A Bible school was organized, meeting every Lord's day. In February, 1918, Rev. W. C. Lessley held a second meeting, resulting in forty-five conversions. An organization was asked for, and the new converts, with a number of the people of the community who were members of different religious bodies, came together late in February, at which time the Milburn Church of Christ was organized by Rev. Mr. Lessley, with 100 members. Officers were chosen as follows: Elders, Mr. Reynolds and G. W. Simmons; deacons, Bryan Holmes, Mr. Pike, Mrs. Holcomb, and Mr. Daley; church clerk, Miller Books; treasurer, Robert Farley. Mr. Reynolds was made superintendent of the Bible school, numbering sixty to seventy-five, and he still holds that office. Eight members have since been added to the organization and preaching is maintained every alternate Lord's day, morning and evening. Services are still held in the Community hall. The present officers are the same as at the beginning, save that John Kramer is now the treasurer. The congregation looks forward to the erection of a house of worship as soon as war conditions will permit.

In concluding this sketch of the work of the Christian churches—Disciples of Christ—in this county, it should be said that much of the record sources are meagerly kept and in some cases lost entirely. The early preachers were more interested in winning souls to Christ than in keeping accurate account of the history they were making. Many of the matters that would be most interesting in this late account, are entirely omitted. There are a number of places where preaching, and for a



CHRISTIAN CHURCH AT SARGENT

have served the church are: R. D. McCance, W. Bailor, H. E. Denton, Mr. Field, A. O. Swartwood, N. C. Carpenter, and J. S. Reel.

BANNER SCHOOLHOUSE

Rev. Charles A. Shook, pastor of the Ansley church, held a meeting in the Banner schoolhouse in November, 1917. There were twelve conversions, and, on December 26th following, an organization was effected, with fifteen charter members. Regular services have been maintained, and Mr. Shook has preached for them in the afternoon. A good Bible school, now numbering forty-five members, has been kept up, with Frank Sadler as superintendent. The church now numbers twenty-seven and is known as the Banner Christian church.

time regular, services were held, that did not develop into a formal organization. Such a place is New Helena, where the work was maintained for a time. At this time there is no work there.

In the county the total membership affiliated with the churches is 990. There are nine houses of worship, one of them unoccupied. These, at a moderate estimate of their value, in the light of cost and state of repair, is \$27,800. There are nine Bible schools con-

as best they could to their communicants. They have manifested, always, the spirit of strong conviction and extreme generosity. They have been responsive to all public appeals and been general contributors to the public welfare. They have been party to no denominational factions calculated to disrupt the general harmony of the religious status prevailing in the county. Custer county has had no exhibition of denominational animosity. Good will and harmony prevail to-day



[Phot. by S. D. Butcher]

DALE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND PARSONAGE
The parsonage was later destroyed by fire

ducted regularly, with an enrollment of 715. At this time there are five preachers resident in the county, namely: Elder E. D. Eubank, Broken Bow; Rev. W. C. Lessley, Broken Bow; Rev. Charles A. Shook, Ansley; Rev. W. A. Baldwin, Broken Bow; and Rev. J. S. Reel, Sargent. The church at Liberty is disbanded and that at Mason City has no pastoral work.

CUSTER COUNTY CATHOLICS

Among the pioneers of the county were many Catholics and in a very early day they began their church activities and administered

throughout the county, and this statement is true of the years past. Credit is given to Frank Kelly for the following data concerning Catholic work in the county.

BEGINNING OF CATHOLIC WORK IN DALE

Rev. T. P. Haley, writing in 1901 gives the following summary of Catholic work in the Dale vicinity:

"The Dale mission was established some time in 1882, by Rev. Father Boyle. The first ones to ask for a priest, as far as the writer knows, were J. J. Downey and Robert McCarthy. Father Boyle was the first priest, and

visited Dale valley in 1882, to administer to the wants of the few families that first settled there. He made the Dale mission a regular station. Mass was said alternately at each house. During Father Hayes' administration the people made preparations to build a church. The building was to be of brick and for the purpose of obtaining the material with which to build the church a brick yard was laid out on one of Mr. McCarthy's claims. One hundred thousand bricks were made and burned for the church. Lumber was purchased and hauled from Grand Island, a distance of 150 miles. About this time the people had spent over \$800, but on account of the new railroad which was to be built through this section to the Black Hills, the church was not built at that time, as difficulties arose as to where the church should be located. Some wanted it on their farms or near their homes, while others wanted it built at Merna or Anselmo. The old settlers advocated building it at Dale. Father Hayes' last visit to the mission found matters in a worse condition than ever. In June, 1886, Father Hayes was appointed pastor of the church at O'Connor, Greeley county, and his assistant, Father Haley, was made pastor of Kearney and its missions, which included Dale. To his surprise, when he visited Dale mission, he found a divided people, caused by the disputes as to the location of the church. After a consultation with the principal members of the missions, it was decided to lay the matter before Bishop O'Connor. This was some time in July, 1886. In about a week Bishop O'Connor ordered the church to be built at Dale. It is easy to imagine the joy of the old settlers — J. J. Downey, Robert McCarthy, William Couhig, Con Fleischman, William Walsh, Robert Kelley, George Grove, Chris. Grove, William Brookman, and Charles Michael — when they learned of the bishop's decision. A subscription list was opened and the necessary preparations made to begin work as soon as possible. The bricks already burned were of poor quality and not sufficient in quantity for a brick building. Some were used for the foundation of the residence and church and for the chim-

neys. The balance were sold, out of which was realized some \$400. There was a loss of about the same amount. Nearly all the lumber that had been hauled from Grand Island had been made use of by some kind friends who thought it well to help themselves. A few pieces of dimension lumber, with the shingles, remained for the use for which they had been purchased. The lumber for the church and residence was purchased from Goodman, Bogue & Company, of Kearney, and shipped to Broken Bow, then hauled to Dale by team, the hauling being done by the members of the mission. On the sixth day of November, 1886, Father Haley was appointed the first resident pastor of Dale. He arrived on the above date, at the beginning of one of the worst blizzards the state has ever had. For three days he was snowbound at the home of J. J. Downey. When the storm was over, the foundation for the residence was begun. Many hands made light work. In a few weeks the residence was partly completed. Father Haley moved into and lived in it for nearly two years before it was properly plastered. Mass was said in the south half of the residence until the church was built. One fine day in November — the very last day of the month — several of the old settlers met to break ground for the church. While so doing, George Grove said to Father Haley: "Father, to-day is St. Andrew's day; would it not be a good idea to name the church St. Andrew's church?" Father Haley paused, and said: "Men, what do you think?" They all assented, and hence the church of St. Andrew's at Dale received its name. The church was built, but was not completed for several years. Notwithstanding the difficulties under which the church and residence were built, sufficient notes were given by the members to pay the debt, and these were deposited with the lumber company to pay for the lumber. Father Haley governed the parish with success, and in October, 1888, a successful mission was given by the famous Father Ramen, for which the people gave him \$118.25 for one week's work. After this mission, Father Hocheisel was sent to Dale as an assistant to Father

Haley. January 8th, Father Hoeheisel was appointed pastor of Dale, under the supervision and direction of Father Haley, who then moved to Broken Bow, to take charge of that church and the missions attached. Father Hoeheisel remained but a short time as pastor of Dale, and Father Donahue was sent to take his place. He in turn was succeeded by Father Flood, who was followed by Father Flanagan, the present pastor."

THE BROKEN BOW CATHOLIC CHURCH

One of the missionary spirits who did much of the initial Catholic work in Custer county was Rev. Father Thomas B. Haley, who labored in the county from 1886 to 1897, at which time he was assigned to the work at North Platte. Father Haley was a very de-



CATHOLIC RECTORY AT BROKEN BOW

voted worker and exceedingly popular with his own people and the community in general. For some time the Dale mission was the center from which Father Haley did his church work. Later he removed to Broken Bow and made the mission at this place his residence and headquarters. St. Joseph's church, of Broken Bow, was dedicated July 29, 1888. After the removal of Father Haley this charge was served by Father Donnelly. Among priests also serving here were Father Moser and Father Minogue, the latter of whom is now in charge at Anselmo and Dale. Both served at Broken Bow church and rendered splendid service.

In 1917 one of the best rectories to be found anywhere in the middle west was built and furnished, and it is at present occupied by

Father James Hermese and his assistant, Father Cornelius, both very excellent young men, who are devoted to the parish work and generally popular with the people of the community. The mission here consists of approximately thirty families.



CATHOLIC CHURCH AT OCONTO

THE OCONTO CHURCH AND MASON CITY CHURCH

During the regime of Father Haley a church was built at Oconto, in 1891, and in the preceding year the church at Mason City was erected. The Oconto church is still maintained, is a progressive body of devoted people, and it constitutes one of the strongest missions, if not the strongest, that the Catholics have in Custer county.

ANSLEY CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Ansley congregation of the Catholic church had its origin in the early days of the town, mass first being said in the home of Mrs.



CATHOLIC CHURCH AT SARGENT

B. J. Tierney. Later, in the year 1911, a small but beautiful church structure was erected, at the cost of \$3,800, under the labors of the Rev. Father Moser, of Broken Bow. On the night

of October 21, 1917, this building was burned to the ground, since which time the congregation has been worshipping in the old Presbyterian building. However, plans are already being laid for the erection of a larger church building in the near future. Among the priests who have been pastors of the church in recent years, may be mentioned Father Moser, Father Kavanaugh, Father Gleeson, Father Mathias, and the present incumbent, Father Cornelius. The parish comprises thirty-six families and the board of trustees is composed of Thomas Berry, B. J. Tierney, and A. F. Dobesh.

the drouth of 1894 the mission was disorganized by removals. The second was served by S. Dean, J. E. Hawley, and B. E. Smith. The last was the only one that survived the drouth and the removals incident to the early history of our county. In 1885 and 1886 G. F. Deal organized the church in Broken Bow, and the following year the Ortello circuit, comprising the Mount Hope, Ortello, Custer Center, and Union Valley appointments, was cut off. It thus remained until 1894. Broken Bow church was built in 1887 and was served by G. F. Deal, D. W. Proffit, F. W. Brink, and C. D. Stro-



CATHOLIC CHURCH AND RECTORY AT ANSELMO

UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST

The United Brethren in Christ were among the pioneers in Custer county, coming in the late '70s. Rev. W. S. Spenner was the first preacher of this denomination to hold regular services in the county, preaching about the year 1876, on the Muddy, near Mason City, and also on the Middle Loup, near where Sargent now is. Under his supervision, Rev. A. L. Pense organized a class near Algernon in 1880, and one in Lee's Park in 1881. In 1882 J. F. Green preached at Algernon, Box Elder, Pilot, Lee's Park, Westerville, Lone Tree, Custer Center, and Ortello. From these were organized, in 1884, Algernon, Westerville, and Custer missions. The first was served by J. F. Green, T. Aikman, J. E. Hawley, S. Dean, B. E. Smith, W. C. Williams, and J. L. Brown, and during

mire. From 1894, after losing almost the whole membership by removals, the church was closed until 1897, when F. M. Bell took charge, and the church slowly but surely regained its strength. L. L. Epley had charge in 1900. The people of Custer Center deserve much credit for their loyalty to the church through the years. In Hoosier valley a class was organized in 1897, by C. W. Bohart, and in 1900, one was organized at the Marquis schoolhouse. This church has suffered from removals more than any other church in the county. Among those who have been well known throughout the county and who were active in the early work of the church we would name J. S. Kirkpatrick, D. F. Weimer, G. R. Street, J. J. Pickett, J. C. Maulick, W. M. Harrell, and M. F. Blankenship.

For the compilation of the facts set forth above, this volume is indebted to the Rev. L. L. Epley, for several years a presiding elder in the United Brethren denomination.

THE UNITED BRETHREN BEGIN AT CUSTER CENTER

M. F. Blankenship volunteers the following information concerning the inception of United Brethren denominational work in the county, a work which began at Custer Center.

"Some time during the winter of 1882-3, Rev. Theodore Squires came to the home of M. F. Blankenship, preached the first sermon, and left an appointment to return in two weeks. At the appointed time a good-sized audience greeted him, and the minister, at the close of the service, invited all who wished to unite with the United Brethren

church to meet him on the following Wednesday at the home of J. S. Kirkpatrick, in the new town of Broken Bow, which had been laid out in March, 1882. At the time appointed, a class was organized, consisting of John S. Kirkpatrick and wife, James Courtney and wife, and M. F. Blankenship, who was chosen class-leader. James Courtney was chosen class steward and the class was named the Custer Center Class. In a few weeks, Rev. John F. Green was sent to preach for the little church. For two years thereafter he served them faithfully, and was loved and respected by all. Our number increased and religious interest was aroused until we began to feel that a church building was a necessity, but we were all so poor we did not feel able to build. The writer was led to speak to J. S. Kirkpatrick about it,

but he thought it was a pretty big undertaking. We asked him to draw up a subscription paper and we would do the soliciting and give the ground for the building. J. S. Kirkpatrick did so, heading the paper with ten dollars opposite his name. M. F. Blankenship placed his name next, with another ten dollars. Then came C. T. Crawford, with a ten-dollar pledge, and R. H. Miller, with five dollars. This was encouraging, for now they had a fund of thirty-five dollars to start with, and they felt sure that the church would be built. In May they met and laid up the walls of sod. A few days later, M. F. Blankenship was plowing in

his field east of the church, when a man drove up with a mule team and asked if he was the man who was building the church. He replied that he was as much interested in it as any one. The man told him his name was David Weymer, that he was on



UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH AT BROKEN BOW

his way to Kearney, and that, with M. F. Blankenship's permission, on his return he would stay all night with him and give him ten dollars to apply on the church building fund. Mr. Blankenship assured the man he would be quite welcome, indeed, and true to his word, he did as he said he would do. In June two of their bachelor neighbors (John R. Street and Elmer E. Morris) volunteered to haul the lumber from Kearney for the roofing of the building, and by the last of the month, they had it inclosed but it was seatless. We had no money, so we built some sod pedestals, laid boards on them, scattered some hay on the ground floor, and we were ready for service. The next Sunday the whole neighborhood assembled in the new church, as much pleased as they would have

been if they had been in the finest building in the state. We now had a place to worship, and with great pride we wrote our friends in the east that we had a church in our neighborhood. At the first meeting in this new building, we organized a Sunday school. S. S. Southmayd was the first superintendent. In December following, we floored our new church and put in a few seats. By Christmas eve we not only had a floor and seats but we also had a rostrum. They were homely, but good enough, and we felt proud of our success. We had a Christmas tree. The exercises were a success, and we have often thought that we never saw a happier man than was Judge W. W. Cowels on that night. In fact, everybody seemed happy. During the following summer we finished the seating and our church was completed and paid for.

"In 1902 the old sod church was torn down, and in its place was erected a nice little frame building, which was finished and dedicated in the spring of 1903. This church building is twenty-six by thirty-six feet, is in a good state of preservation, and regular services are still kept up. At the present time Rev. G. B. Weaver of Broken Bow is the pastor in charge."

SUNDAY SCHOOLS IN CUSTER COUNTY

The following comprehensive account of Sunday-school work in Custer county is given by J. M. Fodge, who is the veteran Sunday-school man of the county. He and his good wife have lived in Nebraska forty-seven years and in Custer county thirty-five years. For thirty-four years Mr. Fodge has been actively engaged in Sunday-school work—a Sunday-school superintendent for thirty-three years, and president of the county Sunday-school conventions for a number of years.

"In assuming to give to the public a very brief history of the organization and growth of the Sunday schools of our county, I little thought of the obstacles and difficulties which would have to be overcome in order to gather data from which to give a true history. After much fruitless correspondence and begging for information from those who were, in many

cases, participants in the organization of some of the first schools in the county, and after weary months of awaiting answers from living witnesses, I am forced to conclude that the Sunday schools, like very many other objects and enterprises which go to make up the history of a people, state, or county, have failed to keep records of any kind, or at best very imperfect records, so that I shall not attempt to give a history of this, one of the greatest factors in the civilization and Christianization of our great commonwealth.

"In the context to follow, I shall endeavor to give to the public in a general way something of the development and growth of the Sunday-school cause since my residence in the county, from the information at my command. Knowing that he who chronicles past events for the scrutiny of the public often receives criticism and even ridicule, I shall at all times be governed by the truth as I understand it. Suffice it to say that such a daring, heroic, and God-fearing people as make up the citizenship of our county, would not live in any place long without raising to the God of our fathers some altar as a remembrance of His mercies to them since leaving the old home, which could be done in no more appropriate way than by meeting together to read His work and study His dealings with the children of men. Indeed, to such an extent were they permeated by this spirit of reverence and thankfulness, that in some cases where a little settlement was formed, even though there were none among them who prayed, they would meet and form an organization for the purpose of praising God and civilizing the community. In some cases this work was begun by missionaries, and in others by some local minister, who, with his family, had come west to find a temporal home.

"In this connection I am indebted to Elder E. D. Eubank for an account of the organization of the first Sunday-school in the county, in what is now Douglas Grove township. This school was organized in the spring of 1875, by Mrs. E. D. Eubank, who was elected superintendent and secretary, with a membership of twelve, who met at the home of Elder Eubank.

It bore the name of 'Christian Union Sunday School,' and upon application to I. D. Gage, state missionary of the American Sunday School Union, was supplied with second-hand books. It was afterward moved to the home of Charles Hales and changed to a Methodist Episcopal school, and eventually it ceased to exist. Prior to the uprising of the Indians, a few men of adventurous and hardy spirit who had settled with their families here and there over parts of the country—on the South Loup, Clear creek, Middle Loup, and Victoria creek—abandoned their homes until the dangers were past. Not until about the year 1880 did the pioneers with families settle in numbers sufficiently strong to begin work for the purpose of bringing about a higher state of civilization and Christianity in their respective neighborhoods. We are informed that on the Middle Loup, near where Walworth now stands, also on Clear creek near Westerville, schools were organized in the year 1881, but we can give no particulars. During the years 1881 and 1882 the settlements in the county extended further west, chiefly along the streams, and in 1883 schools were formed at Broken Bow, Custer Center, Arnold, Delight, Rose Valley, and Ortello.

"Elder F. M. Graham, a local minister of the M. P. denomination, gathered a few persons at the old sod schoolhouse just north of Merna, in May of that year, and the school has continued ever since, except, perhaps, the first winter, and now numbers a membership of more than one hundred. The Ortello school was organized by D. F. Weimer, in June, at his own home, with his family, A. L. Embree and J. H. Edwards—nine persons in all—as members. A year later the place of meeting was changed to the Ortello schoolhouse, where it continues to meet during the whole of each year. Rev. Savidge, a Methodist minister, having located near the present site of Callaway, a Sunday-school was organized. This languished after a year or two, but was reorganized in 1886, after the town of Callaway was started. In 1883 or 1884 Elder Correll, of the Christian church at Arnold, gathered a few persons at his home and organized the

first Sunday-school in that vicinity, and the year following both the Methodist and Baptist people started at or near the same place.

"During 1884 and 1885 schools were organized on the South Loup at Burr Oak and Eu-dell; on Clear creek near Myrtle and Lee Park; on the Muddy near Algernon and Mason City; on the Middle Loup at Sargent, West Union, Oxford schoolhouse near Milburn; in 1885 on Wood river near Lodi, at Stop Table, Roten Valley, Sand Creek, Cliff, Maple Grove, Berwyn, and Keota, many of which have continued to flourish both summer and winter, wielding a most healthful influence for good in the respective localities; while others did 'run well for a season' and then, when the dark days of drouth and panic came, succumbed. Up to 1886 the work was carried on in the county locally. Then, as my memory serves me, a movement was made toward organizing a county association, for more perfect work and for the purpose of organizing schools in every settlement, which had by this time spread over nearly the entire county. Among those who were prominent in this movement were Rev. E. A. Russell, a Baptist state Sunday-school missionary, located at Ord; Rev. English, of Arnold; I. N. Atkisson, D. M. Amsberry, Willis Cadwell, W. A. Gilmore, and Dr. J. J. Pickett, of Broken Bow; J. H. Blair and D. S. Weimer, of Ortello. A call was made for a meeting of Sunday-school workers at Broken Bow, a program was prepared and a date fixed for holding a county convention. A temporary organization was effected by electing as president, I. N. Atkisson, and as secretary, Willis Cadwell. When the convention met, a permanent organization was made by adopting a constitution and by-laws. The county was divided into four districts, each part of the county to be under the supervision of a vice-president of the county association, elected by that body. It was the intention of the association to divide each of the districts into minor districts, to be known as township associations, with a vice-president for each of them, under whose supervision a Sunday-school would be organized in every community. This outline of work succeeded

admirably in the southeast and northwest quarters especially, to such an extent that in every settlement a school was organized, but in the northeast and southwest quarters there was not such perfect organization—in fact, the southwest district was practically unrepresented in the county association until ten years later. In the years following, this association held annual conventions until the year 1891, when, for some unexplained reason, there was no call made by the president for the executive committee to meet and prepare a program, so in 1892-3-4 the president, D. S. Weimer, having removed from the county, leaving the association without a head, it ceased to exist. Many schools in the county died, partly from lack of the fostering care of county and district associations, but perhaps more because of the discouragements incident to the excessive drouth of 1892-3-4, coupled with the panic which followed—many families removing from the county, leaving homes and all that had been gathered about them since their settlement. This languishing condition of the cause led some of the more zealous workers to take the initiative steps in the resurrection of the county association, or the formation of a new one. Accordingly, in the fall of 1895, a call was made for those interested to meet in Broken Bow, for the purpose of taking action in the matter. The response thereto met fully the expectations of those who had taken the leading steps, the different parts of the county being represented. The records of the former association not being obtainable, it was voted to form a new county organization. This was done by electing L. W. F. Cole, of Sargent, as president, and Mr. Herring as secretary, and by appointing Mrs. Herring, W. C. Elliott, of Mason City, and J. M. Fodge, of Ortello, as a committee on constitution. The county was again divided into districts, each with a vice-president, selected by the district association. Among those prominent in this organization were T. J. Strickler, W. H. Hornday, George Bailey, H. Lomax, E. J. Pittaway, Mrs. Daniel Hagin, W. C. Elliott, and others, whose names I do not recall. By means of this association new energy was given to the schools over the

county, new schools were organized, annual conventions were held, and a pledge of fifty dollars made by the old association to the state association was paid, followed by a more hopeful outlook for the future. The officers of the county association were: E. J. Pittaway, president; Rev. Mr. Burns, secretary; and David McGugin, P. Wymore, R. E. Allen, and W. C. Elliott, executive committee.

“Many of the noble men and women who were active in the upbuilding of the Sunday-school work, have gone to other fields to labor; others have been called to their reward beyond this life, and their works do follow them; while yet others are still doing the Master’s work, awaiting that call. Whatever else can be said of the efforts and labors of these consecrated ones, all must admit that a high state of civilization and Christianity pervades our society by reason of the upholding of the Master’s standing in this line of work.

“The result of this reorganization of the county association was to line up and get in touch with the schools of the county, establish new ones where it could be done, and to divide the county into four districts, with a president for each district, to be elected by and from the schools that comprised that district, the president of the district to be vice-president of the county, and a member of the executive committee of the Custer County Sunday-school Association. The duties of said district president were to establish sub-districts, hold convention, therein each year, and to make annual report to the county convention, as to number of schools, pupils, and officers, the number of conventions held, and such other items as would give the county association complete information as to the Sunday-school interests of his district.

“For example, the reports from the several districts, through their presidents, to the county convention in 1899, showed in the county fourteen district conventions held; and seventy-six schools, with average enrollment of 3,339 pupils. Is not this well worth the effort to organize and to encourage the people to put forth an effort in every community to study God’s Word, to band together as Chris-

tian workers to counterbalance the work of the evil one?

"Following are the names of persons who have been elected and served as president of the county association since its organization, in 1886, for one or more terms, up to and including 1918-19: I. N. Atkisson, J. J. Pickett, I. W. F. Cole, D. F. Weimer, T. A. Moss, E. J. Pittaway, Uriah Keeler, H. Lomax, J. R. Dean, and J. M. Fodge, the last named having



J. M. FODGE

For many years president of Custer County
Sunday School Association

been re-elected consecutively each year since May 27, 1905.

"In giving this account of the work of the Sunday-schools and the association, with what has been accomplished by their efforts, we cannot, if we would dare, give the credit for the success to any one, or to all of the presidents above named, although all have enjoyed the esteem of their friends and some have held positions as law-makers, place on the supreme bench of our state, county offices, and other places of trust and honor in the formation of

our commonwealth, and some only the humble public place. Yet to them is due only a share of the credit.

"We recall with all of appreciation the faces and names of the many whom we have met so often in the almost third of a century since the beginning of our labors in this county for the cause of the Master, and whom we learned to love and esteem. In the ministry we may mention the following names: Correll, Graham, Hagin, Stromire, Tubbs, English, Maze, Strickler, Brink, Stromire, Moss, Bradley, Richards, Wagner, Rasey, Smith, Sumner, Tool, Hall, Bell, Megan, Burns, Baress, and Cadwell. Of the laymen: Judson, Chumbley, Woody, Wymore, Hagin, Drums, Kerr, Damon, Cole, Barns, Chesley, Samuelson, Sanderson, Burrows, Foster, Walburn, Hanley, Lucas, Moomey, Pierce, Eastman, McGreggan, Mason, Nichols, Narragan, Franklin, Mills, Needham, Skillman, Amsberry, Conant, and Walton and Allen, with a host of others that space forbids to mention. All of these unselfishly gave their influence, counsel, time, and voice to encourage the cause that was so dear to their hearts in those pioneer days.

STATE SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION AT BROKEN BOW

"In these days of large things, big jobs, colossal undertakings, we realize perhaps, more than ever, the benefit, encouragement, enthusiasm, inspiration, and determination we receive when we rub up against some one who has done things, has won, has overcome obstacles that seemed insurmountable, and we are more determined because that one has overcome some big task.

"It was because we had come in contact with such persons in the Sunday-school work, met them in our county and state conventions, and realized that they had become specialists in their work; it was because of this encouragement that your county officers were emboldened to think that 'Big Custer' might entertain the state Sunday School Association convention. It was with trepidation that we dared to speak to our most progressive and staunch workers, because of the magnitude

of the undertaking, the possibility that we could not make a win of it.

"Then it was that we remembered that others had been able to do it, and so, as we went over the county with the state secretaries, meeting the workers of our county in district conventions in the year 1914, we suggested to them the idea, asking their help, and receiving some encouragement, we determined to put the matter up to the county convention, which was done and their approval secured. We immediately set in motion, plans to get the co-operation of Broken Bow, and the backing of the business men was soon obtained.

"It was then that the work was begun, by the appointment of the necessary committee to arrange the details, to carry the Broken Bow proposition and invitation to the board of managers of the state association, which would meet, at Aurora, in June, 1914.

"When the convention assembled, Custer county Sunday-schools and association were greatly in evidence. With a large delegation from the county, with badges, banners, and yells, with Scripture mottos, Big Custer was put on the map. Result, the 1915 State Sunday School Association convention was coming to Broken Bow.

"To many of our people this was their first opportunity to meet the lecture-speakers and specialists in Sunday-school methods and modern equipment, and all this would surely leave some ideals and aspiration in the minds and hearts of some young workers, the impress of noble, spiritual men and women. But the greatness, and magnitude of the job was yet before us. Would we be equal to the occasion? Could we do what we had promised the workers of the year ago? The task was yet before us.

"In the meantime every phase of the work necessary to meet, greet, and welcome the great host that would surely come to us, had been looked after, so that every one was entertained and cared for in the homes and public houses. The spirit of doing great things had caught our people to a degree that brought praise and compliments from our guests, from the first to the closing day of the convention."

What was the Broken Bow state convention, as to numbers and enthusiasm, as compared to former conventions? We will let State Secretary W. H. Kimberly tell: "I want to say, friends, to the people of Broken Bow, and to the Custer county association, that this is the record-breaker convention; the registration has gone nearly 600 above the high mark of former conventions. We never before spoke to such large audiences. We never saw so much enthusiasm in the convention work: entertainment and management have been of the highest order. We have never had smoother working machinery. The officers of the state association thank the committees, the people of Broken Bow, and the officers of Custer County Sunday School Association for our great convention."

The enrollment of the state convention was thirty per cent. greater than any previous convention.

COMPARISON CONVENTION ATTENDANCE

	Year 1914	Year 1915
Total attendance	796	1646
In convention town	390	813
In state outside	406	833
Mileage delegates	2394	6983
Number counties represented	56	61

CHAPTER XII

LODGES AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

AN EARLY-DAY FEED — A STAG PARTY PERFORMANCE — FUN WITH A MEEK-EYED BRONCHO — A PIONEER PICNIC — AN OLD SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION — 1883 WAS THE BOOM YEAR — OLD SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH LOUP — ANCIENT FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS — INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS — MODERN WOODMEN OF CUSTER COUNTY — ANSLEY'S LODGES — MASON CITY LODGES — ROYAL NEIGHBORS OF ARNOLD — THE GRANGE — WOMAN'S CLUBS IN CUSTER COUNTY — SHAKESPEARE CLUB — CALLAWAY SOROSIS CLUB — HISTORY OF BROWNING CLUB — THE BOOK LOVERS' ORGANIZATION — BROKEN BOW ART CLUB — ARNOLD WOMEN'S IMPROVEMENT CLUB — THE BROKEN BOW WOMAN'S CLUB — SARGENT WOMAN'S CLUB — WOMAN'S CLUB OF ANSLEY

Nowhere on the planet can be found a more sociable people than the Custerites have always been. In pioneer times they were not given to overmuch formality, but possessed that free and easy sociability and hospitality that always mark the western people. They visited in each other's homes, they congregated in the schoolhouses, they held public celebrations, a picnic was a favorite way of spending the day, informal dinner parties were served as often in the society of forty years ago as in that of to-day, according to population. Many of the prominent settlers had, before their migration, belonged to lodges of the east, and, with a lodgeman's nose for smelling out fraternal kinship, they formed their cliques and clans, which ripened into warm friendship before enough kindred spirits had arrived to form the lodge.

To illustrate some of the gatherings of pioneer days, elsewhere in this chapter will be found an account of a stag party and broncho entertainment which gives a very vivid portrayal of early society, before the advent of women. Reference is made to Mrs. Stuckey's dinner-party story, to show the improvement in society after the advent of women.

AN EARLY-DAY FEED

Mrs. H. C. Stuckey gives this glimpse of

early-day society "pulling off" a dinner party:

"We would arrange to get together, as many as possible, on some set day, and go all together to the ranch of some neighbor. We never sent any warning when we might be expected, but we were always welcome, always had a good dinner, and the cook was never put out. Let me describe a ranch dinner of the olden time. This, of course, is an invited dinner. There were no menu cards, but there were turkey, chicken, quail stuffed with oysters, chicken salad, all kinds of vegetables, jellies and preserves made from wild fruit which grew in abundance in the canyons, cakes and dainty desserts of various kinds, coffee, tea, or chocolate. The table was always beautiful, no matter how plain the surroundings. No fine paintings adorned the walls, but many pretty things for the table had been brought from eastern homes. Sometimes there was a knife short, but the butcher knife was drafted into service and proved an excellent substitute. Perhaps there were not enough chairs to accommodate all of the guests, but several molasses kegs, with which the ranch always abounded, were brought into requisition; a long board was laid on them and covered over with robes, which made a seat good enough for a king—a cattle king, at least. The hospitality of ranch days was unbounded

—not the chilly and what-did-you-come-for hospitality of to-day.”

A STAG PARTY PERFORMANCE

Anent the hilarious times of early days, when whole-hearted hospitality was extended by every ranch to anybody that might pull the latch-string, and where neighbors were always welcome to shove their feet under the table or crawl into a bunk, R. E. Brega, of Callaway, gives an interesting account of an early-day stag party that took place on the Benger & Brown ranch, which was then located in Brown valley, about five miles southwest of the present Callaway. Brega describes it somewhat like this:

“On that memorable occasion there were present: Charles Thornburg, M. E. Schneringer, Fred Brown, George O. Benger, J. J. Douglass, R. E. Brega, and others, now forgotten. The first act on the program was to kill a sheep, the next to elect a cook, and by the way, in those days, the men were all pretty good cooks. The balance of the programme went round in circles. In turn, each told a story, sang a song, danced a jig, or played a tune on an old accordeon which Fred Brown brought from England, and the awful screeches of which told stories of neuralgia, rheumatism, and gout—and made the screech owls green with envy.

“At the end of each round, there was served, lamb, ram, sheep-meat, or mutton, together with pancakes and coffee. This continued through the night, until the lamb had entirely disappeared, and the pancakes ceased to be made, for lack of flour.

“That you may better determine the degree of enjoyment experienced by the participants, it is added that forty-eight hours later, George and Fred were located under a hay-stack, sound asleep—while the sheep wandered on the hills far away.”

FUN WITH A MEEK-EYED BRONCHO

A diverting record is that which follows:

“In early days they enjoyed life in various ways and one of the great factors of our early life, were the antics of the playful broncho.

To get an innocent tender-foot on ‘Sky-scraper,’ ‘Starjumper,’ ‘Dynamite,’ ‘Thunder-bolt,’ or some other ‘cowboy-buster,’ afforded much amusement, and I recall now, how mean we were, for the higher he went, and the harder he fell, the better we liked it. My sides ache when I think of one instance. Finch-Hatton Brothers had just received a friend from England, who was making a short stay, and who was afterward known as Frank Bannister. Frank was a very humane and kind-hearted fellow. He thought it was wrong—very wrong—to put a heavy saddle on a little broncho, and, in addition, he thought it was unnecessary. To be brief, he presented a very forcible lecture along this line, and insisted that we should use light saddles or ride our horses bare-back. Still further, to back up his assertions, he longed for an opportunity to demonstrate the correctness of his idea, remarking, ‘If I only had what you term a *mean* horse, I would be glad to show you how nice he would act.’ Well, this was something ‘soft.’ We had been looking for him for a long time, and before he concluded his sermon on the pony, Frank Brega slipped into the barn and brought forth a very pretty black mare called ‘Deceiver.’ By way of introduction, I will say that Al Wise, a noted broncho man of those days, had given her up as a bad job, and sent her further west. This pony was quiet and very gentle about the barn, which fact had given rise to her name, ‘Deceiver.’

“Mr. Bannister’s nerve was with him; he threw a blanket on the pony, and was on her back in a jiffy. Round and round he went! Not a pitch; not a buck. The crowd felt like—the boy the hen ran over, but our time was yet to come. ‘All things come to those who wait.’ Yet the crowd was impatient. Finally the pony was called to a halt just in front of the cabin door. Then it was that our punishment commenced, for how he did boast! ‘I will now,’ he said, ‘be able to go back to England and tell the people how the pony will be spared in the future.’ In this manner he continued for a time that seemed like ages, when a gentle wind came to our relief. A small whirlwind turned over a paper near the pony.

It would take an eye-witness with a circus education to tell the rest. 'He didn't know it was loaded,' but it went off just the same. He struck the building like a thousand bricks. How the crowd did double up and howl. They had laughing-stock enough to last six months. Frank has been in this country now many years, and no one has ever heard him talk of light saddles since, and if you see him riding, take notice that he rides a forty-pounder."

A PIONEER PICNIC

Twenty-six years after the organization of the county, the old settlers organized an Old Settlers' Association and arranged for the first annual picnic, to be held at Broken Bow, August 5, 1903. The account of the picnic, as it appeared in a local paper at the time, is inserted here, to show the spirit of the pioneers at that time and also because it contains valuable data:

"The first annual picnic of the Old Settlers' Association of Custer county, held in the public park at Broken Bow, August 5th, was a far greater success than was anticipated by any one. The crowd commenced to gather early, and by eleven o'clock quite a representative number of people had assembled. In the forenoon a business session was held, at which time officers were elected for the ensuing year. The officers are as follows: President, L. H. Jewett; first vice-president, J. E. Cavanaugh; second vice-president, J. R. Land; secretary-treasurer, E. R. Purcell; historian, George B. Mair. With the exception of Mr. Lang the officers were the same as for the preceding year.

"At twelve o'clock, dinner was spread in the park, and a very large number of picnic parties were scattered about the grassy plots in the splendid shade. It is estimated that about 500 people occupied the park during the noon hour. At 1:30 o'clock the Broken Bow band gave a half-hour concert, while the people were assembling. At two o'clock the gathering was called to order and the program commenced. By this time the crowd had swelled to immense proportions, and upward of 1,500 people congregated around the speaker's

stand. President Jewett called the meeting to order, and made a very appropriate speech. The address of welcome on behalf of the city was then delivered by Mayor E. R. Purcell. Harry O'Neill, of Omaha, speaker of the day, was introduced, and entertained the audience for half an hour with a splendid talk. Mr. O'Neill is one of the old-time residents of Custer county, and his speech, as well as his presence here, was enjoyed by all. The Ryerson quartette then favored the audience with a choice selection, after which Daniel Sage, the long-haired poet, read one of his popular poems. Mrs. Stuckey, Broken Bow's popular singer, also favored the audience with a selection, which was heartily applauded. Another number on the program, which was appreciated, was a poem written by Tommy Burlin, and it was read by Mrs. G. O. Joyner, of Ortello. Mrs. Alice Dowse Sims read a paper descriptive of the first settlers of the northeast corner of Custer county, which was very entertaining.

"The balance of the program was given over to reminiscent talks from quite a number of old-time residents of Custer county, and this part of the program was a genuine treat to everyone. Among those who spoke were J. M. Fodge, Jess Gandy, H. M. Sullivan, Mrs. Moses Lewis, Alpha Morgan, Jud Kay, C. H. Jeffords, J. D. Ream, and G. R. Russom.

"The award of medals was an interesting feature of the day. The following are the winners: The earliest male settler of Custer county in attendance at the picnic, L. R. Dowse, of Comstock, who dates his residence from August, 1873. Mrs. L. R. Dowse won the medal for the earliest female settler of Custer county in attendance at the picnic. She came here in January, 1874. The earliest male child born in Custer county, in attendance at the picnic, was John F. Bell, of New Helena. Mr. Bell was born in New Helena, in March, 1876. The oldest female child born in Custer county, in attendance at the picnic, was found to be Mrs. Alice Dowse Sims, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dowse, who won the medal for the oldest settlers. Mrs. Sims was born February 22, 1875. The four winners were called

to the platform, where the medals were presented by Mr. Fodge. The committee on these awards consisted of J. M. Fodge, John Reese, and J. J. Douglass.

"The unsuccessful contestants for these medals were as follows: For oldest male settler Florian Jacobs, New Helena, November, 1875. For the oldest female settler, Mrs. Nc George, May 20, 1875. For the first-born boy, Lilburn Oxford, born July 22, 1876; and C. O. Taylor, born January 26, 1880. For the first-born girl, Mrs. Hattie Carr Osborne, born September 6, 1878; Mrs. Maude Noble Gliem, born September 11, 1878; Miss Myrtle Allen, born February 28, 1881; Miss Madge Potts, born May 25, 1881.

"Mr. Dowse, who up to the present time holds the record of being the oldest member of the association in attendance at the picnic, has been a resident of Custer county for almost thirty years. Whether he will be able to retain this, we cannot say. It is the intention of the association to award these medals each year, to the oldest settlers and the earliest born who are in attendance at each picnic. The program continued until nearly five o'clock, but the visiting and intermingling continued in the park for several hours later. The day was a decided success from every standpoint. The weather was all that could be desired, the program was replete with splendid things and the sociability of the crowd was a feature that was noticeable on every hand. It is a foregone conclusion that the old settlers' picnic of this county will be a great event every year. The membership of this organization at this time numbers something like 300 people, and it will no doubt continue to grow until the membership reaches into the thousands. Next week we expect to publish the papers that were read at this meeting.

"Among the very old settlers who were in attendance at the picnic in this city on Wednesday, we note the following: 1873: Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Dowse, of Comstock. 1874: J. R. Forsythe, New Helena; Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Lang, Algernon; W. H. Comstock, Comstock. 1875: William O. Boley, New Helena; Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Stuckey, Tuckerville; Mrs.

Nc George, Cumro; Florian Jacobs, New Helena; J. J. Douglass, Callaway. 1876: John E. Myers, Georgetown; John F. Bell, New Helena. 1877: R. E. Glass, Broken Bow. 1878: Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Amsberry, Broken Bow; J. E. Cavenee, Georgetown. 1879: J. O. Taylor, Berwyn; J. G. W. Lewis, Broken Bow; Jules Haumont, Elton. 1880: E. Taylor, Broken Bow; J. D. Ream, Broken Bow; Jacob Mauk, Broken Bow; Mrs. M. E. Lewis, Broken Bow; C. S. Elison, Ansley; W. P. Trew, Georgetown; P. F. Campbell, Georgetown; Mr. and Mrs. Jess Gandy, Broken Bow; James Lindly, Anselmo; A. L. Morgan, Cumro; C. W. Hoagland, Gates; J. H. Price, Broken Bow; Mr. and Mrs. James Daly, Merna; Mr. and Mrs. James Wood, Merna; R. R. Robinson, New Helena; John Snyder, New Helena; W. T. Powers, Broken Bow; J. H. Molvaney, Georgetown; Mrs. I. A. Reneau, Broken Bow."

AN OLD SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION

The first old settlers' association ever organized in the county, so far as obtainable records show, was the old settlers' association of the northwest quarter of Custer county, which was organized in 1890. At this time the oldest settlers in the district would have been residents only nineteen years. The meeting for the organization of this association was held in the home of J. J. Joyner, seven or eight miles west of the present town of Merna.

At this time temporary officers were elected. J. J. Joyner was made temporary chairman and D. V. Joyner temporary secretary. A committee, consisting of J. M. Fodge, S. H. Read, and S. K. Redman, was appointed to report on form of organization. The committee made an informal report, and after its adoption the permanent officers were elected, as follows: J. J. Joyner, president; J. M. Fodge, first vice-president; S. H. Read, second vice-president; W. M. McCandless, third vice-president; G. O. Joyner, secretary. The program committee of that year's picnic consisted of J. K. Cooper, Joe Kellenbarger, and Mrs. H. C. Fodge.

From this time on until the present time,

the association has not failed to hold its annual picnic. These occasions have always been of a very enjoyable nature. The minutes of the association have been well kept and the organization is to be congratulated upon the data they have compiled. The minute book, which contains the membership roll, gives the names of 231 old settlers, with the respective years of their settlement.

1883 WAS THE BOOM YEAR

The dates of settlement show that of the first one hundred, two came in 1874, one in 1875, one in 1876, two in 1878, two in 1879, eleven in 1880, three in 1881, twenty-one in 1882, thirty-four in 1883, eighteen in 1884,

Association of the South Loup was organized. Then was held our first picnic. The thought of organizing and holding an annual picnic was first suggested by Mr. William Brown, who now resides, I believe, in Buffalo county. The grounds were located by Mr. Brown, Mr. Sammie Robinson, and Ne George. The speaker at our first celebration was Rev. Alex. Boyd, who recently moved to Illinois.

"Speakers, distinguished for their ability, from different parts of the country, have entertained us year by year. Among them we remember Rev. Crist, N. Dwight Ford, J. J. Douglass, Rev. W. L. Gaston, and Judge Sutton, of Omaha. Judge Sullivan, of Broken Bow, addressed us last year. His address was



[Photo by S. D. Butcher]

FARMERS' PICNIC NEAR ANSLEY, IN JULY, 1917

four in 1885, and one in 1886. Thirty-three present of this hundred came in the years 1882, 1883, and 1884. Those were the influx years, not only of the northwest quarter of the county but also in all parts.

OLD SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH LOUP

One of the most successful and aggressive old-settlers' organizations of the county is the South Loup association, which has been in existence for ten years, and holds annually a picnic, the attendance and entertainment of which are famous throughout the county.

Mrs. Ne George, in a brief paper written not long since, outlines the inception and details the history of this organization. Because of its historic value the paper is here submitted:

"Ten years ago, in 1908, the Old Settlers'

replete with patriotism and stirred the red blood of every patriotic citizen.

"We elect officers annually. Mr. James B. Jones was our first president and has served in this capacity a number of times since, which proves that some officers at least, 'are born, not made.' Mr. William Shoemaker is our present president, and I am sure you will concur with me in the dictum that he has done splendidly in giving us a pleasant and happy time together to-day. We have always been helped with the programmes rendered, and amused with various sports, but best of all is the greeting from old friends. The spoken word, the hearty handshake, and the forming of new acquaintances year by year, is a wonderful inspiration.

"Roughly speaking, at our first gathering

there were 500 people in attendance. At that time we were made happy at the prospect of the association being a success, by there being two automobiles on the grounds, one owned by Mr. Lambert Johnson, of Sumner, and the other owned by Mr. Venus Goodwin, of the same place. Now all have noted the difference in this respect to-day.

"Since the first year or two, the increase in attendance has been plainly manifest, and a thousand people would not be an exaggeration. Last year was a record-breaker and there were probably 1,500 people on the grounds. To-day we miss some familiar faces,—those of persons who have left us in recent years and months, among them being Mr. George Lash, Mrs. Ezra Wright, Mrs. Whitman Robinson, Mrs. Walter Brown, Mrs. George Williams, Mr. Eulie Brown, Mr. Joseph Cherry, Mr. Adelbert Mason, Mr. David Downey, Mrs. A. L. Downey. Most of these, if living, would be here to-day. Many of our younger men are in our national cantonments, training for service. Two boys from this immediate locality who were with us one short year ago are now in France. One, Arthur Stuckey, born and reared partly in a nearby neighborhood, sleeps the last, long sleep in France to-day.

"It has been the endeavor of the association to keep the morale high and to make the annual picnic a day in which all can find enjoyment of a high order."

ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

The annals of Masonry in Custer county date back to the coming of the settlers. Although no lodge was organized until 1885, eight years after the organization of the county, a number of the settlers were Masons and connected with lodges in their former homes. The late Frank H. Young, who during the last forty years had been the first apostle of Masonry in the county, if not in the state, joined the Masons in 1874, and in 1877, the year that the county was organized, he attended for the first time the grand lodge of the state. Thereafter he attended every session of the grand lodge up to and including the ses-

sion of 1917. This remarkable record made him an attending delegate for forty consecutive annual sessions. With the record of such a man, and those of other kindred spirits, the work of Masonry had place in the county before the organization of the first lodge.

Credit is due to Alpha Morgan for the following epitome of Free Masonry history in the county:

The records of the Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska, show that on July 13, 1885, a dispensation was granted by the then grand master, Monoah B. Reese, late supreme judge of the supreme court of Nebraska, to fifteen Master Masons to open a lodge at Broken Bow, under the name of Custer Lodge, U. D., with Frank H. Young, as worshipful master; James M. Kelsey, senior warden; and Hollis G. Rogers, junior warden of the new lodge. In addition to the above named brethren, the fifteen named included Isaac Merchant, Robert H. Miller, Leander H. Jewett, Michael Conley, James Lindly, Harvey Said, William H. Russell, Thomas T. Williams, Cornelius R. Pratt, Albert G. Bemis, Charles Kloman, and Ira M. Foster.

Brother Edward F. McClure informs us that during the previous spring he interviewed Robert H. Miller, the then editor and proprietor of the *Custer County Republican*, and suggested the calling together of the Free Masons of the county for the purpose of taking steps to organize a lodge. This undertaking may be judged when we consider that above named gentlemen lived from Lee's Park, on the east, to where now Callaway is, on the west; from New Helena, on the north, to near where Oconto is, on the south—a varying distance of sixty miles apart.

Brother McClure took it on himself to write each of these brethren a letter setting forth the object of the meeting, and fixed the time at the convening of the spring term of the district court, which was presided over by Judge Savage. The place of meeting was the Community building, which is now a part of the Burlington hotel, and the upstairs of which was a hall for all manner of meetings, as well

as for holding court. At that meeting steps were taken that resulted later in the granting of the dispensation.

The records available show that Milo F. Young, the father of the first worshipful master, was the first initiate, and James D. Ream the second to be inducted into the mysteries. During the first year the degrees were conferred on Charles Penn, Robert P. McKnight, Emerson H. Potts (from near where Lomax now stands), Edmund King, Harvey B. Andrews, Walter C. Bedwell, Diah Woodruff, George E. Carr, Osborne P. Perley, William G. Brotherton, and James G. Brenizer. Brother Brenizer had already received the first two degrees, in Keystone Lodge, Number 2, located at Phillips, Nebraska, but by request was "raised" in the new lodge. All of above named were more or less active in the development and advancement of the new county, and one frequently meets with their names among the county records, in some capacity or another.

When we realize that the scope of territory covered by these different brothers and the amount of work accomplished during the year, as well as the conditions under which the work was done, we cannot but help compare our present surroundings and wonder what we would have done under the same conditions. Brother McClure tells us that the ante-room had cracks through which "a cat could be thrown," and when the cold, chilling blasts of the north wind would swoop down upon them during work, the candidate, as well as the brethren, would hug the stove in real earnestness.

At the annual meeting of the grand lodge in June, 1886, a charter was granted the new lodge, under the name of Emmet Crawford Lodge, Number 148. The selection of this name was due to the fact that in January, 1886, Captain Emmet Crawford, of the Regular Army, was murdered by a company of Mexican soldiers just across the border. He was buried at Kearney, Nebraska, April 11, 1886, having a military and Masonic funeral—one of the largest funerals ever held in the state. Regular Army officers came from

Colorado, Missouri, and other places, as detailed, while numerous members of the craft were present, not only from Nebraska, but also Kansas, Colorado, Iowa, and Missouri. Captain Crawford was a member of Richmond Lodge, Number 230, Philadelphia, and the manner of his death not only excited the interest of army and fraternal circles but caused governmental inquiry and action. The burial having occurred a few weeks prior to the meeting of the grand lodge of Masons in Omaha, and the grand secretary, Brother William R. Bowen, being an ex-officer of the United States army, suggested the name for the new lodge, and it was adopted and accepted.

At the time Emmet Crawford Lodge was instituted, the nearest lodge to the east was at Grand Island, while to the west there was none in Nebraska. Its jurisdictional territory was much larger than many of our eastern states, but in population it was "few and far between." As the distance to travel in going to and from lodge was great, and the roads led across the treeless prairie, regular meeting-night was fixed on Saturday night on or before the full of the moon, so that the weary sojourner would have the light of that luminary to cheer him on his way.

While the surroundings, furnishings, and buildings were primitive as compared with those of to-day, yet to hear those old-timers tell it, they had many an enjoyable evening in concourse with their brethren, interspersed with an occasional banquet and dance, typical of the whole-heartedness of the times.

The first Masonic funeral, that of Edmund King, who was shot and killed by a dwarf, Ed. Demerit, was held on December 16, 1888, a goodly number of brethren from adjoining towns being present to assist.

As the settlement of the county increased, new centers sprang up, so it was not long until other lodges were formed, and in August, 1887, Mason City received a dispensation, on the petition of eight Master Masons; also Merna Lodge was formed, on the petition of nine Master Masons; while in February, 1888, Gladstone Lodge, of Ansley, was established,

on the petition of sixteen Master Masons, the last two being recommended by Emmet Crawford Lodge.

On November 24, 1890, the members of Merna and Emmet Crawford Lodges, were invited by the most worshipful grand master, Robert E. French, to assist in the laying of the corner-stone of the Protestant Episcopal church at Callaway. This was the first corner-stone laid in the county under the auspices of the Masons. At this meeting, steps were

by John Finch, who was re-elected and served for fifteen consecutive years—the longest record of all in the county.

December 10, 1904, on petition of eleven brethren, a dispensation was granted to form Anselmo Lodge, with Brother John J. Tooley as master; George E. Carr, senior warden; and Ira M. Foster, junior warden.

October 18, 1912, twenty-two Master Masons petitioned for a dispensation, which was granted, to form Swastika Lodge, at Sargent,



LAYING CORNER STONE OF MASONIC TEMPLE AT ANSELMO

taken for the formation of a lodge of Free Masons, so that on January 31, 1891, a dispensation was granted, on the petition of nine Master Masons, for Parian Lodge, at Callaway, with Brother Frank H. Young as its master; Michael Conley, senior warden; and Andrew J. McMurtry, junior warden. This was recommended by Merna Lodge.

On November 17, 1893, on the petition of fourteen Master Masons, a dispensation was granted to open a lodge at Arnold, under the name of Cable Lodge. Albert G. Hoffman was named as its first master, in which office he continued two years, and he was succeeded

with Brother Fred F. Cram as its master; E. Miller, senior warden; and Andrew F. Phillips, junior warden.

To the parent lodge, Emmet Crawford, each of these lodges looked for assistance, which it received, either in contribution of members at the time of formation, help in conferring the degrees, or such other aid as was needed. In their turn each of these have contributed to the parent by furnishing members for the "higher" degrees, such as chapter, council, and commandery, for Broken Bow has each of these bodies and is prepared to confer all the degrees of Ancient York Rite Masonry.

The total membership of the lodges of the county, as furnished by report to the last grand lodge, is 662. Add to this 138 Royal Arch Masons, 100 Royal and Select Masters, eighty-five Knights Templars, and some 300 that belong to the Scottish Rite, one can have a fair idea of the interest taken in the mysteries of Masonry by the inhabitants of the county.

Several of the lodges own their own homes, and many thousands of dollars have thus been expended in the upbuilding of their respective communities, by the erection of handsome buildings, used for lodge halls and business blocks. Perhaps those of Ansley, Anselmo, and Callaway are more worthy of special mention, as the buildings of the fraternity in those towns are splendid monuments to the zeal, industry, and self-sacrifice of the brethren. Each of these buildings has fine appointments and is beautifully furnished, tending to make one feel that true fraternalism prevails.

The grand lodge has at different times recognized the spirit prevailing, and has never hesitated to come when called upon for special ceremonies, such as the laying of corner-stones for public buildings, as well as lodge halls, the dedication of these halls, the holding of funerals of distinguished members, and other work of similar order.

Then, too, there are in the county, many of the members of the order who have received the highest honors that can be bestowed. Brother Reuben B. Mullins is now the only thirty-third-degree Mason in the county, and, indeed, it is an honor to be thus recognized for some meritorious act. The late Julius J. Wilson served the craft as grand high priest of Royal Arch Masonry in the state, during the year 1909. Alpha Morgan served as grand master of Masons during 1913 and 1914, and later as grand patron of the Order of Eastern Star. Judge N. Dwight Ford is the retiring grand patron of the Eastern Star, and Henry H. Andrews is now grand sentinel of the same order.

The late lamented Frank H. Young served the craft well, having held all the grand lodge offices of Ancient York Masonry that it was

within the power of the craft to bestow, as well as that of grand patron of the Eastern Star. Reference has been made, elsewhere, to the record made by Brother Young in attending every consecutive session of the Grand Lodge for full forty years without break or interruption. In this connection it should be stated that during that time all the money allowed by the grand lodge for mileage and expenses was turned back into a charity fund for a children's home which he had planned and hoped to establish. The fund so started, grew until it reached \$100,000, then its incre-



FRANK H. YOUNG

ment became available for use. Until this principal amount was reached not a dollar was ever used, so in a very large sense Frank H. Young was the founder of the cottage home for children, located in Fremont, and owned and maintained by the Masons. This home was built in 1915. For nine years Brother Young was the president of the Nebraska Masonic Home, at Plattsmouth, Nebraska, which institution has furnished home and comfort for a great many aged people. In point of attendance at grand lodge Mr. Young ranked second in the state. To augment his record of forty consecutive sessions at grand lodge he has a record of thirty-six consecutive sessions of the grand chapter and twenty-nine consecu-

tive sessions of the grand commandery of the state.

In the general statement concerning the work of Masons in the county Mr. Morgan has given a skeleton outline, and very modestly has refrained from mentioning any of the service rendered the order by himself. Mr. Alpha Morgan is one of the prominent Masons of the state. He has passed through all the chairs of the grand lodge, and while grand

John J. Tooley is now deputy grand master of the state, and the brethren feel confident that he will be advanced to the higher position, that of grand master.

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows comes in for its share of importance, in the part it played in the early history of Custer county. It came with the pioneers, more than forty years ago, but no organized effort was made among the Odd Fellows of the county until the citizens of Broken Bow applied for a charter and Broken Bow Lodge, No. 119, was formed, June 21, 1884, with eleven charter members. Dr. R. C. Talbot, of Broken Bow, whose name appears on the charter, is the only one of that number still living.

The first meeting was held in the old city hall,—a building which now forms a part of the Burlington hotel,—the officers at that time being: N. H. Hopkins, noble grand; A. W. Gandy, vice-grand; L. H. Jewett, secretary. In decided contrast to the old meeting place is their present home, a beautiful white glazed-brick, fire-proof structure, which was erected and dedicated in 1916, at a cost of about \$20,000. They now have one of the best halls in the state and a membership of 179.

In point of membership, W. G. Purcell is the oldest member in Custer county, having joined the order in 1882, and he has served a major part of that time as secretary of Broken Bow Lodge, No. 119.

The different branches of the order in this city have been highly complimented, by reason of the fact that each has been represented at the grand bodies in the jurisdiction of Nebraska. Mrs. Margaret Holcomb, of Rebekah Lodge, No. 110, was president of the Rebekah assembly the year 1911-2. W. G. Purcell was grand patriarch at the session of the grand encampment October, 1906; October, 1907. Dr. T. W. Bass was grand master of the 1912-13 session of the grand lodge, Nebraska jurisdiction, and in point of membership was the youngest grand master to serve, having come into the order April 23, 1900. During his administration the membership of



ALPHA MORGAN
Grand Master, Masonic Grand Lodge

master made a record of which his fellow craftsmen are proud. At the present time he occupies the exalted capitular position of grand king and in two years more will pass to the higher honors of grand priest.

Outside of fraternal circles Mr. Morgan is one of the first citizens of the county. An attorney of note and prominence in the county bar, he is a graduate of the law department of the Iowa State University, and he has been a resident of the county since 1887.

the state made a healthy growth. He was representative from the Nebraska jurisdiction at three sessions of the sovereign grand lodge — at Minneapolis, Minnesota; Atlantic City, New Jersey; and San Francisco, California.

Since the organization of the Broken Bow Lodge, have been organized in the county, lodges at Arnold, Callaway, Oconto, Anselmo, Merna, Berwyn, Ansley, Mason City, Sargent, Comstock, and Westerville, with a total membership in the county of 1,139. The lodges in Custer county are in a flourishing condition, many of them owning their own homes.

MODERN WOODMEN OF CUSTER COUNTY

Custer Camp, No. 4477, was organized at Broken Bow in 1897, with a very small membership. The Modern Woodmen of America is probably the strongest fraternal-insurance organization in this country, and the local camp at once became a popular one. It has grown rapidly in numbers, until at the present time it has a membership of 330 and is second in size of all the camps in this part of the state.

Custer Camp holds its meetings the second and fourth Tuesday evenings of each month, in the new I. O. O. F. building. The present officers are: N. Dwight Ford, venerable consul; Thomas H. Brown, adviser; E. H. Holcomb, banker; G. T. Robinson, clerk; and M. M. Runyan, escort.

ANSLEY'S LODGES

Ansley Lodge, No. 156, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was organized December 8, 1887. Charter members: George W. Baugh, Daniel Hagin, E. H. Gaines, Robert J. Mills, Thomas J. Wood, O. M. Geeseman, Dana M. Saville, A. R. Humphrey, Edgar A. Hainsworth, J. J. Brown, and D. M. Amsberry. The present membership is 119, and the oldest member is C. S. Ellison. The present officers are: Noble grand, William Price; vice-grand, A. L. Real; treasurer, S. G. McCollister; secretary, L. D. Russell. Meetings are held every Wednesday evening.

The Ansley Rebekah Lodge was organized October 17, 1908, with the following charter members: Henry Schmid, A. Tina Hare,

Agnes Carothers, John Thornton, A. H. Turpen, R. J. Holeman, E. G. Taylor, C. C. Tabor, C. E. Lawson, J. H. Carothers, Laura Turpen, Minnie Taylor, Mary Carothers, Elizabeth Geeseman, Hattie Thornton, Emilie Schmid, Herma Lawson, Jennie Geeseman, and Ogle Varney. The lodge is at present in good working order. During the ten years of its life, it has lost but one member by death, Sister Anna Harris, who answered to the last call on June 20, 1918. During the past year, the lodge has received by initiation, transfer, and reinstatement, twenty-one members. Our present membership is sixty-two. Present officers: Noble grand, Agula Springman; vice-grand, Emily Real; secretary, Addie Fowler; treasurer, Mary Nelms. "Our motto is friendship, love and truth; our aim is peace, harmony, and prosperity."

The charter for Gladstone Lodge No. 176, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, was issued February 18, 1888, to Francis M. Rublee, Brougham Stevenson, William O. Chapman, William D. Fritz, James F. Sharpless, Hiram H. Wirt, E. R. Burrows, Philip M. Evans, James W. Fairfield, Marion G. Hayes, John W. Russell, C. J. Stevens, Thomas T. Williams, Thomas A. White, James M. Scott, and Isaac Clark. The first meeting was held February 20, 1888, with the following officers: F. M. Rublee, worshipful master; Brougham Stevenson, senior warden; William O. Chapman, junior warden; Clark J. Stevens, treasurer; Edwin H. Burrows, secretary; William D. Fritz, senior deacon; Alex. Grierson, junior deacon; Philip M. Evans, tyler. Lodge was opened in entered-apprentice degree. The first petition was received from Josiah A. Armour, and he was the first to be initiated in the entered-apprentice degree, March 19, 1888. The first meeting was held in Stevens' hall, and the entered-apprentice degree was conferred the same evening on Samuel Royds, Isaac A. Reneau, George E. Snell, and J. A. Armour. On April 2, 1888, Lee P. Gillette, grand custodian, was present. The present Masonic temple was built at a cost of \$10,725.08, and was dedicated November 19, 1914, the dedicatory service being in charge of Brother

Robert E. French. The building committee consisted of C. J. Stevens, A. F. Pinkley, John Davis, John W. Scott, and J. H. Kerr. The lodge now has a membership of 133, of whom 108 are Master Masons and twenty-five in the other degrees. The past masters up to the present time are: F. M. Rublee (1888), W. O. Chapman (1889), E. H. Burrows (1890), C. J. Stevens (1891), E. L. Cleveland (1892), J. A. Armour (1893-6), J. S. Fairfield (1897), E. L. Cleveland (1898), C. R. Hare (1899-1901), John Davis (1902-3), A. F. Pinkley (1904-5), J. W. Scott (1906-7), W. R. Young (1908-9), Levi Pringle (1910-11), J. H. Kerr (1912), N. D. Ford (1913-4), C. H. F. Steinmeir (1915), T. T. Varney (1916), R. J. Mills (1917), and E. P. Gaines, the present incumbent, 1918.

Ansley Chapter, No. 203, Order of the Eastern Star, was organized April 10, 1906, with the following charter members: A. F. Pinkley, W. R. Young, William Burdett, J. W. Scott, D. A. VanSant, John Davis, Mrs. L. M. VanSant, Mrs. Jemima Scott, Delia Scott, Florence Stevens, Mrs. Jennie Stevens, Mrs. Eliza Pinkley, Mrs. Lottie Shepard, Mrs. Fannie Gaines, Carrie VanSant, C. J. Stevens, E. H. Gaines, C. E. Mattley, J. H. Varney, Edgar Varney, and Mrs. Isabella Burrows. Its first officers were: Worthy matron, Mrs. Jemima Scott; worthy patron, John Davis; A.M., Mrs. Fannie B. Gaines; secretary, Mrs. Lizzie M. VanSant; treasurer, Mrs. Isabella Burrows; conductress, Mrs. Eliza Pinkley; associate conductress, Miss Delia Scott. The present membership is ninety-six; the oldest member is Mrs. Amelia Varney, and the youngest member is Miss Ellen Boyden. Present officers: Worthy matron, Ogle Varney; worthy patron, E. W. Rayson; A.M., Mrs. Della Lockhart; secretary, Mrs. Grace Maulick; treasurer, Mrs. May Morris; conductress, Mrs. Clara Gaines, associate conductress, Mrs. Elsie Mackey.

The Morning Star Camp, Royal Neighbors of America, was organized May 25, 1898, with the following officers: Oracle, Miss Jeane Wright; secretary, Miss Ethel Burns. The following were the charter members: Mary

Carlin, Marcus Richtmyer, Mrs. M. Richtmyer, Charles Hare, F. E. Wolford, E. H. Burrows, John Thornton, C. J. Cummings, Thomas Harris, E. L. Cleveland, James Davis, W. Burdett, F. W. Carlin, A. H. Turpin, W. B. Young, L. H. Hoover, John Scott, Charles Cummings, Eugene Haines, Sarah Beach, Jennie Pixley, C. W. Hamilton, Alice Hamilton, Laura Wigent, F. A. Wigent, Frank Watson, Day Watson, G. A. Allen, Charles Mitten, C. E. Lawson, Elizabeth Boyd, Hannah M. Scott, Debbie Boyd, James Hiser, Josephine Hiser, Hattie Thornton, Emma Wolford, Hester House, Emma Hare, Dora Weath, T. C. Berry, Dr. E. A. Hanna, Clara Wakeley, Della McGowan, Jemima Scott, William Smith, Mrs. William Smith, Mollie Varney, J. W. Comstock, Mrs. J. W. Comstock, Mrs. William Burdett, Mrs. James Davies, E. B. Pinkley, A. F. Pinkley, and Emma Fox. At the present time, there are 121 members — eighty-nine beneficiary and thirty-two social. The present officers are: Oracle, Lilly Wilkinson; vice-oracle, Mary Lawson; treasurer, Amelia Schmid; chancellor, Anna Pester; physicians, Drs. Young and Hanna; secretary, Mrs. E. A. Butler; managers, J. W. Scott, Grace Maulick, and Gertie Horton.

Ansley Camp, No. 1234, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized October 24, 1889, with eleven charter members, as follows: J. S. Thomas, H. A. Goodrich, Ed. Fowler, A. H. Shepard, H. W. Comstock, G. W. Baugh, O. F. Smith, J. H. Chapman, I. F. Secrist, Peter Fowler, and C. R. Hare. The first officers were: V.C., J. S. Thomas; W.A., H. A. Goodrich; banker, Ed. Fowler; clerk, A. H. Shepard; escort, J. W. Comstock; watchman, G. W. Baugh; sentry, O. F. Smith; physician, J. S. Thomas; managers, J. H. Chapman, I. F. Secrist, and C. R. Hare; delegate, J. S. Thomas; alternate, G. W. Baugh. The camp was organized by the deputy head consul, N. W. Noble. The only two remaining charter members are A. H. Shepard and J. W. Comstock, and the present membership is 340. The oldest member is Dan Hagin, who was born February 12, 1842, and who was adopted March 27, 1891. The youngest member, C.

L. Horton, was born January 1, 1900, and adopted June 1, 1918. The present officers are: P.C., J. H. Gonge; consul, J. B. Jones; adviser, John Springman; banker, E. P. Gaines; clerk, Perry Foster; escort, Roy Patterson; watchman, D. P. Scott; sentry, W. K. Kimball; physicians, E. A. Hanna and W. R. Young; managers, J. H. Gonge, H. F. Springman, and J. B. Jones.

MASON CITY LODGES

M. C. Warrington gives the following data concerning the lodges of Mason City:

"The first lodge organized in Mason City was Mason City Lodge No. 100, Ancient Order of United Workmen, which was accomplished in December, 1886, and for many years this was a prominent fraternal society.

"Mason City Lodge, No. 170, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons was granted a dispensation in the year 1887, with Judson C. Porter, worshipful master; A. B. Johnston, senior warden; W. A. Runyan, junior warden; Robert Walker, secretary; Dr. Hiram C. Chase, treasurer; M. C. Warrington, senior deacon; James Gouley, junior deacon. A charter was granted the following year. This lodge is still in a flourishing condition, and is proud of the fact that its Service Flag has seven stars. The fraternity owns and occupies its own property and expects to erect a handsome temple after the termination of the war.

"The Independent Order of Odd Fellows is represented in Mason City by a live working lodge, which was instituted in November, 1890. This lodge has a large and enthusiastic membership, owns its own property, and has in contemplation the erection, at a not distant date, of a substantial new home.

"A thriving organization of the Modern Wodmen of America—Custer Camp, No. 1157—has long been a fixed institution in Mason City. The membership of this camp is large and 'log-rolling' meetings, to keep the members interested and to add new ones, are of frequent occurrence.

"Last, but not least, save one only, in membership, of Mason City's fraternal and beneficiary organizations is that of the old soldiers,

Stone River Post, No. 247, Grand Army of the Republic. Few, indeed, are the old veterans of the Civil war who make up the membership of this post, but with that degree of duty and loyalty which marked the period of their lives which they so gallantly devoted to the cause of their country, with unfaltering devotion to the flag, they maintain their organization and have occasional meetings, to delve in days that are passed."

ROYAL NEIGHBORS OF ARNOLD

The Arnold Camp of the Royal Neighbors of America was organized March 31, 1898, with twenty-one charter members. The following were the first officers: Oracle, Mrs. May Finch; vice-oracle, Mrs. Eliza Daily; chancellor, Mrs. Carrie Ewing; recorder, Miss Dessie Chambers; receiver, Mrs. Clara Mills; marshal, Mrs. Edna Harden; inner sentinel, Mrs. Mary Hansbury; outer sentinel, Mrs. Ada Pierce. Within the period of the history of this interesting camp, Mrs. May Finch was oracle twelve years; Mrs. Mary Backes, vice-oracle, fourteen years; Mrs. Gertrude McCant, recorder fifteen years; Mrs. Harriett Coufal, marshal, fifteen years. At the present time the camp has forty-seven members, besides a number have moved away. In the life of the camp it has lost only two members by death,—one social and one beneficiary.

The Arnold Lodge of the Daughters of Rebekah was instituted March 6, 1916, and at the time of this writing is two years and five months old. It has a total of seventy-four members, of whom forty-eight were charter members.

March 13, 1917, the members organized a Rebekah kensington, which has taken up work for the Independent Order of Odd Fellows' home, and also Red Cross work, besides donating money to the Red Cross.

This lodge has bought fifty dollars' worth of war-savings stamps and has done all it could to help win the great world war. "Three of our members are in service now and more are to go soon," is the statement made for this lodge prior to the close of war hostilities.

THE GRANGE

During January, 1911, a National Grange organizer was surveying Nebraska with a view of organizing Granges in the state. On being invited by J. D. Ream to come to Custer county, and assured that he would find an audience that would be interested in listening to a discussion of the Grange organization and its work, he came early in February and found a fair audience awaiting him. Although this community had been noted from its earliest settlement for the progressive tendencies of its people and for the organized efforts it had made along social and educational lines, yet there were present only seven who had faith enough in the community push and energy to feel sure they could maintain a successful grange.

A temporary organization was effected and arrangements made for the organizer to return later. By the time the organizer returned, a sufficient interest had been aroused to make possible a permanent organization. A canvass was made of the surrounding territory, and Granges were organized in Tappan Valley, Lillian, East Table, Union, Dutchman, Fairview, New Helena, Highland, etc., and a State Grange was organized at Broken Bow November 1st. The Central Nebraska Pomona Grange was organized at the same time and of the same C. P. Jeffords was elected master and secretary.

The organization spread steadily until over fifty subordinate and four Pomona Granges had been organized in the county and a wonderfully increased interest in rural community-life conditions had been created. The rural-school problem was one of the first things the Grange grappled with, in real earnest, because the little, inefficient schoolhouses were recognized by the Grange workers as being very detrimental to the good work and growth of the Grange, and also very detrimental to the development of ideal rural-life conditions in general. The work of the Granges in this line bids fair to bring splendid results in the near future to the state at large.

These Grange organizations have done much good by bringing the people of the rural com-

munity together, getting them acquainted and giving them a chance to clasp hands with each other in their social, educational, and co-operative work, thus helping break the monotony and isolation of rural life and broadening their field of labor. Especially has this been true with the younger members.

In the co-operative line, scores of carloads of coal, lumber, fruits, salt, sugar, flour, and livestock have been handled, and two large, successful co-operative stores have been established in the county as a direct result of the work of the Grange. And there is no way of measuring the number of lives it has brightened and cheered or the number of those to whom it has brought a broader vision of the opportunities of life and their duties to those around them.

Among the many faithful workers in the good work of the Grange in Custer county may be mentioned J. A. Dietz and wife, S. A. Dean and wife, W. W. Bishop and wife, Ralph Johnson and wife, T. A. Ely and wife, L. O. Welch and wife, John Staab and wife, W. Miller and wife, Alvin Daily and wife, H. Jacobsen and wife, W. D. Holden and wife, George Pelkey and wife, and a great host of others who have done what they could to help make the rural communities of Custer county better places in which to live and to give to the younger members of the communities broader conceptions of the opportunities and responsibilities of life in general.

WOMAN'S CLUBS IN CUSTER COUNTY

The women of Custer county have always been the peers of their stronger consorts, not to say their lords and masters. A fitting tribute can never be paid those brave wives and mothers who endured the hardships incident to the time in which they lived. They did their work and laid the foundations of home culture and refined ideals in such a manner that the present womanhood of Custer county stands high in the estimation of all intelligent classes. To-day the women of the county have more time for self-culture and elevating pursuits than in the pioneer days of the past; for that reason, the following list of improvement, so-

cial, and literary clubs, organized and maintained by women, can be presented.

SHAKESPEARE CLUB

The Shakespeare Club, the oldest study club of Broken Bow, was organized January 11, 1895, with a membership of four, and was known as the Four Leaf Clover Club for several years. For the past twenty-three years, the Shakespeare Club has held weekly meetings, and its programs have consisted of the study and discussion of the great dramatic writings, research work in history, art, and literature, and interpretations of the music of the Shakespeare plays. During the later years, the personnel of the club has been increased to a membership of twelve. In January, 1918, it decided to suspend meetings until after period of war, in order to devote more time to Red Cross work.

CALLAWAY SOROSIS CLUB

The Callaway Sorosis Club was organized April 2, 1909. It was the first club organized in Callaway. The organization was effected at the home of Mrs. A. L. Matthews. The first year's officers were: President, Mrs. J. D. Caupsey; vice-presidents, Mrs. T. C. Grimes and Mrs. F. M. McGrew; secretary, Mrs. J. D. Laughlin; treasurer, Mrs. R. E. Brega. Other charter members were Mrs. John Felken, Mrs. Riggle, Mrs. Ray Bennett, Mrs. Ira Shupp, Mrs. Roy Grimes, Mrs. Arthur Higley, Mrs. Walter Wright, Mrs. O. C. Murphy, and Mrs. Allen. The work has been along the literary line and has included Bay View work, with some miscellaneous programs. This club joined the state federation in 1910 and was the first Custer county club to join that federation.

HISTORY OF BROWNING CLUB

In the fall of 1910 a group of ladies gathered at the home of Mrs. A. R. Humphrey, of Broken Bow, and organized a club, the purpose of which was to study the works of Robert Browning. Mrs. H. T. Bruce was elected president, and the work began with enthusiasm under her efficient leadership. The Browning

Club has always been strictly a study club and has studied some of Browning's most difficult works. The first two years the club studied "The Ring and the Book" with shorter poems. In the spring of 1912 the club, with a number of other Broken Bow ladies, had the pleasure of listening to a lecture on "Rabbi Ben Ezra" by Professor O. H. Venner, of the literature department of the Wesleyan University.

In the spring of 1914, occurred the death of one of the charter members, Mrs. A. R. Humphrey, who had always been a very loyal worker and who has been greatly missed by the members of the club. In the fall of 1914 the club decided to take up the study of Browning on a university basis, and accordingly began the study of the dramatic poems, as outlined by Professor Frederick Ames Struff, of the University of Nebraska. The poems studied were "Count Gismond," "Rabbi Ben Ezra," "My Last Duchess," "Saul," "Andrea Del Sarto," "A Death in the Desert," "Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came," "Cleon," and "An Epistle."

In the summer of 1916 the club was again bereaved, by the death of Mrs. H. M. Sullivan, who had endeared herself to all the members. In 1916 the club studied "Paracelsus" and "Pippa Passes." In 1917 the poems studied were "Strafford," "Parleying with Charles Arison," "Old Pictures in Florence," "Sordello," "Christmas Eve," and "Easter Day."

The members of the club patriotically decided that for the duration of the war they would devote their time to Red Cross work as well as study.

THE BOOKLOVERS ORGANIZATION

In the summer of 1911 a Chautauqua class of Broken Bow decided that they preferred to study the history and literature of the different countries. A meeting was held, officers elected, and plans rather indefinitely made for the 1911-12 year.

A book committee, Mrs. J. G. Leonard and R. G. Moore, outlined the work for the first year—the French year. The French history was taken as the basis for the study, with historical novels, by the greatest French authors,

in their chronological order, interspersing the history lessons.

The officers for this year were: Mrs. J. G. Leonard, president; Mrs. Leo Dean, vice-president; Mrs. R. G. Moore, secretary-treasurer. The members for this year were Mrs. R. G. Moore, Mrs. Leo Dean, Mrs. Charles Luce, Mrs. Emery Bush, Mrs. Will Osborn, Mrs. James Leonard, Mrs. William Lovelace, Mrs. John Turner, Miss Martha Fodge, and Miss Eva Cadwell.

The course was successful and passed all expectations of the club members. Each year they have improved in their methods of study. They were pioneers in club circles of the city and introduced such features as the use of wall maps, Perry pictures, printed yearly programs, and study of the music and art of the countries under consideration.

The 1912-13 year was German year, with Bayard Taylor's German history, and German novels and poems. The 1913-14 year was the English year, with Greene's English history, and, for the most part, the great English poetical classics, such as Milton's "Paradise Lost," Spencer's "Faerie Queen," and others.

In 1914-15 they studied the home country, taking John Fiske's United States history, and various novels describing different parts of the country, such as Cooper's "Last of the Mohicans," telling of the Indians; S. Weir Mitchell's "Hugh Wynne," depicting the Quakers; Irving's "Knickerbocker History of New York," showing the life of the early Dutch in New York.

In 1915-16 they used the general history and the greatest literary work of some of the countries, taking "The Divine Comedy" for Italy "Don Quixote" for Spain, the "Iliad" for Greece. In 1916-17 the work was the plays of Shakespeare. In 1917-18 they studied Old Testament history, using for text-books four volumes of Professor Kent's "Historical Bible."

The officers for the year 1917-18 are: Mrs. A. A. Alden, president; Mrs. Ralph Thompson, vice-president; Mrs. Horace Kennedy, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. James Leonard, chairman; and Miss Eva Cadwell and Mrs. Alden, book committee.

The present members are Mrs. A. A. Alden, Mrs. Ralph Thompson, Mrs. Horace Kennedy, Mrs. Emery Bush, Mrs. James Leonard, Mrs. Charles Luce, Mrs. Gaius Cadwell, and Miss Eva Cadwell. The club meets every Monday afternoon from the last Monday in September to the first Monday in June of each year.

BROKEN BOW ART CLUB

January 5, 1915, Mrs. H. T. Bruce and the active members of her china-painting class organized the Broken Bow Art Club. The purpose of this club was to engage in a systematic study of pictorial art in all its forms; to attain some knowledge of the use of oils and water colors, while specializing in mineral paints; to become acquainted with the best paintings; and to learn to judge values in all pictures.

The club has been very successful in the pursuit of these objects and met regularly at fortnightly intervals until the early spring of 1918, when it disbanded temporarily, to take up war work.

In addition to the activities described above, the Art Club has placed framed copies of good pictures in the public library of Broken Bow, and in both ward-school buildings.

ARNOLD WOMEN'S IMPROVEMENT CLUB

It would be hard to find a more wide-awake, energetic club than the Women's Improvement Club of Arnold. They were organized in 1913 and in the same year federated with the state federation. Mrs. Charles Beardsley and Mrs. Will Jennings were the prime movers in the matters of organization.

The first officers were as follows: President, Mrs. Fred Britten; vice-president, Mrs. William Jennings; treasurer, Mrs. Tom Backes; secretary, Mrs. E. L. Cleveland; and corresponding secretary, Mrs. Charles Beardsley.

The federated clubs' bulletin published in June, 1918, an extended article on the activities of this club, under the caption of "A Live Club." The club gave in 1917, "The Nebraska Institution Entertainment," for the benefit of the public; they also held a schoolhouse

meeting and did much work to secure the co-operation of parents in school work. By the request of the school authorities the Shakespearean department gave the court scene from "The Merchant of Venice" at the school-house, for the benefit and instruction of the pupils and school patrons generally.

Arnold has the distinction of giving more money to the Young Women's Christian Association than any other town in the county. This was made possible by the leadership of this club.

The ladies of the club have been instrumental in establishing a public library and a public drinking fountain, and have purchased two centrally located lots for the erection of a club building. This fine record has been made while all kinds of war work have been carried on. At the present time the club has forty-seven members, and the officers are: President, Essie Haskell; vice-president, Lillian Anson; recording secretary, May Conrad; corresponding secretary, Jessie Brunt; treasurer, Jennie Backes; and reporter, Maude Meads.

WOMAN'S PUBLIC SERVICE CLUB

The Woman's Public Service Club of Broken Bow was organized in 1914, for the purpose of co-operating with the Public Service Club and doing what they could along civic lines. The officers for the first year were: Mrs. A. Morgan, president; Mrs. E. P. Walter, vice-president; Mrs. C. W. Bowman, treasurer; Mrs. A. E. Anderson, secretary. During this year, prizes were given for children's gardens; the club assisted also in putting on the Chautauqua and keeping up the social life of both clubs.

In 1915, at the County Fair, prizes were awarded for bird-houses, needlework, and cookery. At Christmas time a donation was given to the Associated Charities of Broken Bow, fruit sent to both county and city jails, and flowers to the hospital. In 1916 they again assisted in Chautauqua work, made arrangements for short courses in domestic science, and donated ten dollars to the state peniten-

tiary, to be used to purchase music for the prison orchestra.

In October, 1916, they joined the State Federation and drafted the Nebraska nurse bill that same month. At Thanksgiving time they gave a donation to the Associated Charities and sent magazines and books to state penitentiary. In April the Nebraska nurse bill was passed, the federated clubs of the state having endorsed and supported this bill. In March the first year's course in domestic science was conducted by the State Extension Bureau, with an enrollment of sixty-five. The club gave garden prizes and held a two days' canning school. In August it co-operated with the Chautauqua. It bought a fifty-dollar Liberty Bond in October and started to work for the Woman County Agent. The club held an art exhibit in November, and presented a picture to the high school and each ward school. The officers for 1918 are: Mrs. M. S. Eddy, president; Mrs. L. W. Wilson, vice-president; Mrs. A. E. Anderson, treasurer; and Mrs. Will Darnell, secretary.

THE BROKEN BOW WOMAN'S CLUB

A few ladies met in the month of June, 1915, for the purpose of organizing a Mothers' Club in connection with the Maccabee lodge. At this meeting Mrs. George Mair was elected president, and Mrs. L. D. George, vice-president. The ladies forming the organization were Mrs. George Mair, Mrs. L. D. George, Mrs. Edwin Myers, Mrs. Dr. Hurst, Mrs. Lillie King, and Mrs. Della M. Hall.

No special work was taken up until September of the same year, when Mrs. Edwin Myers was made chairman of the programme committee. At this time the membership had grown from six to nineteen. A constitution was drawn up and adopted. From this time on the club studied, in full, the program mapped out in the *Woman's Home Companion* for that year, on "Child Training" and "The Home."

The club was admitted to membership in the Nebraska Federation of Woman's Clubs

in September, 1916, changing its name at that time from the Mothers' Club to The Broken Bow Woman's Club.

Since its affiliation with the state federation, the Woman's Club has been very active in various lines of philanthropic work. The field of its endeavor is broad and comprehensive. It is a means of personal instruction and intellectual development, as well as a diligent, energetic, and efficient agent of civic improvement.

The work for the club year of 1918-19 is departmental. The work of each department in the state federation will be correspondingly represented by a department chairman. One program will be given by each department during the year.

The officers of the club for the ensuing year are: Mrs. J. H. Melville, president; Mrs. J. F. Bahr, vice-president; Mrs. Jules Haumont, secretary; and Mrs. T. C. Grimes, treasurer.

SARGENT WOMAN'S CLUB

This club was organized in January, 1915, under the name of Sargent Emanon Club, and the name was changed to Sargent Woman's Club in July, 1918. It was organized by Mrs. Leota Hartley. The first officers were: President, Mrs. Leota Hartley; vice-president, Mrs. Lizzie Morris.

The object has been to secure a wider in-

formation, with a view to improving intellectual and social conditions, and work is thoroughly planned for the present club year. Officers at the present time are: Mrs. Etta Reier, president; Mrs. Nellie Phillips, vice-president; Mrs. Flora Cropper, recording secretary; Mrs. Lizzie Morris, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Lulu Hicks, treasurer.

WOMAN'S CLUB OF ANSLEY

The Woman's Club of Ansley was organized in 1916 and has been actively engaged in public improvements. The members established a public rest-room and have maintained it since the first year of their organization. In this room they have the nucleus of a public library, in which are some 400 volumes. They are now working to secure a Carnegie library building. The course of study for the regular club meetings includes a course in parliamentary law, conducted by Mrs. J. H. Ford. The club was federated in 1917. Mrs. S. W. Thompson is president, and Mrs. L. H. Fowler is librarian.

The club was first organized under the name of The Woman's Improvement Club, but this name was changed to the Woman's Club at the time of its becoming identified with the Nebraska Federation of Woman's Clubs. Mrs. C. H. England, of Broken Bow, assisted in its organization. The first president was Mrs. Earl Cooper, and the first secretary was Mrs. C. Steinmier.

CHAPTER XIII

POLITICAL AND PARTISAN ACTIVITIES

THE FIRST ELECTION — HAD SOME "PEP," HOWEVER — IN SCRAPPY DAYS — A JOINT DEBATE — THE POPULIST VERSION — THROUGH REPUBLICAN GOGGLES — THE "POPULIST" MOVEMENT IN CUSTER COUNTY — FIRST COUNTY TICKET — THE CAT CREEK CLUB — LIKE A LAMB TO THE SWALLOWING — THE REPUBLICAN PARTY ORGANIZES — THE REPUBLICANS SPLIT — THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY — VERY PROMINENT POLITICALLY — THE PRIMARIES OF 1918 — THE ELECTION OF 1918

The political solidarity of Custer county has always been a source of comment on the part of careful observers. Political lines have never been closely drawn. In the early days, local politics had small place. In his candidacy for any office the man, if he were competent and popular, was not handicapped by a political creed. Nor was there any political creed to which he must subscribe in order to be elected. Personal characteristics and qualities were the only things that counted. In the early Republican conventions, many who are now wheel-horses of the Democratic party affiliated heartily and served on many important committees. This indicates the lack of acid tests, and shows that the early conventions were a free-for-all, in which a man was pitted against a man and not a partisan against a partisan.

THE FIRST ELECTION

The first election ever held in the territory which now comprises Custer county was held at Douglas Grove, before the county was organized. A few years ago, among the papers of the late Captain W. H. Comstock, was found the poll-book of this election, which was held in November, 1876.

At that time the territory west of Valley county was attached to Valley for judicial purposes, and a corner, twenty-four miles square, was cut off and known as Garber

county. Later this territory became a part of Custer county.

The election was held on the seventh day of November, 1876, at which time Edward Neilson, J. L. Banker, and D. J. Caswell were judges and W. H. Comstock and James Wagoner were clerks of election.

In all, fourteen votes were cast as follows: Isaac Merchant, New Helena; Edward Neilson, New Helena; Lewis Dowse, Douglas Grove; J. P. Dowse, Douglas Grove; James Lee, Lee Park; J. L. Banker, Douglas Grove; W. H. Comstock, Douglas Grove; D. J. Caswell, Douglas Grove; Frank Ingram, Douglas Grove; Frank Ohme, Lee Park; Samuel Wagoner, Douglas Grove; James Wagoner, Douglas Grove; James Oxford, Douglas Grove; A. A. Higgins, Douglas Grove.

At that time the precinct was overwhelmingly Republican, as out of the fourteen votes cast, only one saw fit to vote the Democratic ticket. Thomas J. Majors, who was then running for congress, received twelve votes. Silas Garber was running for governor, Othman A. Abbott for lieutenant governor, and each received twelve votes. At this election William H. Comstock and Isaac Merchant were elected justices of the peace, each receiving fourteen votes. Lewis Dowse received one vote for constable, I. T. Merchant fourteen, and James Wagoner twelve. W. H. Com-

stock received one vote for road overseer, and D. J. Caswell fourteen.

In those days Nebraska had only six electoral votes, and this part of the world was known as the forty-fifth representative district, instead of the fifty-sixth, as now. It was entitled to only one representative, instead of two; Daniel D. Grow was running for that office and received the magnificent total of thirteen votes.

HAD SOME "PEP" HOWEVER

With the passing of the first years, the settling up of the country, the coming of leaders from the more politic counties of the east, political lines were more sharply drawn. Three prominent parties have for part of the time held the lime light. These are the Republican, Democratic, and Populist parties.

In the days of the '90s, when the Populists formed a merger with the Democrats and made the Republicans their common foe, there were lively times, and spirited contests were staged for several years. The newspapers during this time were exceedingly partisan and injected a good deal of life into the political campaigns.

IN SCRAPPY DAYS

As an indication of how the papers lambasted each other and lambasted their political enemies, we quote the following from an editorial which appeared in the *Custer County Chief*, issue of October 14, 1898:

"We are at a loss to know just what is the political faith of our much esteemed contemporary, the *Callaway Independent*. In the last few issues, C. W. Beal has been roasted to a turn, L. E. Kirkpatrick has been scored regularly, Eastman and Taylor have received side swipes, Holcomb has been touched up, Jim Amsberry has got a clip under the chin and a dip over the ear, the *Chief* has been given its choice between a political grave or bolt, Hughes Brown has received a few punches, and Judge Shinn, after a breathing spell, has again been poked in the short ribs. It is therefore eminently proper that the *Ansley Chronicle* and the *Broken Bow Republican* should

compliment the *Independent's* bold stand and pass bouquets back and forth. Brother Webb is a scrapper from Scrapville and if his pluck holds out he will no doubt be able to scrap the whole state ticket before the campaign closes."

A JOINT DEBATE

In the fall campaign of 1898 Norris Brown was the Republican candidate for congress, while W. L. Greene was the independent or "Populist" candidate. Great interest centered in a joint debate between the candidates. They met in the arena at Broken Bow, and we give below the accounts of the meeting as they appeared in the *Chief* and the *Republican* at that time.

The *Chief*, which championed the Populists, gave the following account:

THE POPULIST VERSION

"It is not only customary, but natural, in discussing the merits and demerits of a joint political debate that each party should stand up for its candidate, and in this connection we have already heard many times about the terrible drubbing Brown gave Greene, and also how Greene mopped the earth with Brown at the joint debate held in this city yesterday between the two candidates for congress in the sixth district. We have no desire to be unfair in mention of this debate and will give the facts as we saw them, and as we believe they were. The meeting was called to order at about 2:30 o'clock and the audience, which was about equally divided between Republicans and Populists, was decidedly small for an event of this kind. However, the people kept dropping in until the crowd reached about 250 to 300 people. James Stockham presided as chairman and Simon Cameron and E. R. Purcell acted as time-keepers. Mr. Brown opened the debate with one hour, Mr. Greene then followed with one hour, Mr. Brown then followed with twenty minutes and Mr. Greene with thirty minutes, and Mr. Brown closed with ten minutes, making the time one hour and a half each. Brown, in his opening, made a very good address and established himself as a good speaker. He attacked Greene's

record in congress, charged Greene with false statements in a circular issued to the people of the sixth district two years ago, relative to the price of cereals, and quoted a local paper at Kearney as proof, and attacked his statement regarding the per capita circulation of the country. Had the meeting closed at the conclusion of this speech, the people would have given Mr. Brown credit for a good hour's talk. Mr. Greene then took the platform, and as he warmed up to his subject, the attitude of the audience changed, and in less than ten minutes he had established himself as master of the situation, and his eloquence and good natural arguments carried conviction to the heart of every fair-minded man. He took up the statements and charges of Mr. Brown in their order and literally tore them to pieces. Instead of quoting from local papers, Mr. Greene took the official reports of the government and clinched every argument in the most convincing manner. Mr. Brown, on his second appearance, plainly showed the hot fire he was under, and made but few points that required answering. Mr. Greene then made his closing speech of thirty minutes, and Mr. Brown only occupied about one-third of the ten minutes allotted to him to close. The audience had become restless, and fifty or more people got up to leave when Mr. Brown took the platform for the last time. Norris Brown makes a good address, but as a debater he is not in it with W. L. Greene, and those who heard the debate from beginning to end do not wonder that the Republicans have endeavored to pull him off from the joint meetings. These debates will without question increase Greene's majority in every county in the sixth district."

THROUGH REPUBLICAN GOGGLES

The current issue of the *Republican* has a report of the same affair, but everything seems to have looked quite different through Republican goggles. Of course, political bias had nothing to do with these different versions. The difference was all due to different styles of literary taste. The "Greene" style appealed

to the one party but "Brown" was the favorite color of the other, so we are to presume that the divergent accounts were due to color preference.

"The Greene-Brown debate this afternoon, held in the North Side opera house, was a great disappointment to the 'Pops.' They had not only advertised the debate well in their papers, but had billed the county with large posters to induce the Pop brethren to give Tonsilitis Bill an old-time crowd. After all their efforts, not more than 300 people, men, women, and children, were present. There were not, all told, seventy-five Pop voters present, and one of them, instead of worshipping their idol, at the conclusion of the debate mounted the rostrum and congratulated Norris Brown. Judge Greene made a strong and pathetic appeal, with tears in his eyes, for the Pops to lay aside personal differences and vote for none but Pop nominees. His whole demeanor and speech only impressed his audience more forcibly, that of demagogues he is the chief. He claimed to be the original Pop, and stated he advocated the principles now held by the Populist party when he was a beardless youth. He maintained, with all his force at his command, that times are worse and prices of farm products lower than they were in the worst days of Cleveland's administration. He asserted that if Brown would prove that a single prophecy he made two years ago in his circular, which stated that 'prices of all products would decrease, farmers could not pay their taxes and would lose their homes,' in the event of McKinley's election 'he would withdraw from the ticket.' Brown showed from the quoted prices in the *Kearney Era-Standard*, a Pop paper, giving the prices in August, 1896, and 1898, that every article there quoted was selling for more in August, 1898, than in 1896. He also read from the *World-Herald*, showing an increase of exports of twelve per cent. and decrease of imports of twenty-five per cent. the last year, over the year previous. Greene's only reply was to burlesque the reports of local papers and deny the facts."

THE "POPULIST" MOVEMENT IN CUSTER COUNTY

The People's Independent party, by which name it was officially known, or the "Populist" party, by which name it was usually known, was an outgrowth of an organization known in the west as the Farmers' Alliance and in the south as the Farmers' Union. In the fall of 1888, soon after the presidential election of that year, there was much discontent among the farmers on account of the low market prices of all products of the farm and garden. The organization of the Farmers' Alliance, and kindred organizations among farmers, began as a protest against the prevalence of low prices and continued during the ensuing winter with great vigor in Custer county, in many other counties of the state, and in other western and southern states.

The Farmers' Alliance was a secret organization and was composed exclusively of farmers. It had its grips and passwords, and all its discussions of questions of interest to farmers were held behind closed doors. Farmers' Alliance stores and other mercantile enterprises were started and maintained in the cities and towns, efforts to bring producer and consumer more closely together were made, and methods for producing the maximum amount per acre, with the minimum of effort, were discussed in their meetings with profit. But there were many in alliance circles who openly declared that the farmers of the country would never be relieved from oppressive conditions until they entered politics and took care that the farming interests should be properly represented in all legislative bodies.

This was the condition of mind among the farmers of Custer county in the spring of 1889, when the annual meeting of the county alliance met in the city of Broken Bow. There was much talk among the delegates, from the various local alliances, of independent political action, and after electing officers for the ensuing year, a resolution was introduced in favor of putting a full ticket in the field in Custer county. The introduction of this resolution gave rise to much discussion as to the propriety of the action. The opinion quite generally prevailed that such action must

come sooner or later, but at that time its expediency was doubtful, owing to the well known prejudice existing against the organization of a new party. But after a full discussion, the resolution was adopted and many who had opposed its adoption, then pledged their support to the ticket.

FIRST COUNTY TICKET

Accordingly, later in the summer of 1889, a delegate convention assembled in Broken Bow, adopted a platform embracing the well known tenets of the Farmers' Alliance and nominated a full ticket, as follows: County judge, H. J. Shinn; sheriff, J. B. Jones; treasurer, D. M. Weimer; county superintendent, W. N. Hendrickson; county clerk, J. G. Painter; county surveyor, E. W. Dodson; representative, W. H. Predmore.

From that time on, the Farmers' Alliance of Custer county assumed and retained the form and substance of a distinctive and separate political party. The campaign which followed was indeed a unique campaign for Custer county. All the men nominated on the alliance ticket were farmers, none of whom had ever given any considerable study to politics or political questions, and they were pitted against a ticket of veteran politicians, nominated, and supported by a party that had never known defeat since the organization of the county.

Although the alliance had developed into a political party, it still maintained its organization throughout the county, and the ticket nominated was called the "Alliance ticket." Meetings were held in all parts of the county, under the auspices of the local alliances, the principles of the order were discussed at schoolhouses and picnics, and the arguments of the opposition, as to why the ticket should be defeated, were answered. The new doctrines, promulgated by the alliance, proved to be very popular and as a result of the campaign the entire ticket was elected, except the candidate for representative, who was defeated by J. D. Haskell, by a small majority.

The successful experience of the alliance movement in Custer county, and in other coun-

ties of the state and other western states where similar political action was taken, revealed to farmers some idea of the political power they could wield when united, and the general unrest in farming circles crystallized into a general demand for the formation of a new party, whose purpose should be to promote the welfare of all men and women who get their livelihood by labor. Accordingly, on the 14th day of May, 1891, a convention of delegates favorable to such a movement, met in Cincinnati, Ohio, and in its platform declared for the issuing of all money directly from the federal government to the people, without the intervention of national banks; the government ownership of railroads and other public utilities; and the preservation of the public domain for homes for the people. This convention christened the new party "The People's Independent Party," and arranged for another convention, to be held in St. Louis, on February 22, 1892. The delegates attending this convention from Custer county were O. M. Kem and C. W. Beal.

In accordance with arrangements made at this convention, a delegate convention was held in St. Louis on the date above named. Delegates were in attendance from twenty-three labor organizations, including the Farmers' Alliance. The movement, at this juncture, had aroused much opposition, and there were those present who were there to prevent, if possible, any further organization or amalgamation of the elements represented. Criminations and recriminations were rather freely indulged in, and a number, who were proved to be present from sinister motives, were forcibly ejected from the hall. A platform was adopted, along the lines of the Cincinnati convention, and arrangements were made to hold a nominating convention in Omaha, Nebraska, on the 4th day of July, 1892.

THE CAT CREEK CLUB

Accordingly, the first national nominating convention of the People's Independent Party was held in Omaha on the above-named date. There was a full delegation present from Custer county, and the famous "Cat Creek Glee

Club," of Custer county, Nebraska, composed of J. T. Emerick, S. E. and J. H. Brown, and Harry Emerick, was in attendance and regaled the convention with a number of songs that aroused the delegates to a high pitch of enthusiasm. Among the songs were those entitled, "Coming in the Life Boat," "We'll Meet You Bye and Bye," and "Coming for to Carry Me Home." This convention adopted the far-famed Omaha platform, which began with: "We have met in the midst of a nation brought to the verge of moral, material, and financial ruin," and, among other things, declared for reform in finance, land, and transportation. The convention nominated General James B. Weaver for president, and General Field for vice-president. In the campaign that followed, the new party carried six states and secured twenty-two votes in the electoral college. In Custer county, Nebraska, it elected S. M. Dorris, clerk of the district court; Ebenezer Miller, county attorney; D. W. Lanterman, register of deeds, and W. P. Higgins and C. W. Beal, representatives to the lower house of the legislature. O. M. Kem, who lived in Custer county, was elected to congress, and Silas A. Holcomb, also a resident of Custer county, was elected judge of the twelfth judicial district. Mr. Kem served three successive terms in congress and Mr. Holcomb, after serving the state two terms as governor, was elected judge of the supreme court, in which capacity he served six years. He was then elected chief justice of the supreme court, in which office he served six years.

For ten years, beginning in 1889, the Populist party carried Custer county, and throughout the country it had become a power so formidable that leading men in all parties came to understand fully that, unless something were done to curb its growth, it was destined to become one of the leading parties, if not the dominant party, of the country.

LIKE A LAMB TO THE SWALLOWING

As the presidential campaign of 1896 approached, leading members of the new party felt that it held the key to the situation. It

was arranged to hold its national convention after the two old parties had held theirs, the idea being that the conventions of both old parties would declare for the gold standard and bid for the vote of special interests. They were not mistaken as to what the Republican party would do, but the Democratic convention adopted a platform which included the principal demands of the Populist party, declaring among other things, for the abolition of the national banking system and the issuance and control of all money directly from the government. This was the beginning of the end of the Populist party in the nation, as it was evident that if the Populist party nominated a separate ticket it meant success for the Republican ticket. So, when the Populist convention was held in St. Louis, on July 22, 1896, after a vigorous canvass of the situation and many stormy scenes, the convention nominated William J. Bryan, the nominee of the Democratic party for president, but aimed to preserve its identity by refusing to nominate Arthur Sewall, the nominee of the Democrats for vice-president, and nominated Thomas E. Watson, of Georgia, for that position.

After the memorable campaign of 1896, the Populist party rapidly disintegrated. The party, however, maintained its identity in the county for many years thereafter, by preserving its separate organization and nominating and supporting tickets made up of Populists, but its numbers gradually decreased until 1915, when the party officially went out of business. Its last central committee chairman was Charles T. Orr and its last secretary was Charles H. Jeffords, who stayed by the ship to the last and with genuine regret saw her sink.

Though the People's Independent Party has passed into history, this generation willingly gives it the full credit which was withheld by the last generation. It was the first political party to declare for the postal-savings banks, the initiative and referendum, the election of United States senators by direct vote, government ownership of public utilities and the issuance of all money without the agency of banks of issue. The majority of these policies have

been enacted into law, and the wisdom and beneficence of these laws are universally conceded.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY ORGANIZES

The Republican party was the first organized political party in Custer county. From the records of its first meeting it is evident that political lines were not tightly drawn, and members of other political organizations were freely admitted to its party caucuses and county conventions. The first record of the meeting of a Republican county convention is that of the year 1877. This convention was held at the temporary county seat of Custer county, on the 25th day of July, 1877. Henry Goodyear was elected chairman of this convention and Frank H. Young, secretary.

Custer county had previously been organized and, by an order of Governor Garber, county commissioners had been appointed. This first convention was called to nominate the temporary county officers to hold office until the November election, when the full county ticket would be elected. The minutes of that convention reads as follows:

"Convention came to order by electing Henry Goodyear chairman and Frank H. Young secretary.

"It was moved and carried that the candidates be nominated by acclamation. Louis Wambsgan was nominated for county judge. Frank H. Young was nominated for county clerk. Anton Abel was nominated for county commissioner. William Kilgore was nominated for county commissioner. James Gasmann was nominated for county commissioner. Joshua Wood was nominated for sheriff. S. C. Stuckey and John Myers were put in nomination for county treasurer and, on voting, S. C. Stuckey was nominated. H. C. Morton was nominated for county surveyor. George Sanford was nominated for coroner. J. J. Douglass, L. D. George, and Charles R. Mathews were elected as the county central committee.

"On motion the convention adjourned sine die.

FRANK H. YOUNG, Secretary."

The second convention was held on the 1st day of November, 1877. At this convention

a full set of county officers were nominated. The nominees were duly elected, and the ticket thus elected became the first regularly elected set of county officers for Custer county. The most of the officers elected at the election in 1877 served the entire term of the election. Others resigned, and their places were filled by appointment. The minutes of this second Republican county convention read as follows:

"Convention came to order by electing R. Tucker temporary chairman and F. H. Young temporary secretary. James Gasman put in nomination as commissioner for commissioner precinct No. 5. Anton Abel put in nomination as commissioner for commissioner precinct No. 2. William Kilgore put in nomination as commissioner for commissioner precinct No. 1. Wilson Hewitt, county judge; S. C. Stuckey, county treasurer; R. Tucker, county clerk; Josh Wood, sheriff; Al. Wise, coroner; J. W. Benedict, surveyor; Mr. Eubank, superintendent. Central committeemen, Tom Ritche, No. 5; Wilson Hewitt, No. 2; James Paxton, No. 1; W. R. Matthews, No. 5; William Comstock, No. 4.

"Louis Wambsgan, county judge. (Wambsgan, four points, Hewitt, ten points.) Wilson Hewitt nominated for county judge."

The settlement of Custer county is nicely illustrated by the manner in which attendance at the various early county conventions commenced to increase. In 1897 the third Republican county convention was held. It is noticeable that while the old names are retained in the minutes of the early conventions, new names begin to appear and the names of these men, as they appear from time to time in the early records of these conventions, are the men who are largely credited with early settlement and development of the county. The minutes of the convention for 1879 are not full or very complete. They read as follows:

"Meeting called to order by Frank H. Young. V. Allyn, chairman; Frank H. Young, secretary.

"County commissioner, J. D. Haskell, county commissioner, District No. 1. County judge, Millard Miles; county clerk, Frank H. Young; county treasurer, James A. Pike;

county sheriff, P. W. Bruin; county coroner, John George; superintendent, J. J. Douglass; surveyor, L. S. Perrin. William Kilgore, George Arnold, and V. Allyn elected county central committee."

On October 8, 1880, the Republican county convention was held at Myers' ranch. A complete record of the proceedings of that convention is disclosed by the minutes and returns as follows:

Republican county convention called to order by N. H. Hopkins, chairman of the county central committee. N. H. Hopkins elected permanent chairman and Frank H. Young elected permanent secretary.

The following committee on credentials was elected: C. C. Kingsbury, precinct No. 2; W. H. Comstock, precinct No. 3; C. R. Mathews, precinct No. 5; J. L. Goodrich, precinct No. 6; C. S. Ellison, precinct No. 9.

Recess of half an hour. After recess the committee on credentials made the following report. Report accepted and committee discharged. Moved and seconded that one delegate be allowed each precinct for each one hundred population or fraction thereof, taking as a basis of the state census of 1880 and adding one-third, so as to approximate the United States census. Carried. Whereupon the convention found that the precincts were entitled to the number of votes set opposite their numbers, to-wit:

Precinct No. 1, no delegates; precinct No. 2, four delegates; precinct No. 3, two delegates; precinct No. 4, none present; precinct No. 5, three delegates; precinct No. 6, five delegates; precinct No. 7, four delegates; precinct No. 8, three delegates; precinct No. 9, three delegates; precinct No. 10, one delegate.

Moved and recorded the delegates present be allowed to cast the full vote of their precinct.

The next business in order being the nomination of county commissioners in District No. 1, the following named gentlemen were unanimously nominated: L. W. F. Cole, from precinct No. 6; C. F. Crawford, precinct No. 7, unanimously nominated county treasurer; C. R. Matthews, of precinct No. 5, unanimously nominated county judge.

The following named gentlemen were elected a county central committee for the ensuing year, to-wit:

Nc George, precinct No. 1; Frank H. Young, precinct No. 2; W. H. Comstock, precinct No. 3; W. H. Henderson, precinct No. 4; L. W. Sherman, precinct No. 5; J. L. Good-

rich, precinct No. 6; N. H. Hopkins, precinct No. 7; George Brooks, precinct No. 8; A. J. Snowden, precinct No. 9; J. D. Ream, precinct No. 10; R. C. Talbot, precinct No. 11; Ira Graves, precinct No. 12.

The convention adjourned sine die.

FRANK H. YOUNG, Secretary.

From 1880 to 1884 there is no record obtainable of Republican county conventions in the county. On August 12, 1884, the Republican county convention was held at Broken Bow. A full history of the proceedings of this convention has been retained in the well known handwriting of Frank Young and reads as follows:

Republican county convention met pursuant to call of central committee and was called to order by C. H. Savidge, chairman central committee.

C. S. Elison elected temporary chairman and Frank H. Young temporary secretary. Committee of three on credentials appointed by the chair, as follows: J. S. Kirkpatrick, J. W. Thomas, W. H. Russell. On motion a committee of three on order of business was appointed by the chair, as follows: F. D. Mills, George O. Waters, Ed King. On motion a committee of three on permanent organization was appointed, as follows: J. S. Squires, J. Merchant, M. Schneringer.

Moved to adjourn to one P. M. Lost. Moved to adjourn to two P. M. Carried.

TWO P. M.

Convention called to order by chairman.

Report of committee on credentials read and accepted.

Report of committee on permanent organization read and accepted.

Report of committee on order of business read and accepted.

Moved by J. S. Kirkpatrick that we elect four delegates to state convention, one at a time. Seconded and carried.

Moved that delegates present be empowered to cast the full vote of their township. Carried.

Nominations for delegates to state convention: James Thomas, of Sargent; C. S. Elison, of Algernon, by G. O. Waters; J. P. Gandy, of Broken Bow, by S. A. Miller; J. L. H. Knight, of Myrtle; F. Zimmerer, of Custer, by Knight; F. H. Young, of Custer, by Zimmerer. Knight declined.

Moved and carried that townships cast their votes by chairman of delegates after this.

First ballot—Thomas, 23; Elison, 1; Gandy, 7; Zimmerer, 4. Total, 35. James Thomas elected.

Second ballot—Gandy, 23; Elison, 8; Zimmerer, 4. Total, 35. J. P. Gandy elected.

Third ballot—Elison, 19; Zimmerer, 18. Total, 37. C. S. Elison elected.

Fourth ballot—Rules suspended and F. Zimmerer elected by acclamation.

Nominations for congressional delegates—Isaac Merchant, withdrawn; Lefter, withdrawn; A. W. Squires; W. H. Predmore; Bedwin.

Moved by Kirkpatrick that delegates be nominated and elected one at a time. Moved to amend by Graves that four be elected at one ballot. Amendment last motion carried.

First ballot—Squires, 4; Predmore, 32. W. H. Predmore elected.

Second ballot—Squires, 28; Bidwell, 6. A. W. Squires elected.

Rules suspended and Frank H. Young and W. Bidwell elected by acclamation.

JUDICIAL CONVENTIONS

Nominations: J. S. Kirkpatrick, Edgar Varney, C. S. Elison, C. P. Foot, J. A. Armour, J. W. Thomas. J. S. Kirkpatrick, J. A. Armour, J. W. Thomas, and C. P. Foot elected by acclamation.

SENATORIAL CONVENTION DELEGATES

Nominations: M. Schneringer, W. H. Henderson, E. King, John Morrison, C. S. Elison, Jess Gandy, C. H. Savidge.

First ballot—Henderson, 11; Schneringer, 2; King, 3; M. F. Young, 6; Elison, 8; Savidge, 3; Gandy, 3. Total, 36.

Second ballot—Henderson, 20; Elison, 5; Savidge, 5; Gandy, 8. Total, 38. W. H. Henderson elected.

Third ballot—Elison, 9; Savidge, 15; Schneringer, 3; King, 4; Gandy, 5. Total, 36.

Fourth ballot—Savidge, 12; Elison, 16; King, 5; Schneringer, 2; Gandy, 3. Total, 38. Rules suspended and M. Schneringer, C. S. Elison, and E. King elected by acclamation.

REPRESENTATIVE CONVENTION

Nominations: W. H. Russell, A. Crouch, C. H. Jeffords, J. D. Ream (declined), George Sherman, W. D. Lefter, J. L. H. Knight, D. M. Amsberry, S. A. Miller, A. W. Squires, J. S. Benjamin.

Moved that the rules be suspended and first eight be declared elected. Amended to vote for one at a time. Motion as amended carried.

First ballot—Amsberry, 3; Miller, 11; Lefter, 15; Russell, 5; Ream, 1; Crouch, 1. Total, 36.

Second ballot—Amsberry, 1; Miller, 11; Lefter, 22 (elected); Sherman, 2. Total, 36.

Third ballot — Miller, 14; Knight, 20 (elected); Benjamin, 2; Russell, 2. Total, 38.

Fourth ballot — Miller, 13; Crouch, 23 (elected); Amsberry, 3. Total, 39.

The convention of August 24, 1884, was called for the purpose of electing delegates to the various conventions of the party for that year. No county candidates were nominated at this convention. The committee on credentials reported as follows:

The committee on credentials respectfully reports the following named gentlemen entitled to seats in this convention: Algernon: D. M. Amsberry, C. S. Elison, and J. M. Bartlett, precinct No. 3. Kilfoil: William Walsh, W. Bidwell, and Charles Foote. Township No. 3. Delight: Ira Graves, M. Schneringer. Township No. 2. Sargent: J. W. Thomas, C. R. Jewett, and George Sherman. Township No. 3. Douglas: George O. Waters, A. B. Crouch, and H. M. Henderson. Grove, No. 3. Wood River: W. H. Henderson, H. Blakeslee (not signed). Township No. 2. Lillian: H. H. Russell and V. James Dares. Township No. 2. Custer: F. Zimmerer, J. W. Benedict, and Frank H. Young. Township No. 3. M. F. Young, proxy for J. W. Benedict. Myrtle: J. L. H. Knight, George E. Richtmeyer, and D. C. Goodrich. Numbers 8, 3. Broken Bow: A. Miller, J. S. Kirkpatrick, O. M. Kem, and Ed King. Township No. 4. Westerville: P. D. Mills, F. C. M. Knox, J. J. Brown, H. D. Lefter, and H. S. Waterbury. Precinct No. 5. New Helena: I. Merchant and J. H. Bath-erick. Township No. 2. West Union: W. Predmore, J. S. Squires, and Thomas Deane. Precinct No. 3.

J. S. KIRKPATRICK, Chairman.

We, the committee on permanent organization, respectfully recommend that the temporary organization be made permanent.

J. S. SQUIRES, Chairman of Committee.

At that time apparently Custer county had no candidate for any office outside of the boundaries of the county. Custer county was embraced in the legislative district along with the unorganized territory to the west and other counties along the line of the Union Pacific Railroad, but the delegates to this convention, having in mind the needs of the county from a legislative standpoint, adopted the following resolution: "Resolved, That the representative delegation be instructed to use

every honorable effort to secure the nomination of a Custer county man."

A county central committee was named by this convention. The precinct nominations had been dropped and the voting precincts were given names. At this time there were thirteen voting precincts in the county. The name of the precinct and the committeemen selected by this convention were as follows: Algernon, C. S. Bedwell; Kilfoil, W. Bidwell; Delight, M. H. Deams; Sargent, George Sherman; Douglas Grove, G. O. Waters; Wood River, T. B. Buckner; Lillian, W. H. Russell; Custer, F. Zimmerer; Myrtle, G. E. Richtmeyer; Broken Bow, J. S. Kirkpatrick; Westerville, F. C. M. Knox;

Moved that the first ballot be informal. Carried. On motion, R. R. Chess, W. W. Thornton, William Osborne, were appointed tellers. Moved that the chairman of each delegation cast the vote of his precinct. Lost.

Nomination for county treasurer, informal ballot — Knight, 16; Brown, 10; Squires, 8; Hemsworth, 2; Schreyer, 2. Total, 38.

First ballot — Knight, 17; Brown, 15; Squires, 10. Total, 42. A. W. Squires' name withdrawn.

Second ballot — Knight, 16; Brown, 26 (elected). Total, 42.

Rules suspended and R. C. Talbot nominated for county treasurer by acclamation.

Nominations for sheriff, (informal ballot) — Charles Rockwood, 13; Charles Penn, 15; Charles Foote, 14.

Moved that the convention take a recess of fifteen minutes. Carried.

Convention called to order by chairman.

First ballot — Rockwood, 13; Penn, 12; Foote, 16. Total, 41.

Second ballot — Rockwood, 13; Penn, 13; Foote, 15. Total, 41.

Third ballot — Rockwood, 8; Penn, 13; Foote, 21. Total, 42.

Fourth ballot — Penn, 17; Foote, 24. Total, 41.

Nominations for superintendent of public instruction (informal ballot) — W. W. Thornton, 5; W. C. Elliott, 4; A. R. Samson, 8; D. M. Amsberry, 25. Total, 42. New Helena, I. J. Dings; West Union, J. L. Cobb.

On the 14th day of October, 1884, the convention proper was held at Broken Bow for the nomination of a county ticket. At this

convention the following county ticket was nominated:

Pursuant to notice, the Republican county convention was called to order by the chairman of the county central committee.

Nathan English was elected temporary chairman and Frank H. Young temporary secretary. On motion, E. King and W. H. Russell were appointed committee on credentials. D. C. Goodrich, W. H. Russell, and M. H. Deems were appointed a committee on order of business. Edgar Varney, W. F. Slingsby, R. R. Chess, and W. D. Meeker were appointed committee on permanent organization. On motion adjourned till one o'clock P. M.

ONE O'CLOCK P. M.

Convention called to order by chairman. Committee on credentials made their report which was adopted. Committee on order of business made their report, which was read and accepted. Committee on permanent organization recommended that temporary organization be made permanent. Adopted.

Nominations for county clerk—J. L. H. Knox, J. J. Brown, Alfred Schreyer, W. W. Squires, James H. Ledwich (declined), E. A. Hemsworth.

Moved that the convention vote by ballot. Carried. Moved to make the informal ballot formal. Carried.

Nominations for surveyor (informal ballot)—E. N. Bishop, 22; L. E. Koon, 20. Total, 42. Moved that the informal ballot be made formal. Lost.

First ballot—Bishop, 21; Koon, 21. Total, 42.

Second ballot—Bishop, 29; Koon, 13; Total, 42.

Nominations for coroner (informal ballot)—J. H. Murray, 13; W. D. Meeker, 24; Crawford, 1; Wamsley, 1; Goodrich, 3. Total 42. Moved that W. D. Meeker be nominated by acclamation. Carried. Moved that this convention endorse the present county judge, J. S. Benjamin.

Moved that townships that were not represented in the previous convention now present the names of their central committeemen. Carried. A. Booton nominated central committeeman from Arnold township; George Ricker, 17; John Van Horn, from Cliff, 18.

On motion adjourned sine die.

FRANK H. YOUNG, Secretary.

The convention of 1885 was held at Broken Bow on September 30. In the deliberations of this convention, many men participated,

whose names have become household words in the development of the county. To illustrate, John S. Kirkpatrick, and Frank H. Young, secretary of the convention. The committee on credentials was composed of S. L. Cannon, Mark Schreninger, J. D. Ream, F. Zimmerer, and S. B. Harris. The committee on permanent organization was composed of John Myers, Arthur Kilgore, Ed. King, Sam High, and John Hall. The committee on resolutions was composed of J. D. Ream, W. W. Thornton, John Hall, L. B. Brisbane, and J. D. Troyer.

Custer county has always been noted for its convention oratory, but at this convention a motion was carried limiting a nominating speech to five minutes and a speech of a candidate to ten minutes. With this brake on the talking power of the candidates, the convention proceeded to nominate the ticket.

From the beginning of party organizations in Custer county down to the year 1889, the nomination of a Republican convention was equivalent to election of the nominee. No person other than the nominee of a Republican convention was elected to any county office during this period. The Democrats maintained an organization and some glorious campaign fights were conducted in the county, in an effort to elect certain Democrats, but when the vote was counted their effort was always found to be futile. The resolutions adopted from time to time by the early Republican conventions expressed the thought of the party in its representative capacity. Some of these resolutions are entitled to a place in history. The following resolution was adopted by the convention of 1884:

Whereas, The circumstances under which the Republican party was organized, demanded that the party be one of progression, and the party owes its successes to its willingness to grapple with the issues of the day;

Therefore, Be it Resolved, That we, as representatives of that party in convention assembled, do demand that the party in the county shall faithfully engage in every question of importance wherein the rights of the many are made subservient to the will of the few.

Early in its party history, the Republican

party took a stand against the sale of intoxicating liquors. The following resolution was adopted in 1884, apparently after a bitter fight in the convention and after the resolution, as it had been originally written, was amended to read as follows:

Whereas, the license of the sale of intoxicants in any form, especially as patent medicine, is contrary to morality and the best interests of our county;

Be it Resolved, That the Republican party of Custer county is morally, socially, and politically opposed to the liquor traffic, will not give countenance to the sale of intoxicating beverages in the county and will support only temperance men for state, county, and township officers.

The anti-monopoly proclivities of the Republican party of the county early cropped out in its conventions. Up to and including the convention of 1885, no railroad had crossed the county line and the nearest trading point where railroad facilities could be had was along the line of the Union Pacific to the south, so the convention of 1885 adopted the following resolution concerning railroad regulations:

"Resolved, That the railroad commission of our state is a step in the right direction but, as at present empowered and constituted, is wholly inadequate to meet the required needs and demands of the people."

This anti-monopoly sentiment is expressed also in a resolution which was offered and adopted in the convention of 1885 and which reads as follows:

"Resolved, That the course of C. H. Van Wyck in the national senate has been fearless and honorable in the interest of the whole people, regardless of the abuses of the partisans, politicians, and monied corporations, and meets with our hearty approval. (J. D. REAM, Chairman)."

At the time of the adoption of this resolution, C. H. VanWyck was United States senator from Nebraska. He was regarded as a thorough anti-monopolist, and the resolution offered by Mr. Ream above set out is an indorsement of the very belligerent career of Senator VanWyck in the United States senate. The resolution was offered and adopted by a rising vote.

During the year 1888 and spring of 1889 a Farmers' Alliance organization was completed throughout the county. In 1889 the Farmers' Alliance entered politics. In a county convention of their own, a full county ticket was nominated from their own membership. The Democratic party leaders, having been unsuccessful in their attempt to elect any regular nominee of a Democratic county convention, cast in their lot with the nominees of the Farmers' Alliance and at the November election in 1889 the entire Republican county ticket was defeated and the Farmers' Alliance candidates, by the aid of the Democratic party organization, were all elected. For a period of ten years, from 1889, the Republican organization was submerged, and no nominee of a Republican convention had any more chance of an election than a Democrat had had prior to that year. In time the Alliance party organization was taken over and its management and control passed to the Democratic leaders of the county. The first break that the Republicans were able to make in this water-tight organization came in the year 1897, when, by a split in the party organization of the remnants of the old Farmers' Alliance movement, known at that time as the Populist party, the Republicans succeeded in electing J. A. Armour county judge.

The dismemberment of the Populist party consisted of its alliance with the Democratic party, gradually leading to many of its members returning to Republicans, and in the year 1905, in a straight party fight between the Republican candidates and the Democratic candidates, the Republicans elected their entire county ticket. They continued to elect the nominees of the Republican party until the year 1909, when a set of county officials partly Republican and partly Democratic was elected, and from that day to this there has been a mixed ticket elected at each election.

THE REPUBLICANS SPLIT

During the campaign of 1912, when the national Republican convention split, and the Progressives nominated a second Republican ticket, the Progressive wing of the party waged a strenuous local campaign in the

county for the national Progressive ticket. As a result of this campaign, two years later, the Progressives organized for the state and county campaign, and put a Progressive county ticket into the field. Because of the Republican vote being divided, the county offices, with two exceptions, were captured by the Democrats.

Since the establishment of the so-called Australian ballot system, the partisan spirit has to a great extent, subsided, and to-day it is exceedingly hard to maintain a political organization, whether Republican or Democratic.

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

To M. C. Warrington who has been one of the wheelhorses of the Democratic party since its inception in Custer county, belongs the credit for the compilation of the following data concerning Democratic activities:

"In giving a history of the activities of the Democratic party in Custer county much data are necessarily omitted, for the reason that no authentic account of many accomplishments of that organization is available.

"During a period of the first several years following the organization of Custer county, party affiliation was not taken seriously into consideration when it came to selecting officials, availability being considered of greater importance than politics. However, a number of the early-day officials of the county were Democrats.

"There seems to have been no Democratic organization within the county at the time of the presidential campaign in 1880. However, there were some Democratic voters in the county at that time. It is related by Robert Farley, one of the pioneer Democratic settlers in the county, that he made on horseback a trip of about twenty miles to the nearest voting place to cast his ballot that year. This being in the days before the Australian voting system had been adopted and when the ballots were furnished by party leaders rather than by the county, as now, Mr. Farley could find no Democratic tickets, and was informed by the election officers that there were none at the polls. Determined to cast his vote for

General Hancock for president, Mr. Farley tore a Democratic ticket out of a newspaper, voted that and returned home, conscious of having performed a sacred duty of citizenship.

"A full county ticket was placed in the field in 1884 and met with overwhelming defeat at the polls. That apparently was the first real organization effected by the Democrats in Custer county. During the years from 1880 for a period of ten years there was a heavy influx of settlers to Custer county, being drawn here first by the free-homestead lands and later by the advent of the railroad and the springing up of a number of new towns.

"The Democrats made a very aggressive effort to win the county election in 1887. An enthusiastic county convention was held in Broken Bow in September of that year, every preceinct being represented, and a ticket, made up of the then well known Custer county citizens, was placed in the field as follows: County treasurer, James Holland; county clerk, J. R. Forsythe; sheriff, Michael Conley; clerk district court, Harry E. O'Neill; county judge, E. P. Campbell; county superintendent, F. W. Taylor; coroner, Dr. J. W. Saunders.

"The election of that year, despite the fact that the Democrats made a strenuous effort for success, was won by the Republicans, some of the candidates winning by majorities around a thousand. This crushing defeat was disheartening to the Democrats and was, in a measure, largely responsible for paving the way for the success of the Farmers' Alliance ticket in 1889, when the Republicans in turn were wiped off the political map by large majorities. That year the Democratic organization, manipulated largely by those who saw a chance to work through the farmers' organization and bring defeat to the Republicans, ably assisted and urged by a number of Democrats anxious for political perferment and the spoils of office, withdrew the Democratic ticket from the field and joined their political fortunes with the farmers. The Farmers' Alliance organization, after their national convention in Omaha in 1890, became the People's Independent party, popularly and generally known as the 'Pops,' and they held almost full and complete sway

in political affairs in Custer county after their victory in 1889 for twelve years, and partially for a longer period, when the party began to disintegrate and gradually merge with the Democrats.

"Covering the period when the Populists were at the zenith of their power, the Democratic organization was not abandoned, but was held together by a few of the old guard, ever faithful to the trust of party fidelity and loyalty. County conventions were regularly held, delegates to state and district conventions selected, and county tickets nominated, made up generally of men of affairs and prominence who neither sought nor expected political honors. This organization, so honorably and loyally maintained, extended a welcome hand to those who had affiliated with the Populist party when that political bubble burst, and the party of the fathers was soon again to come into popular favor with Custer county voters.

"It would be unfair not to mention in this article some of the stalwart men who were numbered among the Democrats of Custer county during these early days, and who contributed of their time and means to perpetuate the party organization at a time and under circumstances which were, to say the least, discouraging. With everything in a political way to lose and nothing to gain; urged on, only by motives of good citizenship and the righteousness of the principles they stood for, these men unfalteringly met the issues squarely. In connection with this it is to be taken into consideration the fact that the Populist party not only carried everything in Custer county but gained strength enough in Nebraska to elect state and judicial officers, members of congress, and a United States senator, and besides becoming an important political factor in the nation as well. In the days of the Populists' greatest activities, Custer county men were classed among the leaders of the party in both state and nation, and many men who were former Democrats were high in its councils and were elected to positions of trust and honor. When the Populist organization ceased to be a factor in political affairs, many of these men returned to their old party affiliation with the Demo-

crats. There has been no feeling of resentment or any desire on the part of the party leaders to question the motives of any man who worked with the Populists in those days, nor not to fully appreciate the energy and activity of other men who later became residents of the county and cast their fortune with the Democrats.

"Among the men who were always to be depended upon to lend a hand to the cause of Democracy in those politically 'dry' years and trying times were W. B. Eastham, S. B. Thompson, A. J. Robertson, Dr. C. L. Mullins, C. H. Holcomb, C. T. Tierney, E. M. Thompson, the late J. J. Wilson, and J. G. Leonard, all of Broken Bow; B. J. Tierney, John Scott, C. Mackey, A. H. Turpin, of Ansley; W. C. Rusmisell, A. O'Brien, G. F. Frasier, W. N. Hurley, M. C. Warrington, of Mason City; John Moran, the late J. H. Decker, Virgil Allen, Harry E. O'Neill, of Callaway; Thomas and Charles Finlen, Joe. Berry, Diah Woodruff, Judge E. J. Boblits, Dan Buckley, J. T. Bridges, Charles M. Bowers, of the South Loup country; Judge Charles E. Mathews, Harve Andrews, Charley Smith, of Anselmo; Robert J. Kelly, Frank Kelly, M. S. Eddy, of Merna.

"The Democratic press of Custer county has had a great many ups-and-downs. The first real organ of Democracy launched on the troubled sea of journalism in the county was the *Statesman*, a paper established in Broken Bow early in the year 1886, by Martin & Deilinger. These same men established the *Mason City Transcript* in June of the same year, and a few months later the *Argus* at Anselmo. A fight over land-office patronage caused a second Democratic paper to be started in Broken Bow, by George Trefren and Sam Meseraul in 1886, but it did not long survive. Frank W. Conley published the Democratic *Headlight* at Callaway for some years. Sam Meseraul also published a small, two-page sheet for a few months at Nonpareil postoffice, near where Merna is now located. There was also published a Democratic paper at Ansley in the early days of that town. In 1914 C. E. Sher purchased the *Custer County Republican* of

D. M. Amsberry and turned it into a Democratic paper. The venture did not prove a business success and Mr. Shea sold the paper to the present owner, who turned it back into a Republican journal.

"Of the different Democratic papers established in Custer county but one weathered the storms of adversity. The *Mason City Transcript*, owned, published, and edited by M. C. Warrington for more than a quarter of a century, was always uncompromisingly Democratic and for many years was the only paper in the county to espouse the cause of Democracy. The *Transcript* was sold to the present owner, J. F. Peebles, in 1917, and is still true to the faith.

"During the last ten years political honors in Custer county have been pretty evenly divided, but rather more favorable to the Democrats. All the county officers at this time, with two exceptions, are Democrats. It can be said truthfully that in the long list of officers who have been elected by the Democrats in Custer county they have been men of probity and honor, ever mindful of the trust imposed in them by the voters of the party. The Democrats are justly proud of this record, and look upon the future with complacent hope for further successes."

VERY PROMINENT POLITICALLY

Not only the size and population of the county, but also the progressive spirit and the ability of its citizens, have helped to make the county prominent, and one to be reckoned with in all matters at the state capital. Custer enrolls the names of many men who have been prominent in state circles. In 1891 Omer M. Kem was elected to congress, and he served for two terms, or until 1895. So far Kem is the only congressman the county has produced. It has the honor, however, of having produced several candidates. One candidate, a distinguished citizen of Merna, W. J. Taylor, contested the position of Hon. M. P. Kinkaid, present congressman from the Sixth congressional district in two successive elections.

In 1891, A. R. Humphrey, of Broken

Bow, was appointed commissioner of public lands and buildings, in which capacity he served for four years. Beginning with Mr. Humphrey's term of office on the 1st day of January, 1891, it can be said that since that date there has not been a day in which some Custer county man was not filling a prominent state office.

In 1895 Hon. S. A. Holcomb, of Broken Bow, was elected governor, and he served as chief executive of the state until 1899. In 1900 E. P. Savage, of Sargent, was elected lieutenant governor, and by the resignation of Governor Charles H. Dietrich, who was elected to the United States senate, Mr. Savage succeeded to the executive chair in April, 1901; he served as governor until the end of the term in 1903. This makes two Custer county men who have filled the gubernatorial chair at Lincoln.

In November of 1900 ex-Governor S. A. Holcomb was elected judge of the supreme court, and he served in that capacity with honor to himself and credit to the county until 1906.

In 1909 J. R. Dean was appointed to the supreme bench, to fill a vacancy. In 1916 the judge was elected to the supreme bench for a six-year term, and he is now serving in the second year of the term.

In 1911 Walter A. George, of Broken Bow, was elected state treasurer, and he served four years.

Edward Royce, another Broken Bow man, was appointed secretary of the banking board in 1901 and he served until his death, in 1917.

In 1894 James Holland was made superintendent of the boys' industrial school at Kearney, and he held the office for five years.

In 1901 Charles Penn was made commandant of the soldiers' home at Milford and he filled the office until 1905.

For the last four years W. B. Eastman has been the state insurance commissioner, which position took him and his family from Broken Bow to Lincoln. Mr. Eastman is still in office and is serving under a second administration.

J. J. Tooley, of Anselmo, was appointed

secretary of the state banking board in 1917, to fill the vacancy made by the death of the late Edward Royce, and he is still in office.

In the primaries of August 20, 1918, Hon. D. M. Amsberry, for many years receiver of United States land office at Broken Bow, was nominated on the Republican ticket for secretary of state.

THE PRIMARIES OF 1918

During the fall of 1918, political activities were centered in the two parties. Both the Democratic and Republican parties were active. On August 20th the primaries were held and the Democrats placed the following nominees on their county ticket: State senator, W. J. Taylor; representative, Emerson R. Purcell; representative, W. S. Wells; county clerk, R. E. Waters; register of deeds, Perry Foster; county treasurer, Mrs. M. Osbourn; sheriff, Joe Wilson; county attorney, William C. Schaper; surveyor, M. L. Lamb; District No. 1, R. J. Mills; District No. 3, Scott Cooper; District No. 5, J. P. Long; District No. 6, George W. Headley; District No. 7, John Walker.

The Republicans made an extra effort to secure representative men as nominees on their ticket and as a result of their primaries the following men were nominated as candidates on the Republican ticket: State senator, I. A. Reneau; representative, W. J. Rice; representative, Florian Jacobs; county clerk, Harry Knapp; register of deeds, George E. Porter; county treasurer, W. L. McCandless; sheriff, V. C. Talbot; county attorney, H. L. Wilson; county surveyor, A. J. Van Antwerp; District No. 1, Joseph Leui; District No. 3, Ralph Johnson; District No. 5, Harrison Pease; District No. 6, Ira E. Blakeslee.

THE ELECTION OF 1918

The campaign was conducted in a very strenuous way and as days progressed and the

time of election approached, considerable excitement prevailed. Especially was this noticeable because it had been prophesied that it would be impossible to arouse any political enthusiasm.

C. S. Tooley was elected chairman of the Democratic county committee and Horace F. Kennedy chairman of the Republican county committee. Both were excellent men and organized their various committeemen in a very creditable manner. The fortunes of the day favored the Republicans. The entire state ticket as nominated by the Republicans was elected, and with this vote nearly all of the Republican candidates for county office were elected. The following is the official roster as it will stand in Custer county after January 1, 1919: State senator, J. W. Taylor, Democrat; representative, Emerson R. Purcell, Democrat; representative, Florian Jacobs, Republican; sheriff, V. C. Talbot, Republican; county clerk, Harry Knapp, Republican; register of deeds, George Porter, Republican; county treasurer, William L. McCandless, Republican; county surveyor, A. J. Van Antwerp, Republican; county attorney, William C. Schaper, Democrat.

On the non-partisan ticket Judge N. Dwight Ford was elected without opposition, to succeed himself. T. C. Grimes, the present incumbent was re-elected superintendent of public instruction for the fourth term, defeating, by a small margin, his opponent, W. A. Rosene, of Callaway.

Custer county is represented on the state ticket by D. M. Amsberry, of Broken Bow, who was elected secretary of state and who will continue the Custer county representation in the state house for the next two years. As his deputy he has appointed W. L. Gaston, of Broken Bow, and this makes at least two representatives from this county in the state capital during the term next ensuing.

CHAPTER XIV

LEGAL AND OTHER PROFESSIONS

THE HISTORY OF CUSTER COUNTY'S BAR — FIRST GRAND JURY — A HOG IN THE FIRST CASE — A LAWYER ENGAGED IN USEFUL WORK — TWO CUSTER COUNTY JUDGES — ANOTHER CLASS — THE YOUNGER BLOODS — DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING — WAS CRIMINAL ENOUGH — NO SPREAD-EAGLE STUFF — HAD TO BE SHOWN — HAD TWO CHANCES TO ESCAPE — SUMMONED THE DEAD MAN — CONFUSED THE WITNESS — ALL LAWYERS ON THE SAME SIDE — TOO OLD FOR THE PEN — TEN WAS A PLenty — TRIALS BY DAY AND NIGHT — A SQUARE LAWYER — CUSTER COUNTY MEDICAL MEN

The people of Custer county are loyal to their own. They are proud of their county and its resources. They are equally proud of their social and professional achievements. Proud of their farms, proud of their farmers, they are proud, too, of their professional men. They possess a wealth of professional men which marks them throughout the state.

No other county of like population has brainier lawyers, more efficient physicians, or more competent dentists. No county has a brighter corps of newspaper men, or more eloquent or fluent clergymen. The professional men and women in the high schools and the grade schools are likewise the peers of any teachers in the land. All these professions are well and strongly represented. Every profession is headed by men who have statewide reputation, and in any professional conclave they play the role of leaders.

Her professional sons have served in congress, and on the supreme bench of the state. In high positions of public trust they have captured the highest honors the state has power to bestow. In educational circles and on the public platform, Custer county has furnished her quota of peers and masters. Her physicians and dentists occupy high places in the annals of their state organizations. Custer county, which began its career over forty years ago, has graduated from the university

of actual experience a class of professional men and women who to-day contribute to the county rank and honor throughout the middle west.

A full account of the professional activities of the men of Custer county cannot be given. Data are not procurable. All that can be done is to detail a few brief facts concerning the professions that have organization records.

THE HISTORY OF CUSTER COUNTY'S BAR

Shortly after the organization of Custer county, in 1877, and the opening of the courts, in the early '80s, came an influx of bright and energetic young men to practice as attorneys and establish themselves in law. Several of these early lawyers found Custer county so attractive that they have never left it. They early established themselves as among the most active and influential members of the community and are to-day, with hardly an exception, among the most substantial men in the county.

The early bar of Custer county consisted of John S. Kirkpatrick, J. A. Armour, Silas A. Holcomb, George W. Trefren, A. Kilgore, J. W. Hutchinson, James Ledwich, Homer M. Sullivan, Augustus R. Humphrey, R. E. Brega, Emil Gschwind, Fred G. Waite, E. P. Campbell, and Charles L. Gutterson.

The call for the first terms of district court

in Custer county was issued on January 1, 1883, by Judge William Gaslin, to be held on May 10 and October 9 of the same year. The first term was a two-day affair, opened by Jess Gandy, sheriff, with Samuel L. Savage presiding as district judge, J. W. Bixler serving as district attorney, and Wilson Hewitt clerk of the court.

FIRST GRAND JURY

The grand jury which was empaneled, returned true bills indicting a total of twelve persons, — three for setting fire to the prairie, three for unlawfully practicing medicine, two



HON. WILLIAM GASLIN
First judge to hold district court in
Custer county

for selling liquor without license, two for shooting with intent to kill, one for felonious assault, and one for stabbing with intent to kill.

At this term J. S. Kirkpatrick, J. A. Armour, and the late Francis G. Hamer were appointed an examining committee to pass on the qualifications for admission to the bar of Florentus M. Hallowell and Thomas Young. They reported favorably and both candidates were admitted to practice law in the courts of the state.

There were eight civil cases and one criminal case on the docket, but no attorney was ready for trial. It is said that the young attorneys had a severe attack of stage fright.

No trial developed. Four cases were dismissed, "as per stipulation on file." The court dismissed three more, on motion. This left but two cases on the docket, on both of which the attorneys were given additional time to plead.

The October term began October 9th, with the same officers, except that Jess Gandy, sheriff, had gone on a deer and elk hunt into the sand-hills, and L. S. Trefren was acting in his stead.

A HOG IN THE FIRST CASE

While more important cases were getting ready for trial, the first case tried in the district court, Custer county, Nebraska, was given to the jury. This was the case of J. A. Perkins, plaintiff, vs. Jackson Dye, defendant. It was an action in replevin for "one black and white hog fourteen months of age."

The jury did not take many days and nights to settle the case, but returned their verdict very promptly, finding that plaintiff was entitled to possession of the hog, that the hog's value was nine dollars, and plaintiff's damages for its wrongful detention by the defendant, one dollar. But let no one suppose the defendant got off by paying any trifling sum. Every witness, both in justice and district court, was served with his "subpoena" and awarded his "mileage." When Mr. Dye came to pay the bill, it was one dollar for the judgment and \$161.63 for the "court costs," which made the hog he entertained for a short time, "some hog" after all.

Such was the beginning made in the terms of court holden in Custer county, Nebraska, in the year 1883. The early litigation in the county centered largely around land and cattle. At the time the county was organized, cattle-grazing was its only industry. The various ranchmen had acquired or were acquiring title to the land bordering the rivers and creeks of the county, and all the hills lying back from these water fronts were recognized as the range of the man who owned the water front.

With the coming of the homesteaders, by thousands, in the middle '80s came the short-

ening and breaking up of all these ranges and ranches. While most of the homesteaders were honest and honorable, some few shady characters filtered into the settlements, who, when they became hungry for beef, found it easier to kill some ranchman's calf, heifer, steer, or cow, than to stalk a deer or elk by following the fast disappearing supply of such wild game into the sand-hills.

Indeed, some of the bolder of these marauders were not satisfied with poaching sufficient beef from the ranchmen to supply their scanty table with the choicest of grass-fatted steaks but, the ranchmen allege, did a regular business of killing ranch cattle, burying or burning the hides and taking the beef by wagon to Kearney and other towns. This, of course, led to all kinds of endeavors on the part of the ranchmen to be rid of these particular offenders, and this, together with the encroachments on their range, created a strong antagonism between the ranchmen and early homesteaders.

In working out these difficulties numerous criminal cases arose, involving almost everything from "claim jumping" and cattle stealing to the first degree of murder. In the prosecution and defense of cases of this kind, H. M. Sinclair, of Kearney, H. M. Sullivan, of Broken Bow, and others, early won their reputations as criminal lawyers.

Custer county has produced rather more than its share of lawyers who have received high political honor. Perhaps the most conspicuous of these is Silas A. Holcomb, heretofore mentioned as one of the pioneer attorneys of the county. Mr. Holcomb first came into political prominence by winning the district judgeship, as a candidate of the Populist and Democratic parties. While still a district judge he received the Populist nomination for governor, was endorsed by the Democrats, and was elected, being the only successful member of his ticket. Judge Holcomb was then re-elected as governor. Following, a few months after his retirement as governor, came his election to a six years' term as judge of the supreme court. At the present time Judge

Holcomb is serving his second term as a member of the state board of control.

When asked to write something for this chapter, Judge Holcomb submitted the following, which gives a good picture of conditions in legal circles in the days of the pioneer:

"I was admitted to the bar in March, 1882, and removed to Broken Bow in the early spring of 1883, about March 1st. The town was then rather small, but the outlook promising. There were two lawyers there. One was George W. Trefren, who was in the land-office business, with Wilson Hewitt, who was county clerk, the two doing a 'land-office' business, sure enough, at the time, as the country was just beginning to settle up rapidly. I also found that my old partner, John S. Kirkpatrick, had 'beat me to it,' he having removed to Broken Bow in the fall of 1882 and located himself and family in a little building, about twelve by twenty-four, on the east side of the square, about the center of the block. After looking around, taking in the town, and getting acquainted I became more interested in my competitors in the law business and began to, as best I could, size up Trefren and 'Kirk' as possible opponents in hard-fought legal battles in which I was to be employed as one of the lawyers.

A LAWYER ENGAGED IN USEFUL WORK

"When I first saw 'Kirk,' and he was then a great, big, fat fellow, he was in his shirt-sleeves, with rubber boots on, and with a spade was digging a trench to let the water run away from his building. Strange as it may seem, there was rainfall enough to make it necessary for him to lead the water away from his building in order to make it more accessible. I concluded, after looking at 'Kirk' for a while, and then introducing myself and having a brief talk with him, that I could hold my own in a lawsuit where he was on the other side, but after a few contests with 'Kirk' in the legal arena, I became convinced that I had underestimated his strength as an adversary in legal proceedings. I soon learned

to respect him as a young man of considerable ability and one who was both plausible and convincing in his arguments to both court and jury, and especially was I impressed with the conviction that he won the confidence of the court and jury, who seemed to believe in his earnestness and sincerity as to the right of the matter he was advocating. Later on, Judge Sullivan and Judge Humphrey showed up, and with this accession in numbers and talent we had some real litigation and began to look upon ourselves as a bar of some pretensions, besides which we began to work together, when necessary, to crowd out the lawyers who had been coming to Custer county from Dawson, Buffalo, Sherman, and other counties and doing a good share of the business which we felt belonged to us by right of our residence in the county; in this we succeeded and it was not very long until a large percentage of the legal business in the county was done by the local members of the bar.

"The bar continued to grow in numbers and strength until it was, in a few years, recognized as one of the strong bars of the state. The county settled up rapidly, and, being a large county, with a large population, the law business was all the more important, thus bringing together members of the legal fraternity in larger numbers than would be found in the smaller county-seats.

"In 1891 I was elected district judge of the then twelfth judicial district, since which I have not been permitted to be closely associated with the members of the bar in active practice, except for but a brief period from 1908 to 1912. There are so many incidents, interesting, humorous, ludicrous, and otherwise, in connection with the early years of my practice, that I can hardly select any of them, and as we have a number of old-time lawyers who are good story tellers, I am inclined to leave this phase of the history of the bar to them as being in more capable hands."

Another attorney to rise to the judicial ermine from old Custer is Judge J. R. Dean. Judge Dean was elevated to the Nebraska supreme bench by appointment, but is now ser-

ving as a regularly elected member of that judicial body.

TWO CUSTER COUNTY JUDGES

Judge Homer M. Sullivan and Judge Charles L. Gutterson have both served as judges of our district court, the former obtaining the office at a popular election, the latter by appointment. John S. Kirkpatrick, heretofore mentioned as one of the very earliest pioneer attorneys of Custer county, was appointed a member of the supreme-court commission and served several years in that position. He still appears frequently in Custer county courts, as private counsel of the Dierks Lumber & Coal Company, but his office is now in Kansas City, Missouri.

The Custer county bar at the present time, consists of the following attorneys who have seen many years of practice in this location: Judge Homer M. Sullivan, Judge A. R. Humphrey, Judge J. A. Armour, Judge C. L. Gutterson, R. E. Brega, and Alpha Morgan. All of these men were among the early pioneers of Custer county and all are still in active practice, with one exception, maintaining offices at the county seat. It would be hard to find the same number of professional men who represent greater ability or more force of character. They have met all the emergencies of a new and developing county and have rung true in every test. Their competency and integrity would do fine credit to the bar of any community. All of them have accumulated enough to make them comfortable, and are not obliged to lie in wait for clients as in former days.

ANOTHER CLASS

The county bar roster contains the following names of veteran leaders who have been in active practice for many years, yet in point of time stand on the next terrace below the pioneer practitioners: Judge John Reese, Judge C. H. Holcomb, Hon. Charles W. Beal, Nathan T. Gadd, A. P. Johnson, and Edwin E. Squires. These men are just coming to the zenith of their power and already have a rep-

utation throughout the state as able and trustworthy exponents of law. With the exception of one who has retired to his ranch, all have good and lucrative practice, which pays the best possible tribute to their standing and character. Emil Gschwind, heretofore mentioned as a member of Custer county's early bar, has for many years been police judge of Broken Bow.

THE YOUNGER BLOODS

The bar has still another class, of younger members, with a standing of ten years or less at the Custer county bar. All of these are law-school products or college-bred, or both. This class roll contains the names of Judge N. Dwight Ford, Frank Kelley, H. L. Wilson, J. A. Brunt, William C. Schaper, and Edwin F. Myers. These young men are already well established and are gaining rapidly in both experience and clientage. In the realm of law, they are already bridle-wise and harness-broke; they may well be depended upon to maintain the dignity of the Custer county bar, and sustain the reputation of their predecessors of the former generation.

DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING

Judge Gaslin was a good judge and he was impatient of delay. Sometimes he held court in Custer county. One cold winter night just before adjournment, and it was then about eleven o'clock, the judge announced to the bar that in order to speed up, court would open in the morning promptly at half-past seven o'clock and any lawyers having cases might take notice and be on hand. At the appointed hour, court, counsel, litigants, and witnesses were all there. The thermometer then registered several degrees below zero, which added to the solemnity and inconvenience of the occasion. William Blair, who had been janitor of the court house ever since it was built, was called as the first witness when court opened, and among other things remarked that he "didn't know anything about the case, anyway." The judge remarked: "What's that, Billy? Don't know anything about this case? Then what are you doing on the witness stand? Get out of there

and let some witness come to the front who knows something about this case. There are too many people in this case now that don't seem to know very much about it, lawyers included."

WAS CRIMINAL ENOUGH

Judge J. C. Naylor was a pioneer lawyer. When asked why criminal cases were not disposed of before civil cases, as is the usual practice, he replied that the disposal of the farm-mortgage cases was not a departure from the rule, because there seemed to be as much criminality in the prosecution of the foreclosures as there was in the criminal cases.

NO SPREAD-EAGLE STUFF

Judge Naylor was an attorney in a case that originally involved a trifling sum of money, but later on much feeling was engendered, in part because the costs were large and became the main feature. Judge Gaslin presided and, knowing Judge Naylor's proneness to make long and eloquent speeches to the jury on slight provocation, just before the argument he began to admonish the lawyers in this fashion: "Gentlemen, you are limited to ten minutes on each side. I want you to understand that in a case involving only \$8.30 you can't go before the jury with a long-winded history of the universe nor a 4th of July speech." But the lawyers on both sides got their views to the jury, in their arguments to the court, on the importance of the case to the public and the profession because of the principles of law involved and to the litigants because of the large amount of costs.

HAD TO BE SHOWN

A lawyer, from another district, in an argument before Judge William L. Greene, read from a Nebraska report, a proposition of law that did not appeal to the judge, and he remarked that if he were shown that our supreme court said it twice he would have more respect for the proposition than he was then able to entertain. On investigation, the judge found the lawyer had read from the brief of counsel that is sometimes inserted in the reported decisions.

HAD TWO CHANCES TO ESCAPE

A lawyer for defendant in a criminal case took earnest exception to the fact that his client had two preliminary examinations. Judge Greene overruled the exception and remarked that he ought not to complain, because his client had been generously treated, in that he was given two chances to escape before the trial, when he was only entitled to one.

SUMMONED THE DEAD MAN

When Judge H. M. Sinclair, of Kearney, was on the bench, a foreclosure case was pending in which the principal defendant died after the case was begun. Apparently the plaintiff was not aware of this, and the usual summons was issued. The return by the special deputy appointed to serve the summons, was the first intimation to any person connected with the case that the defendant was dead. His return recited in substance that: "John Doe is dead. I served this summons on him by leaving a true copy thereof at his last usual place of residence." Upon reading the return, Judge Sinclair remarked: "Custer county has many remarkable and efficient citizens, but here is a man who has surpassed them all. This is the first time in my experience as lawyer and judge that a man has been found who can obtain service of summons on a dead man." The record shows that the Judge continued the case.

CONFUSED THE WITNESS

A lawyer from some remote region was testifying as a witness in his client's case. The attorney for the other party insisted that, in order to keep the record straight, he submit his testimony in the form of questions and answers. All proceeded well until an objection was interposed on the ground that a certain question that the lawyer propounded to himself "tended to confuse the witness." That was too much for Judge H. M. Sullivan, who presided at the trial, and he ruled that the narrative form of submitting testimony be resumed.

ALL LAWYERS ON THE SAME SIDE

Two members of the same family were ac-

quitted of an assault to commit great bodily injury. There were two attorneys for the state and two for defendants. The case was warmly contested for two or three days. There was not a dull moment from the opening to the close. When the verdict of acquittal was returned, one of the defendants took one of the attorneys for the prosecution by the hand, remarking that as they had been friends before he hoped their friendship would continue. The other defendant, a boy of about eighteen, assured the same attorney that he had nothing against him nor his associate "because both of you did as much for us in this trial as our own lawyers did."

TOO OLD FOR THE PEN

Judge Aaron Wall, of Loup City, and a local lawyer successfully defended a client wrongfully accused of taking mortgaged chattels out of the county. The defendant's lawyers argued that if their aged client was convicted he would only hear the prison doors clank when he entered; that he would not hear them when he came out in his casket. A Norwegian juror said after the trial was over: "Das man too alt to send to pan. Send him to poor farm; das better." The prosecutor said the next criminal case he prosecuted, the first fact he would establish after the venue would be the age of the defendant.

TEN WAS A PLenty

Robert E. Moore was a rapid-fire cross-examiner. On the cross-examination of a Swedish witness on character, after having him tell the names of about ten men who had spoken ill of the subject of inquiry, the witness began to run low on names. After being pressed to give just one more name he refused. When asked why he replied: "Well, ay bane over my township and ay live on county line and Gothenburg man bane no good in Custer; anyhow, ten names bane plenty." When order was restored in the crowded court room the witness was excused.

TRIALS BY DAY AND NIGHT

Night came on while a preliminary examination in a criminal case was being conducted

before Justice Maze, at Lodi, in 1892. But night had no terrors for the valiant counsel, and when the shades of evening fell and the country-side came out to witness the usual forensic efforts, the justice adjourned court from his residence to a convenient schoolhouse, where the hearing ended a little before day-break, and the lawyers arrived in Callaway just in time for breakfast. The same thing happened in a civil case tried before a justice at Callaway in 1902. After a trial lasting all day and all night the case was finally submitted in time for all parties to get breakfast.

A SQUARE LAWYER

Judge John S. Kirkpatrick was a square lawyer and dependable. A beginner in the practice undertook to get a large sum of damages for the condemnation of land for a railroad switch. The costs began to pile up. "Kirk," who represented the railroad, warned the opposing lawyer to "be careful about making costs, because your client is going to have to pay all of them." And so it turned out. In speaking of the incident afterwards the lawyer whose client "paid the costs" remarked that he often heard that "Kirk" could be depended on, and now he was sure of it.

CUSTER COUNTY MEDICAL MEN

Call the doctor. It doesn't make any difference which one, they are all good. They are all trained school men, educated in the best schools to be found anywhere in the country. They are adepts in the latest methods, they are skillful combatants of all diseases and human ailments. In the quality of her medical men, Custer county ranks with any like portion of the earth. Many of them have made reputations outside of the county and are known throughout the state, and have frequent calls for consultation far from their respective homes.

In the early days the practice of medicine was followed under many difficulties. At that time, the medical science was not so far advanced. Not so many methods of resisting disease encroachments were known. Not so many appliances and commodities were to be

obtained. Sanitary conditions could not be so well maintained. Yet, the practitioners of that early day were heroes. They mercifully responded to every call. No night was too dark, no road too long, no storm too fierce. They shielded themselves from no exposure — pay or not pay. It made no difference; their services were rendered for the sake of God and humanity.

One of the old time practitioners, Dr. R. C. Talbot, who is himself well deserving of every encomium recorded in the paragraph above, has contributed the following concerning the medical profession of Custer county:

"The members of the medical profession were pioneers in the early settlement of Custer county, the same as those representing other professions and industries. Those who first came here early, were more often lured by wanderlust for change of environment than for improvement in their professional surroundings. The first man to make a permanent home in the county, who made any pretensions to medical knowledge, was L. T. Burbank, a returned foreign missionary who, prior to his foreign work, had taken a course in medical lectures, to better prepare him for work among the heathen. Dr. Burbank settled on a homestead not far from the present location of Georgetown postoffice, about 1875 or 1876. As he went from one settlement to another, preaching and encouraging the pioneers spiritually, he also administered to their physical needs as well.

"In September, 1889, Dr. R. C. Talbot, a graduate of Miami Medical College, Cincinnati, Ohio, located on a homestead in the valley of the Muddy creek, near where the town of Berwyn is now located. Although desiring to relinquish the practice of medicine, he found it almost an actual necessity to continue to attend the sick among the sparsely settled homesteaders. The hardy pioneers of those days did not call a doctor for every little ache or pain, for to so do it would often necessitate a journey of ten to twenty-five or more miles before a doctor could be found, and the necessary further delay of a return trip threw them on their own resources. Consequently, a doctor

was called only when there was something serious or alarming affecting the ailing one.

"In July, 1880, T. N. Waterbury located a homestead north of where the town of Westerville is now situated, and he practiced his profession as an undergraduate until the winter of 1882, when he went to St. Louis, Missouri, and attended the American Medical College. He returned a graduate, in the spring of 1888, and continued in the work of his profession until his final sickness and death, in September, 1884.

"During the early '80s Benjamin L. Brisbane homesteaded near Custer postoffice and he preached the gospel and practiced medicine for several years. He did not make the practice of medicine a business, although he was a graduate of Ohio Medical College, Cincinnati, believing he could be of more benefit to the people in the capacity of a preacher.

"Dr. Wyman Hull located in Broken Bow in the early establishment of the town and practiced medicine part of the time, but devoted most of his time to the management of the famous Marble Top hotel.

"In the fall of 1883, John J. Daum, a graduate of Rush Medical College, Chicago, established an office in Broken Bow, and he practiced his profession until his death, which occurred in the early '90s at Palmer Lake, Colorado, where he had gone in the hope of regaining his health. He had been associated with Dr. R. C. Talbot, in Broken Bow, from 1888 until the time of his death.

"In the year 1883 Dr. Lawrence L. Crawford, a graduate of Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery, located in Merna, where he continued in business until in the late '90s, when he located in Colorado.

"In 1884 Clarence W. Mesceran located in Broken Bow, being a graduate of Bennett Medical College, Chicago, Illinois. He continued in business here for several years, being associated part of that time with Rufus K. Langson, who was a graduate of the Chicago Homeopathic Medical College, Chicago, Illinois.

"In 1884 C. H. Morris located in Wester-

ville, taking up the work of Dr. Waterbury. A few years afterward he located in Broken Bow.

"J. W. Miller, of Rush Medical College, Chicago, Illinois, located in Mason City in 1885 and remained there until the late '90s, at which time he went to Gibbon, Nebraska.

"In 1883 J. M. Chaplin, of Dulano Medical College, came to Callaway, and he was there for a few years.

"J. H. Murry, Iowa College of Physicians and Surgeons, Des Moines, Iowa, located in Arnold in 1885, remained there for several years and then moved to Idaho. Thomas E. Stack located at or near Oconto in 1885. Afterward he moved to Broken Bow and in a short time he located at Anselmo. William Robert Renwick, of University City Medical College of New York, located at Sargent in 1883 and remained there for a few years. During the year 1885 F. Vinsonhaler located in Westerville. Dr. Vinsonhaler was a graduate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York city, and remained in Westerville for several years. In 1885 Luther Michael, of the Ohio Medical College, of Cincinnati, Ohio, located in Callaway and remained for a few years.

"In 1886, the year the B. & M. Railroad was built through the county, the following named doctors located in the county: J. J. Pickett, Charles M. Luckey, J. W. Sanders, Franklin Reyner, and James W. Caldwell at Broken Bow; Hiram Chase, Mason City; E. E. Hamilton, Anselmo; Alexander L. Mathews, William H. Charlesworth, at Callaway. Dr. J. J. Pickett was at Broken Bow, except a short time at Greeley Center, up to the time of his death, in 1912. The others remained in Broken Bow only a short time. Of those who located outside of Broken Bow all but A. L. Mathews remained only a short time. Dr. Mathews is still at Callaway, but has retired from active practice. In the years 1887 and 1888 H. H. Wist, Cyrus Pickett, and J. J. Carpenter came to Broken Bow, but none of them is here now. Dr. Wist devoted little of his time to the practice of medicine. In other

parts of the county during this time Dr. Wambole came to West Union and Dr. Barton to Wescott.

"From this time on doctors came and went in such numbers that it would take up too much time and space to mention each one. Taking Broken Bow as an instance of the doctors who have located there, Dr. J. J. Pickett is the only one who has died there. The profession of this county has been and still remains quite a factor in the improvement of sanitary conditions, in the way of preventing and controlling infectious and contagious diseases. The Custer County Medical Society has been a large factor through united team work, placing the upbuilding of both the profession and society at the front of its efforts. This society was organized in the late '80s, was reorganized in the early '90s, and during this time its membership list has con-

tained the names of a large percentage of the doctors of the county. The frequent and harmonious meetings have been of mutual benefit, and its influence has been extended until it has reached the profession of the state through the State Medical Society.

"Last, and by no means least, the medical profession stands one hundred per cent. patriotic in the great world-war, as every resident member has voluntarily enlisted his services to the government to be used wherever and when called upon. The county has already furnished more than its quota for active service, represented by the following named: Dr. O. L. Housell, first lieutenant; Dr. R. P. Higgins, captain, of Ansley; Dr. R. D. Bryson, captain, of Callaway; Dr. W. E. Talbot, captain, of Broken Bow; Dr. J. C. Wade, lieutenant, of Oconto; Dr. C. L. Wills, captain, of Anselmo."

CHAPTER XV

MILITARY AND PATRIOTIC CONTRIBUTIONS

THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC — BROKEN BOW ORGANIZES A POST — BERWYN POST — POST AT MASON CITY — POST AT ANSLEY — POST AT ARNOLD — THE POST AT SARGENT — POST AT COMSTOCK — POST AT CALLAWAY — POST AT MERNA — IN THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR — THE MISSING — THE COMPANY PERSONNEL — THE WORLD WAR — CLYDE G. SEIVER — JOSEPH ELWOOD PALMER — RAYMOND ROSS KILLED — PAUL COFFMAN — LEWIS H. ROBERTSON — GUSTAV ROERICK — CLARIS A. TUCKER — ORRIE AMSBERRY — HENRY E. CAIN — ARTHUR BERGMAN — GLEN BUCKNER — LOYD CLOW — SAM MILLER — GAGE SAUTER — ROSCOE RHODES — JOHN M. RUDGE — JEFF ANDREWS — CLYDE O. THOMAS — CHESTER WEBB — JAMES N. BURDICK — ROY IMBODEN — HOMER M. YATES — HARVEY M. SLOGGETT — RALPH C. LEUI — VANNER A. GUSTUS — JOSEPH BERNERT — CUSTER'S MILITARY ROSTER — WORLD WAR ACTIVITIES — THE EXEMPTION BOARD — BOND DRIVES — THE WAR SAVINGS STAMP DRIVE — THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION — THE FOUR MINUTE MEN — WAR SAVINGS SOCIETIES — THE AMERICAN RED CROSS — WOMAN'S COUNCIL OF DEFENSE — PUBLIC MEETINGS AND CELEBRATIONS — GENERAL PERSHING'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

In every national emergency Custer county has done its part. It has contributed to the manpower of the national army whenever a call has been made. To every appeal for money made by any department of war work, it has contributed lavishly. In all these matters it has a record in which every citizen can delight.

The county had no population in the days of the Civil war and, consequently, was not called upon for recruits to the federal army. Immediately after the war, vast tracts of the public domain were thrown open to free homestead entry. The liberal policy of the government in allowing the ex-soldier to apply his army time on his homestead time, brought a great influx of northern soldiers into the middle west, and Custer county got its share. Owing to this fact, the Grand Army of the Republic, or the G. A. R. as it was more commonly called, became a very noteworthy organization. In the heyday of its power, nine G. A. R. posts flourished in the county. It was due to these ex-soldiers that the rising generation had in-

struction in patriotism and was taught allegiance to the flag. In fact, the presence of so many defenders of the republic in every community, engendered an atmosphere of patriotism which, no doubt, had a very salutary effect upon the country.

In 1898, during the Spanish-American war, Custer county furnished her quota, as will be seen in a further perusal of this chapter. In the great war of the world, Custer county has responded to every call. It has contributed to Y. M. C. A. war work, Red Cross work, Knights of Columbus war work, bond subscriptions, savings-stamps subscriptions, and Red Cross war work. The people have made every sacrifice asked of them. They have heartily entered into every proposition of conservation of either food or fuel, more detailed mention of which will follow.

THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

J. M. Fodge, of Broken Bow, a veteran of the Grand Army of the Republic, has assem-



CUSTER COUNTY VETERAN MEMBERS OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

bled the following data relative to the G. A. R. posts in the county. Much credit is due Mr. Fodge for the painstaking manner in which he has furnished details. Through his kindness we are enabled to present a brief description of each post in the county.

The old soldier is mustering out very rapidly. In a few more years the veteran in blue will be gone, and his place will be taken by his sons of the second generation, who to-day are wearing the khaki and serving in the great army of the United States, either in the home cantonments or in the battle fields of France and Belgium.

BROKEN BOW ORGANIZES A POST

C. C. Washburn Post No. 98, Grand Army of the Republic, was organized August 12, 1882, with fifteen charter members as follows: R. H. Miller, H. C. Reyner, Irving Stocker, Peter Dinger, Mark King, Moses Lewis, Wallace Raymond, C. F. Graves, J. S. Benjamin, Albert Kemp, George Bishop, John West, I. J. Shaul, R. P. McKnight, and Charles P. Fost.

The mustering of and the first meetings of the post were held in a large sod house, situated on the corner now occupied by the Broken Bow State Bank. This sod building was erected by R. H. Miller, and served as his residence. Later it became the home of the *Custer County Republican*, with Mr. Miller as editor and manager, as well as the meeting place for the post.

Of the above mentioned charter members, so far as we can learn, only Judge J. S. Benjamin survives. He, with his wife, continues to live upon his homestead, adjoining the city upon the north. Although in feeble health, the Judge enjoys the esteem and good will of his many friends, is always more than glad to recall with them the many thrilling and heroic events of the early days, and to fight over again with his old comrades the battles of the '60s.

Because this post has made a number of removals, having no place in which to meet and keep its papers and records, we cannot give the names and terms of the several com-

manders, accurately. For correctness of names of those that follow, we are indebted to the memories of several comrades consulted, in addition to such records as can be used.

R. H. Miller was the first commander, then J. S. Benjamin, G. W. Frye, John C. Maulick, J. W. Bruce, M. K. Hagadorn, R. E. Glass, M. M. Parkhurst, John Reese, James Whitehead, A. W. Gandy, W. W. Cowles, W. S. Boyce, G. W. Rawson, Ner Hartley, R. R. Bangs, H. W. George, A. W. Drake, W. H. Andrews, J. M. Fodge, J. B. Klump, and Henry H. Myers. Eleven of them are dead.

The roster and descriptive list shows there have been mustered into this post, up to and including August 7, 1918, in all 198 members. Of this great number, only eighteen remain on said roster, as shown by the last official report, on June 30, 1918. There are, however, that many more yet living within easy reach, who from the infirmities of age and other causes do not have membership with the post.

When one remembers that it is more than half a century since the men who compose the Grand Army of the Republic put aside the weapons of war and assumed the duties and responsibilities of the civilian, many of them already shattered in health because of service, exposures and hardships of camp life, then can we find the reason for the thinning ranks, and can only wonder that as many as above reported now live.

It is due to these, and to their posterity, that some recognition, at least, be given to a few of those noble men who so unselfishly sacrificed their time and comfort, that suffering be relieved, that civil laws and authority be established—in short, in leaving as a heritage an enlightened, patriotic, peace-loving, and Christian community in which to live.

Of this great number of men you have known, we can only mention a few that have contributed to this end, as follows: W. D. Hall, John Ingham, R. C. Talbott, W. W. Cowles, Isaac Merchant, Milo Young, James Whitehead, Charles T. Crawford, James L. Oxford, A. W. Gandy, M. H. Deem, who with a host of others, in their various positions, and capacities, contributed so much to the social,

economic, and religious condition of our present society.

We cannot refrain from mentioning the ladies of the Woman's Relief Corps, an auxiliary of the Grand Army—the wives, daughters, and other loyal women of the community who have aided so grandly in ministering to the sick and the needy of these comrades and the widows through all the years the post has existed.

BERWYN POST

Berwyn Post, No. 307, was mustered and held its first meeting in the schoolhouse in the village of Berwyn, July 12, 1890, with eight members. John Low was chosen commander, with I. McAllister adjutant, and R. W. Buckner as quartermaster. The date for meeting was the second Saturday.

In point of numbers, this was perhaps the weakest post organized in the county, and yet it was organized at a time when the patriotic fervor in the county was at its highest, because of the district reunions that were being held annually under the management of the Central Nebraska Veteran Association, comprising the counties of Custer, Dawson, Sherman, Valley, Loup, Blaine, and Logan. These reunions lasted two and three days, with tents for camping, sham battles with artillery, cavalry, and infantry, with programs and campfires for the evenings, and conspired to fire the "old war spirit in old soldiers." The last one of these reunions was held at Ansley, in which a novel engagement took place. Others had been held at Broken Bow and at Ord, in Valley county.

Hundreds of the comrades with their families enjoyed these camping and educational gatherings. So it was under such influence this post was instituted and lived. We do not have the date on which they were suspended or surrendered charter, more than they reported in the annual report of December, 1894, and it must necessarily have been later. Department headquarters have no account of it.

POST AT MASON CITY

Stone River Post, No. 339, was mustered

April 20, 1895, with fifteen names on the charter. The first commander was H. J. Davis, with T. S. Crossley, adjutant, and Jacob Cover, quartermaster. The meetings were held the first and third Saturday evening of each month.

We have no authentic account of how many members have been mustered into this post since the primary muster. The last annual report to the department headquarters was made December 31, 1917, and gave at that



MEMBERS OF STONE RIVER POST, G. A. R., OF MASON CITY

Standing (from left to right): John Mulvaney, R. K. Miller, D. F. Weimer. Sitting: T. S. Crossley, L. B. Hill.

date seven members still on the roll—John Mulvaney, commander; H. J. Davis, adjutant; and R. K. Miller, quartermaster.

The comrades who have belonged to this post, as in every other Grand Army post in our order throughout the nation, exerted an influence for good upon society, in that the young have been taught patriotism and love of home and native land.

POST AT ANSLEY

Steadman Post, No. 180, located now at Ansley, was originally mustered at Westerville, February 20, 1884. There were 108 names on the charter at organization. The

first commander was M. Richtmyer, the name of an adjutant is not given, but M. M. Lamphear was quartermaster.

The last semi-annual report to department headquarters, made June 30, 1918, gave the membership as eleven, with George William as commander, and O. B. Foster, adjutant. The post meets the last Thursday in each month.

The ladies of the Woman's Relief Corps, a patriotic organization that is composed only of the wives and daughters of veterans of the Civil war, and is an auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic, have greatly aided in keeping the patriotic spirit that dominates the whole people of the community.

Of the many comrades who have in the past comprised this post, we recall Isaac Clark, M. Johnson, J. F. Sharpless, T. T. Varney, C. S. Ellison, Tip Daniels, Daniel Hagin, S. B. Harris, H. Alberts, T. T. Williams, with others whose names we have not space to mention, but who have by their sterling virtues and patriotic lives, aided so materially in the making of one of the best and most desirable communities in which to live.

The spirit of liberty inculcated, is evidenced by the ready response to the country's call by the many young men who went "over there," or have been in training to aid in the overthrow of autocracy and tyranny.

POST AT ARNOLD

Excelsior Post, No. 196, was organized at Arnold August 25, 1884. The officers reported at organization were: R. C. Callahan, commander; A. H. Needham, adjutant; and M. S. Pasko, quartermaster. We cannot give names or number of members of muster, as the post never filed descriptive list or report at suspension. The post was suspended in 1910, as shown by department records. It was reinstated May 22, 1911, and suspended again November 19, 1913, at which time T. C. Babcock was the commander and A. H. Needham was the adjutant.

There were reported six members at this time, but their names were not returned to the adjutant general at date of suspension.

This post had more ups and downs than fall to the lot of many, perhaps for two reasons — first, because of the long distance from the railroad, which has proven such a factor in the civilization of our great state, and partly, it may be, because the spirit of war that permeated the "boys" in the '60s, was still so strong upon their lives that it was the dominating passion. Whatever the causes for the post's lapses and suspensions, we can say for the members of this post, and the citizens of Arnold and community, that there are no finer citizens and people, or more progressive, than settled upon the homesteads surrounding that village.

We are sure that her citizens of the past and the present can point with a just pride to the lives and example of such men as B. F. Marrow, C. T. Robinson, Thomas Halliday, Comrades Brown, Blowers, H. M. Graham, Needham, and Babcock, and others whose names we do not recall. The fact that no authentic account of the members and the several parts that each played in those days, as officers, and who of them have answered to the last roll call, or those who remain in the vicinity, is due to their not having a permanent meeting place, in which the papers and records could be kept. This reason also applies to many other Grand Army posts in Nebraska.

THE POST AT SARGENT

G. W. Sweet Post, No. 195, Grand Army of the Republic, was chartered and organized, in the village of West Union, on the 27th day of August, 1884, where it met in the schoolhouse for awhile. Later it was removed to the town of Sargent. The charter shows there were eighteen members at the muster of the post. J. H. Russell was the first commander, A. W. Squires the first adjutant, and Louis Sutton the quartermaster.

We are unable to state how many members have joined this post since, or what has become of those that were in the first meeting. However, there are a host of true men and women in and around the splendid little town of Sargent who are the offspring of such men as George and William Sherman, F. S. Mor-

ris, I. C. Tobias, L. W. F. Cole, Dr. Wamsley, R. W. Fulton, R. W. Nutter, James L. Twigg, H. C. Orvis, and others, who proved their loyalty by their courage and fidelity to duty, not only as soldiers, when their country was threatened by dissolution, but also when they faced the task of subduing the wild and virgin soil, braving the elements and dangers incident to the early settlement of that part of our great commonwealth, combining with duties and virtues the spirit of morality, Christianity, and good citizenship, thus leaving to their posterity a noble heritage.

December 30, 1917, the annual report of this post to the department showed only four members, with David McGugan as commander, and R. W. Fulton, adjutant. Three of this remnant have recently made the trip to Portland, Oregon, to attend the fifty-second national encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, which met August 19, 1918.

POST AT COMSTOCK

Crittenden Post, No. 274, was originally mustered at the village of Wescott, July 19, 1888. Who the charter members or the first officers were, we do not know. However, from the annual report made December 31, 1888, we have W. H. Comstock commander for the year 1889, but no other officers or names of members. The annual report made in 1894 gives fifteen members, with I. M. Beck, commander; F. Shanks, adjutant; and W. H. Comstock, quartermaster. The post met the second Saturday in each month. The post is still in existence, meeting on call, as shown by last report to department headquarters. W. P. Hamond is commander; G. W. Shiphard is adjutant; and only four members are left.

This post was one of the largest in the county. The first place settled in the county was in the neighborhood of Wescott and Comstock. The years 1874-7 saw a colony or, if not exactly a colony, a number, of Wisconsin soldiers come to this section, where they were among the first to make settlement.

The Indian uprising among the Sioux in the Niobrara country caused alarm, and Captain Comstock was among the number to raise

a company of these men who had known war, to arm for protection of their families. This part of the history is recorded in another place, however.

Of the many comrades who have helped to make this a community of loyal and progressive people, many have passed on, having answered to the Great Commander at the last roll call. We mention W. H. Comstock, J. L. Peter, E. Bartholomew, Captain Wescott, W. D. Hall, and Mr. Beck, and while others have gone and are missed by families and comrades, their influence is with us yet, as evidenced by the many boys who have donned the "khaki," and offered their lives for freedom and justice, so unselfishly as to astonish the Old World and, by this spirit of freedom, emulate the "Man of Galilee."

POST AT CALLAWAY

William Hayes Post, No. 264, Grand Army of the Republic, was mustered the 31st day of March, 1888. As no descriptive list is on file with the department adjutant in the state house, we cannot give names of charter members or officers installed at that time. The annual report made December 31st of that year shows that J. H. Evans was elected commander for 1889, with J. B. Farrell as adjutant and C. W. H. Lubert as quartermaster. No report of membership. The annual report of December 31, 1890, gave a membership of thirty-four.

In December, 1894, there were twenty-one members, and December 31, 1916, were reported thirty-one members. December 31, 1917, the annual report showed the number to be only six, with W. W. Sallins as commander and J. B. Farrell as adjutant.

This is the only Grand Army post in the county that ever owned a hall of their own. In fact, this hall was the only place for public gathering, and the secret orders of the village for a number of years used the G. A. R. hall. Perhaps the one factor in keeping up the membership, as shown above, was that the post had a place of their own in which to keep their paraphernalia, records, etc. Also they continued to meet twice a month.

However, in recent years we realize that our step is tottering and halt, sight and hearing have failed us, so that many cannot attend these meetings longer. With the many whom kindly hands have lain away in the soldier's last resting place, the ranks have thinned until just a remnant are left. It has been my pleasure to know many of the "boys" of this post, who in the drama of life played such a noble part in preserving and developing for their posterity this great commonwealth.

Among the names that I recall are those of J. D. Thurman, Uncle Joe Dickson, two of the Whipples, John Douglass, Graves, Henry Striers, Dunn, N. M. Morgan, R. R. Dickson, and Jim Webster. Webster, with his old fife, played in a way that made the "old boys" straighten up, and step quicker, until they were dreaming they were again engaged in that great struggle which made America a free nation and developed a spirit that to-day is thrilling the world by the heroic acts of the boys "over there" in "khaki." The greatest number of those volunteering from this county were from the Callaway community.

POST AT MERNA

Samuel Rice Post, No. 256, was organized in the village of Merna, October 22, 1887, the descriptive list showing fourteen names on the charter. From the comrades of the post we have tried to get the names of the first members, but are disappointed. However, they are sure that J. J. Joyner was the commander and A. Sommer the adjutant. December 30, 1917, the annual report to department headquarters gave J. B. Smith, commander; A. Sommer, adjutant, and only seven members. The post meets on call, at the home of some member. It is claimed for Adjutant Sommer that he is the only adjutant the post has had in thirty-one consecutive years. The "boys" are hanging together by the observance of Memorial Day, and by urging that "Old Glory" be kept floating over every schoolhouse, that by this means they may impart to the young the spirit of patriotism and freedom. Following are the names of some that have in the past contributed to the success of the post but who have

dropped one by one when the call came for each: J. J. Joyner, S. H. Read, Adam Hannawald, Madison Brown, Wells, N. Jacquot, J. M. Lucas, Lewis and H. H. Myers. Although their lives have been humble, their virtues have left upon the community an impress that stamps loyalty; patriotism that has shown itself in the eagerness of the boys of this day to help to overthrow autocracy, tyranny, and oppression.

The following were the charter members, only four of whom are now living: J. J. Joyner (post commander), Andy Sommer (adjutant), Abner C. Towle (quartermaster), Charles Foote, I. A. Coleman, Nicholas Jacquot, S. H. Read, Charles Fessenden, Madison Brown, J. B. Smith, Francis Graham, Adam Hannawald, Joseph Thomas.

In closing this somewhat lengthy history of our Grand Army, I have taken pains to obtain in all cases, a true and correct account of every statement made, either from the post records, from someone in possession of same, or, failing in that, by writing to persons known to have been connected with them; from personal conversation with those who have belonged; and, last, I have applied to the department adjutant general's records, at the state capitol and to Comrade H. Bross, department adjutant. I am thus greatly indebted for much that is authentic. To the post adjutant and to the other comrades who have aided me in this, I wish to extend my thanks.

IN THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

And now we record the organization of Custer county's first war unit, and the service it rendered.

Company M, First Nebraska National Guard, was organized at Broken Bow, on June 2, 1896, and was called the Holcomb Guards, in honor of the contemporary governor of Nebraska, Hon. Silas A. Holcomb, who was elected from Broken Bow. The company's first officers were: Captain, John G. Painter; first lieutenant, V. Claris Talbot; second lieutenant, S. M. Doris. When the call was made for volunteers on the 25th day of April, 1898, by President McKinley, for the Spanish-

American war, the company was immediately mobilized with the regiment, at Lincoln, Nebraska, and nearly every member volunteered. The company of eighty-two enlisted men and three officers was mustered into the United States service on May 10, 1898, with John G. Painter, V. Claris Talbot, and Charles T. Orr as officers in the order named. On Monday, May 16th, the company, with the regiment, started for California, preparatory to embarkation for Manila, Philippine Islands. The command arrived at San Francisco May 20th, and went into camp on an old race-track, afterward named Camp Merritt, near the Golden Gate Park. At two o'clock on June 14th, the company, with the regiment, the First Nebraska Infantry, went aboard the steamship "Senator," in charge of Lieutenant V. C. Talbot; on account of sickness Captain Painter had previously resigned.

At one o'clock on June 15th the "Senator" steamed out of the harbor, bound for Manila, Philippine Islands, with the Custer county company aboard — every member in fine fettle and all bent upon rendering the country a military service in western style. After approximately a thirty-day voyage, they landed in Manila Bay on July 17, 1898. The next day the work of disembarking commenced, and in connection with the regiment the company established themselves at Camp Dewey, a few miles out of the city of Manila. From this time forth the movements of the company in connection with the regiment are of record in other volumes that have been written and in military reports on file in the war department at Washington, D. C.

While Custer county is proud of her soldiers and the record they made, their activities in the Manila campaign are not germane to the historical task in hand, other than to record their principal achievements. They participated in the capture of Manila and later helped to put down the Filipino insurrection or revolt. They participated in the battles of Calocan, Calumpit, San Fernando, Quingua, Malolos, Santa Mesa, and Novaliches, and many others.

After a campaign consisting of eleven

months and two weeks, the company shipped for the home land on the transport, "Hancock," and landed in San Francisco, August 1, 1899. It immediately went into encampment at the Presidio, San Francisco's famous military reserve. The company was mustered out of service, at the Presidio, August 23rd of the same year. After being mustered out of general service the company did not disband but, under the charge of Lieutenant Horace F. Kennedy, was brought to Custer county. When the boys reached Broken Bow, a magnificent reception was tendered them by Broken Bow and Custer county in general. The program consisted of addresses by prominent citizens, band music, all kinds of gala-day stunts, and the genuine Custer county "feed." The company was held together for two or three days, during which time they were entertained in the homes of Broken Bow citizens, and later they were given another reception, by the people of Ansley.

THE MISSING

Two of the boys, Guy C. Livingston and Nat E. Simms, were not with the boys when the company returned. They were killed in battle at Santa Mesa and Novaliches road, respectively. The following were severely wounded: Lieutenant Horace F. Kennedy, Corporal Arden R. Chapman, Corporal Hugh Kenoyer, Corporal Mero C. Shippard, Perle L. Busic, Orson O. Humphreys, Howard L. Kerr, Jack L. Beach, and George L. Sears.

Drs. C. L. Mullins and Willis E. Talbot were with the company and served in a medical capacity, both in the hospital and on the firing line. Both were given commissions as captains in the medical corps.

THE COMPANY PERSONNEL

Captain, Lincoln Wilson; first lieutenant, Burton Fisher; second lieutenant, Horace F. Kennedy; first sergeant, George R. Frey; quartermaster sergeant, Carey W. Layton; sergeants, Walter S. Flick, John Wood, Monroe W. Spence, Hugh Kenoyer; corporals, Ray Skelton, S. N. Criss, Frank H. Johnson, Edward A. Miller, Arden R. Chapman; cook,

Seymour Burton; musicians, John S. Benjamin, Clinton E. Gandy; artificer, Charles E. Green; wagoner, Lemuel M. Clay; general roster — Luther J. Abbott, Jacob G. Albright, Rasmus Anderson, Millard Auxier, Jack L. Beach, Frank G. Bedford, Thomas Birtwell, George E. Boggs, Stephen D. Bolles, Oliver H. Browning, Henry N. Burke, Perle L. Busic, Oscar S. Carpenter, James Coakley, Charles C. Cooper, John S. Cover, Earl Daharsh, Charles O. Dahisted, Charles Densmore, Al De Voe, James A. Fishburn, James F. Fitzgerald, John J. Flanagan, John W. Forsythe, Charles Frye, Elisha Hall, Orson E. Humphrey, George D. Johnston, Howard L. Kerr, George F. Kinghorn, Hardy B. Klump, Stewart E. Lanterman, William L. Lawson, Joseph Mabey, George E. Marquis, Elsworth H. Munford, Emil Oberst, Lilliburn F. Oxford, William G. Parker, Claude Perkins, Fred W. Peters, Clyde V. Pinkley, Fred H. Reeder, Paul A. Reynier, Francis G. Ryan, Guy A. Salsbury, Arthur H. Shultz, Charles H. Searle, George L. Sears, Maro E. Shipherd, Bennett B. Sloan, John C. Smith, Joseph Smith, Harry C. Steers, Henry O. Thompson, Thomas J. Williams, Roy M. Wiltamuth, Alden S. Winch, George W. Work, Arthur H. Youmans, J. G. Painter (captain), C. T. Orr (second lieutenant), John L. Perrin (sergeant), W. L. Rucker (corporal), Brent C. Hatton (artificer), Nelson N. Barber, J. A. Bebb, Elwood H. Bomar, Jacob Bierbower, Charles S. Busey, Charles J. Coons, Alvin A. Coxson, B. Cecil Jack, Amos P. Kellogg, Philip S. Kennedy, Alvin Long, Henry G. Martin, Aba M. McCoy, Perry G. Metcalf, Frank A. Mitchell, W. W. Potts, John W. Southard, William F. Stultz, Joseph L. Tiff, Robert E. Waters, James C. Woodward, William D. Grant, Stephen D. Bolles.

THE WORLD WAR

We are not at liberty to go beyond the confines of Custer county and attempt to write the history of any other portion of the globe. It is, however, germane to the conditions in Custer county to state that in August, 1914, Germany and Austria-Hungary declared war on Servia and Russia, that almost before the

world knew it the German army crossed the Belgian border and, before a twenty-four hour ultimatum to France had expired, their army was headed for Paris. England came to the rescue of Belgium and a world-wide war was precipitated — very far-reaching in its consequences. Complications continually arose involving the neutrality and rights of the United States of America. One event led to another, until April, 1917, when we found ourselves in war with Germany, and on the 6th day of April of the year mentioned, congress declared that a state of war existed between the United States and the central powers of Europe, which at that time had come to embrace Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey, although literally and technically, war was not declared against Turkey or Bulgaria. They were actually drawn into the embroilment, and conditions of war prevailed, regardless of declaration.

It is here that the war touched Custer county. The raising of an army in the United States presaged the draft bill, and the draft bill levied a quota upon every county in every state of the Union. Up to date, Custer county has been called upon to furnish more than five hundred soldiers, and probably one-half the number are at this date in France.

Throughout the county the response was patriotic and indicative of a spirit of loyalty very commendable to any people. While this chapter is being written, two millions of men, composing the army of the United States of America, are in France and Belgium. Many Custer county boys are among them. Several of them have given their lives, and we regret that at this time there is no public record from which can be ascertained the full number of Custer boys who have made the supreme sacrifice and paid in blood for the redemption of the weaker nations of the world.

Recorded here are the names and the obituary notices that appeared in the local papers of the county at the time the boys of our contingent succumbed to death, either by disease in the camp or on the battle-field of a foreign land. It is known to all that Custer county has given its share of men, life, and

blood, and the entire county does homage to those whose names here follow.

CLYDE G. SEIVER

The first Custer county boy to give his life for his country, so far as we are able to learn, is the one named above, concerning whom the *Custer County Chief* of December 27, 1917, gives the following:

This community was deeply shocked on last Sunday by a dispatch from Fort Worden, Washington, announcing the death of Clyde G. Seiver. Clyde enlisted in his country's ser-

vice November 10, 1917, and chose the wireless-telegraphy branch. He was sent to Fort Logan, Colorado, and made the trip there with Roy Holcomb and Harold Predmore. Later on, the boys became separated and Clyde was sent to Fort Worden, Washington. His father, Guy Seiver, knew nothing of his serious illness until the death telegram came and the shock was therefore a severe one. Just what was the cause of his death is not definitely known, owing to the fact that mail advices now on the way had not reached Broken Bow

up to to-day. But pneumonia is thought to be the cause. Later telegrams announce that the body will arrive here Saturday morning and the funeral will be held on Sunday at 2:30 P. M., at the Methodist church.

Clyde G. Seiver was born December 21, 1895, at Geneva, Nebraska, and was twenty-two years and two days old at the time of his death. He came to Custer county with his parents when he was two years old. His mother died in July, 1902. Clyde grew to manhood in this city. He graduated from the Broken Bow high school in 1913, after which he taught one year and then took a course in shorthand and typewriting, in the high school.

RAYMOND ROSS KILLED

An official report from the adjutant general's headquarters at Washington early Saturday morning announced that Private Raymond L. Ross, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ross, of New Helena, had been killed in action July 21. Private Ross was nearly twenty-four years old. He was purely a Custer county product, having been born at New Helena, October 16, 1894. He was called to service October 5, 1917, and left here, with the second contingent, for Camp Funston, where he was assigned to Company D, Three Hundred and Fifty-fifth Infantry. On February 26, 1918, Private Ross was called for overseas duty, and three weeks later sailed from Camp Stewart, Newport News, Virginia, with Company F, Fourth Infantry.

Private Ross was the only boy in a family of three children, and up to the time of entering the United States service had always remained at home with his parents. Generally liked by all who knew him, the news of his death was received with genuine regret. During last Christmas he was home on furlough, and spent the time with his parents, at New Helena. This was his last visit home, and he left two months later for France. The departed soldier is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ross, of New Helena, and two sisters, Mrs. Thelma Sargent, of Walworth, and Miss Leona Ross, who is employed by the Dierks Company in Broken Bow.

Memorial services were held Sunday afternoon of this week at Anselmo, Rev. George P. Trites, of the Broken Bow Methodist church, preaching the sermon. The services were held in the new community building, which was hardly large enough to accommodate the great crowd present. Both the auditorium and balcony were filled to capacity and many had to stand. People from all over the



CLYDE G. SEIVER

vice November 10, 1917, and chose the wireless-telegraphy branch. He was sent to Fort Logan, Colorado, and made the trip there with Roy Holcomb and Harold Predmore. Later on, the boys became separated and Clyde was sent to Fort Worden, Washington. His father, Guy Seiver, knew nothing of his serious illness until the death telegram came and the shock was therefore a severe one. Just what was the cause of his death is not definitely known, owing to the fact that mail advices now on the way had not reached Broken Bow

county were there, and it is estimated that no less than one thousand did honor to the dead boy's memory. A mixed quartette from Broken Bow, comprising Mrs. A. E. Anderson, Mrs. Ralph Thompson, Karl Abbott, and Roy Thompson, with Mrs. E. P. Walter, accompanist, rendered the music for the occasion.

The stage was beautifully decorated with flowers and the national colors, the community service-flag occupying the center position. Editor R. H. Miller, of the *Enterprise*, made an appropriate introductory talk, in which he extolled the merits of the deceased soldier and feelingly referred to the blue star that had now turned to gold.

JOSEPH ELWOOD PALMER

The first Custer county boy to be killed in battle was Joseph Elwood Palmer, a modest, unassuming youth who possessed all the qualities of heroism and sacrifice. He was in the second quota of the Custer county draft, and with the local contingent entrained at Broken



JOSEPH ELWOOD PALMER

Bow, September 2, 1917. He was born in Custer county October 29, 1891. His parents, at that time, were residing on a homestead in the vicinity of Broken Bow. His home had always been on the homestead, with the excep-

tion of four years spent in Broken Bow, while pursuing his studies at the Broken Bow high school. He was a graduate of the class of 1912. He landed overseas in April, 1918, was wounded by shrapnel June 15th, while on a night raid, and died June 16, 1918.
CUT 516

But little data concerning the raid in which he met his death can be obtained. His brother was with him in the same excursion, but it seems that they became separated, and the brother did not know until later that Elwood had been hurt.

PAUL COFFMAN

Paul Coffman lies dead in France. Out on the front line with the American troops in France, Paul Coffman, a Mason City boy, a soldier of America, lost his life in the line of duty.

Paul Coffman was born on his home farm north of Mason City, September 21, 1886, youngest son of H. T. and Beatrice Coffman. He came to his death while on the front battle lines with the American forces in France, on September 8, 1918. His body was tenderly laid away in a village churchyard near where he died, by his comrades in arms, some of whom were Custer county boys.

This paper has never been called upon to chronicle a death where its announcement has caused more expressions of grief than this. When the telegram from the war department brought the sad news to the widowed mother of the death of her son, a feeling of sadness never before experienced by the people of this community swept over it; it was as if each one had met with the loss of a loved member of the family. All felt a personal bereavement. Paul Coffman was born and reared here; everybody knew and liked him. Genial and agreeable among his associates, honorable in his dealings, upright in conduct, a clean lovable young man has gone from us, never to return.

Paul Coffman did not have to go to war. Avenues for refusing to accept service in the army, honorable and legitimate, were open to him. He donned the uniform of the soldier and sought to perform, willingly, gladly, that exalted duty he felt he owed to his country. There was no hesitancy, no holding back on his part; when his country called he was ready. He went with a smile on his face, and there is not the least doubt in the mind of any one who knew this splendid young man but that he performed his duties as a soldier with that same spirit of willingness which characterized his actions in home affairs.

Entombed on a foreign soil, in a far-distant land, it is probable that the eyes of a relative or a friend, other than his comrades in arms, will never see his burial place, but so long as France lives and the deeds of valor of the American soldiers who fought for liberty and freedom on that foreign shore are sung, against the hordes of hell, Paul Coffman's memory will never perish. He made the supreme sacrifice; no man could do more.

To attempt to beguile the widowed mother of this brave soldier son from the poignant grief of such an overwhelming loss, would indeed be vain and futile, did she not have the sweet consolation that may be found in the gratitude of the people of that country he died to save and the plaudits of honor which our grateful people shower on real heroes. She, too, has made a great sacrifice. The widow of an honored soldier of the Civil war for freedom, and the mother of a slain soldier in the great war for freedom and liberty to the crushed people across the seas, the hearts of our people go out to her in the anguish of her bereavement.

LEWIS H. ROBERTSON

Lewis H. Robertson was born at Davey, Lancaster county, Nebraska, January 24, 1888. When he reached the tender age of three years, in the fall of 1891, he came with the family to the Black Hills Basin, Custer county, Nebraska, where he resided until seven years ago, after which he spent part of his time at Hazard, in partnership with his brother, Matt. His father died three years after the family arrived on the Basin, August 5, 1894.

Corporal Robertson's premature departure is mourned by his mother, Mrs. Anna C. Sorensen, and by five brothers and two sisters — Charles E., William C., Fred G., Matt P., Hans A., Mrs. Lydia Stender, and Mrs. Mary C. Arp. He will also be missed by a host of friends and many army comrades.

The following comrades from Hazard who entered the army the same time as Corporal Robertson are: Ray Hennis, Lawrence Larson, Henry Rasmussen, William Rasmussen, Ernest Jacobsen, Chris H. Pierson, Earl Eckley, Joe Horak, Walter Cadwalden, Henry Pillen.

Corporal Robertson entered the army, as an alternate from Hazard, October 5, 1917. He served at Camp Funston in Company K, Three Hundred and Fifty-fifth Infantry, where he distinguished himself as a promising soldier and was transferred to the United States regular army, Company G, Fourth Infantry, at Camp Stewart, Newport News, Virginia. Five

weeks later he sailed for France, and he arrived there April 15, 1918. He was well thought of by his officers at Camp Funston — Captain Moore, First Sergeant Melville, McClullen, Schooks, Orchard. He was also prized by his officers in France — Colonel Harvey, Second Lieutenant R. C. Erwin, Sergeant Case, First Lieutenant J. A. Crawford.

The Fourth Infantry, United States Regulars, was in the thick of the recent drive of the allies in which they were crowned with high honors. It was in this conflict that Corporal Lewis H. Robertson died in action, July 26, 1918, at the hopeful age of thirty years, one month and twenty days. More detailed accounts are lacking at this time. All we know is that he slumbers amidst vast armies of fallen heroes on the sacred soil of France. [A portrait of and memorial tribute to Corporal Robertson appear in the biographical department of this volume.]

GUSTAV ROERICK

It is with deep sorrow that we mourn the death of Private Gustav Roerick in this golden-star service. He was born at Amherst, Nebraska, March 9, 1892. When a child he moved with his mother to the present home, on section 26, township 13, range 17, Custer county. His father died years ago; his mother, Mrs. Anna Roerick, remarried and is now known as Mrs. Hartman. His brother Alfred enlisted last March at Broken Bow and entered the Coast artillery, at Camp Nickols, Virginia. When last heard from he was at Camp Upton, New York. A young brother, Arnold, works the farm. He also leaves two sisters to mourn his death, Ida and Anna.

Private Roerick was drafted last September and entered Camp Funston. From there he was transferred to Camp Dick and finally he crossed the ocean to participate in the struggle on French soil, where he was killed during an attack by the enemy June 17, 1918. His company had been subjected to a severe artillery bombardment. Nevertheless he heroically remained at his post, aiding in the protection of the United States machine guns. As a soldier he was respected and genuinely liked by his comrades and highly thought of by his officers. His loss to them is a source of deep sorrow. His natural witticisms made him many friends, both in private and army life. At home he proved himself an obedient and thoughtful son and brother. Those who were akin to him were always uppermost in his life's plans, even to the very end. He gladly sacrificed himself on the sacred altar of his country, at the hopeful age of twenty-six years, three months, and

eight days. His remains rest somewhere across the sea, on the blood-drenched soil of our sister republic, France. God comfort and bless the dear ones who willingly gave him to his country. It has become our sorrowful duty to place on our service flag a golden star, the first one in our section of Custer county, to commemorate our fallen hero. A star is a universal symbol of glory. For countless centuries it has stood for the highest achievements and ideals. To the minds of America to-day, that star is the most sacred which represent a soldier boy in khaki on some service flag. That fair, five-pointed emblem proclaims to all who behold it that its living representative fights for the world's freedom. And if that star of blue has changed to one of gold, the observer realizes that he treads on sacred ground which death has visited. It means a life that served faithfully under the true blue, has culminated in the golden act of sacrificing its all. For one to offer his life for the cause of liberty under the Stars and Stripes is a golden deed worthy of commemoration. Thus we change Private Roerick's star of blue into one of gold.

CLARIS A. TUCKER

Private Claris A. Tucker, of the Merna neighborhood, died at Camp Dodge, Iowa, Wednesday, the 9th, of Spanish influenza. Private Tucker has been in the service since July 22, 1918, and was in one of the contingents that left Arnold about that time. He was born in Broken Bow, July 9, 1895, and was raised in this county. He attended school here and later was a student at College View. He was also a member of the Highland Lodge. The body was shipped to Broken Bow Saturday night of that week and taken in charge by W. S. Schneringer. Funeral services were held at the grave Sunday afternoon at four o'clock and conducted by Rev. W. L. Gaston, of the Baptist church. Interment was made in the Broken Bow cemetery. The deceased soldier was a most exemplary young man and had many friends in the county who will mourn his early demise. He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Tucker, one sister, Jennie Louise Tucker, and a brother, Perly Ayers Tucker, all of whom were at the funeral.

ORRIE AMSBERRY

Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Amsberry, of Ansley, received an official communication Thursday, October 10, stating that their son, Sergeant Orrie Amsberry, had died in a hospital in France, September 22, 1918, the cause of death being pneumonia. From previous information

received, it was known that Sergeant Amsberry had been gassed some time during the fore part of August and has been confined to the hospital since then. He was in one of the earlier contingents that left here for Camp Funston in September, 1917, and was sent overseas the following June. He was a member of Company D, Three Hundred and Fifty-fifth Infantry, Eighty-ninth Division. Private Amsberry was born in Mason City, in February, 1893, and made that place his home up to the time of joining the colors. He is survived by his parents, three sisters and two brothers. Deceased was one of the popular young men in the community and his death is keenly felt by all who knew him. He was a cousin of Paul Coffman, who was recently killed in France, by the accidental explosion of a shell. Memorial services for the deceased soldier will be held in the near future.

HENRY E. CAIN

Mr. and Mrs. Pierce Cain, of Anselmo, have received an official notification that their son, Private Henry E. Cain, was killed in action September 15. Private Cain was called to the service during last April and left Broken Bow with the contingent that entrained for Camp Funston on the 27th day of that month. His stay at Camp Funston was of short duration and two months from the day he left Custer county he was on French soil. Several letters have been received from him by his family, and the last letter was written one month before he met death on the battlefield. Private Henry E. Cain was born at Litchfield, Nebraska, May 7, 1893. He is survived by his parents, one sister and one brother.

SAM MILLER

Death came to Private Sam Miller at Camp Grant, Rockford, Illinois, from Spanish influenza, on October 5. He was a resident of Grant township in the southern part of the county and was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Miller. The remains were returned to his home for burial and the funeral took place on October 9th, at Platte Grove cemetery, in Dawson county.

ARTHUR BERGMAN

Arthur Bergman, of Arnold, died at the naval training station of marines at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, Sunday of last week. The deceased marine was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Bergman, and he enlisted last spring, along with his younger brother, Ralph. He contracted influenza a short time ago and grew steadily worse. His father was notified

and hastened to his bedside, but arrived after he had passed away. Deceased was well known among the young people of Broken Bow, he at one time having been a high-school student here. Funeral services and burial were at Arnold, the body being shipped there the latter part of the week.

GLEN BUCKNER

The first of Oconto's boys to give his life in the service of his country is Glen Buckner, who died of influenza, Friday of last week, at Camp Dodge, Iowa. His mother and brother, William, were with him when he died. Deceased was a volunteer and left for Camp Dodge with last summer's contingent. The body was brought back to Oconto for burial and funeral services were held there Tuesday morning of this week, at ten o'clock. Rev. Mr. Dixon, of Callaway, who is in the service and at present located at Camp Dodge, accompanied the remains back home and preached the funeral sermon.

LOYD CLOW

Private Loyd Clow, of Company A, Division B, One Hundred and Sixty-third D. B., is another Custer county boy, who gave up his life in the service of his country. He was a son of Mrs. Belle Clow, of Halsey, and a nephew of Mr. and Mrs. Press Booknau, of this city. He entered the service last June, from Halsey, and was sent to Camp Dodge, at which place he died from Spanish influenza, on October 16, 1918. Burial took place at Westerville, in this county, on last Sunday, services being held at the grave only, conducted by the Methodist minister of Berwyn. The deceased was a former resident of Westerville and moved to Halsey with his parents a number of years ago.

GAGE SAUTER

Word was officially received by relatives at Arnold November 15th, that Private Gage Sauter had died in France, at Base Hospital No. 30, on October 24th, death resulting from a severe attack of pneumonia. He was the first Arnold soldier to make the supreme sacrifice on foreign soil. The deceased was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and also a beneficiary member of the Modern Woodmen of America, holding his membership in both orders at Arnold. Private Sauter was a member of the contingent that left Broken Bow March 4, 1918, for Fort Riley, Kansas. He arrived overseas June 24, 1918, and died exactly four months later, aged twenty-six years and two days. His last let-

ter sent home was received less than a week before the message came announcing his death and in it he stated that there was no cause for worry, as everything was all right and he never felt better in his life. His death is keenly felt in his home community, as he was of a bright disposition and made friends wherever he went. His mother, Mrs. Lydia Sauter, a brother, W. E. Sauter, and sister, Mrs. S. McCants, who survive him, all reside at Arnold.

ROSCOE RHODES

An official report from the government states that Sergeant Roscoe Rhodes, son of former County Judge J. R. Rhodes, of Ansley, was killed in action October 25. A letter to Judge Rhodes from one of his son's companions at the front says that Roscoe was killed instantly by bursting shrapnel, a piece of the shell piercing his heart. Sergeant Rhodes was called from Custer county April 28th of this year and went from here to Camp Funston. Twenty-two days later he was transferred to Camp Mills, Long Island, and on the 16th day of June he landed in England. He reached the firing line in France exactly a month later. In one of the letters he wrote to his father, Sergeant Rhodes said he had been on the front line for fifty days without having his clothes off. The deceased soldier entered the army as a private, was promoted to corporal and was later made a sergeant. Roscoe Rhodes had a state-wide reputation as a football star. He was a student at the State University and captain-elect of the 1918 Nebraska Cornhuskers. This would have been his senior year. Rhodes entered the university in 1915, playing football on the Cornhusker freshman team. He was guard and end on the varsity team of 1916 and played right end on the 1917 team, which won the Missouri Valley conference championship. Elected to the 1918 captaincy by his teammates, Rhodes was called by the draft last April. In his letters home the sergeant predicted the early termination of the war and mentioned his plans to return home during the winter and of his intention to turn out for spring football practice. Sergeant Rhodes was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity and had the warm, personal friendship of practically the entire student body of the university. He was a member of the Presbyterian church in Lincoln.

JOHN M. RUDGE

J. A. Rudge, of Broken Bow, has received official notice from Washington, D.C., that his youngest son, John M. Rudge, had died of wounds received in action in France, October

26, 1918. Private Rudge was twenty-four years old and a member of the contingent that left Broken Bow for Camp Dodge during the last part of May. He was assigned to the field artillery and sent overseas the latter part of August. He wrote home regularly and the last letter received by his father was dated October 16. Private Rudge was born at Palmyra, October 11, 1894, and came to Custer county with his father in 1902. Two of his brothers, Joseph and James, are now in France with the American army. The dead soldier is survived by his parents, two brothers, and four sisters.

JEFF ANDREWS

Mrs. Al Owen, of Broken Bow, received a telegram November 22d, officially announcing the death of her brother, Jeff Andrews, who was killed in action in France, October 12, 1918. Private Andrews was a former Custer county boy and resided south of Broken Bow until five years ago, when he went to South Dakota to make his home. He enlisted at Lelette, South Dakota, in February, 1918, and was sent to France early in August. His sister had had no word from him until she received the official notice of his death.

CLYDE O. THOMAS

Official notice was received by Charles W. Thomas, of near Ansley, that his son, Private Clyde O. Thomas, had been killed in action October 23, 1918. Private Thomas was with the first contingent of the draft that left here for Camp Funston, September 22, 1917, and he has been at the front in France since last April. He had just passed his twentieth year at the time of his death. A father, two sisters, and four brothers survive.

CHESTER WEBB

Private Chester Webb, son of William Webb, of the East Table, died in France of pneumonia, October 22. He went with one of the contingents from this county to Camp Funston last March and during the following June was sent to France. He was twenty-six years of age. Private Webb was a young man of sterling worth and well thought of in his community. A short time previous to his departure for camp he met with a serious accident in one of the elevators at Merna, and he had barely recovered when called into service.

JAMES N. BURDICK

Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Burdick, of Westerville, have received official notification that their oldest son, Private James N. Burdick, had died at a hospital in France, of lobar pneumonia,

October 1, 1918. Private Burdick was twenty-five years old and was born in Custer county. He was with the contingent that left Broken Bow for Camp Funston, September 22, 1917, and he sailed overseas May 18, 1918. He went into action at the crossing of the Marne and was recommended at that battle for citations for coolness under fire. He is survived by his wife and parents, one brother, Arthur Burdick, of Westerville, and two sisters, Mrs. C. C. Milks, of Fairview, Pennsylvania, and Mrs. M. G. Crist, of Kimball, Montana.

ROY IMBODEN

Private Roy Imboden, a former Custer county boy and son of Mr. and Mrs. Cass Imboden, of Gandy, died at Fort Omaha, December 2, 1918, of influenza. The body was taken to Arnold for burial. The funeral was a military one and was under the auspices of the Arnold Home Guards. The deceased soldier left for Camp Dodge last July and was transferred to Fort Crook, thence to Fort Omaha, where he became a member of the Sixty-first balloon company. Mr. and Mrs. Imboden were with their son when he passed away, but were later taken ill themselves with influenza and were unable to attend the funeral. The deceased is survived by his father and mother, four sisters, and two brothers.

HOMER M. YATES

Private Homer M. Yates, of Whitman, was killed in France during the latter days of fighting. Private Yates was a former resident of Broken Bow and a son of Al Yates, who was for a long time connected with the water plant of this city. He has resided at Whitman for a number of years.

HARVEY M. SLOGGETT

The following official telegram was received Tuesday night by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Sloggett, who live east of town:

"Washington, D.C., Dec. 17, 1918.

"Mr. Alfred Sloggett:—Deeply regret to inform you that Private Harvey M. Sloggett, infantry, previously reported missing in action since October 22, now reported killed in action, October 18.

HARRIS, Adj. Gen."

Private Harvey M. Sloggett, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Sloggett, was born June 6, 1893, on the old homestead north of this city. He left Broken Bow with one of the contingents that entrained for Camp Funston during September, 1917. He sailed overseas for France last April and saw considerable service in the front line trenches. The last letter from him received by his parents was dated September

28, and in it he stated he had been in action and over the top, one of the engagements lasting nine days and nights. Private Sloggett was well liked by everyone with whom he came in contact and his death will be mourned by a host of friends. The sympathy of the community goes out to the bereaved parents. The deceased soldier was a member of Company F, Fourth Infantry, Eighty-ninth Division.

RALPH C. LEUI

Lieutenant Ralph C. Leui, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Leui, of Comstock, was reported in last week's casualty list as killed in action. The young man's parents, up to the latter part of the week, had received no official notice of their son's death, and it is thought that the notice must have gone to Comstock, South Dakota, as the young man enlisted into the service from that state. Lieutenant Leui enlisted as a first-class private in machine battalion No. 341, and was trained at Camp Funston. He was made corporal before his battalion went to France last May. Further promotions followed until he was finally made a commissioned officer. A letter received from him by his parents dated October 26, stated that he was doing well. This was his last letter.

VANNER A. GUSTUS

Official notice has been received that Private Vanner A. Gustus, of Callaway, is dead in France, after suffering an attack of pneumonia. Private Gustus was an enlisted man and went through the training camp at Ashland, later being transferred to Camp Cody. When he arrived in France he was assigned to Company L of the Fifty-ninth Infantry, Fourth Division. He was in many of the battles that mark the campaigns of last summer and was in continuous active service until a short time before his death. He developed pneumonia and was taken to a base hospital. His death occurred October 5, 1918.

JOSEPH BERNERT

Another of the fine young patriots of Custer county to fall to an heroic death on the battlefields of France was Joseph Bernert, whose death occurred October 6, 1918. He enlisted October 5, 1917, at the age of twenty-six years, and his name and memory shall be held in enduring honor in his home state and nation. He was a son of Felix Bernert, a representative citizen who is individually mentioned in the biographical department of this publication.

As this review of Custer county necrology in the great war has been prepared prior to the

close of military service on the part of many of the Custer county boys, it is evident that the list here given is not to be considered complete. The record must needs be supplemented by data to be given in later publications.

CUSTER'S MILITARY RECORD

It has been impossible to secure a list of all who have gone in the service of the country from Custer county. The boys of the county have been exceedingly prompt to respond to the call to the colors, and there has been no way by which the volunteers can be named. We have been able to procure a partial list of the names, but it is known to be incomplete and does not contain the names of all those who have gone. Accordingly the appended list gives the names of only those of whom we have some record, and it is to be regretted that we cannot give the list in full. It must also be borne in mind that this list closed before the last contingents left. In some instances the going of the men has been anticipated and their names recorded:

Ira D. Blanchfill, Richard L. Brill, William S. Nicholas, Ray J. McMullen, Charles J. McKinger, William A. Street, John W. Kelley, Elmer C. Wait, Harold Predmore, Leonard H. Gilbert, Frank O. Oman, Lloyd Hopkins, Meredith T. Reneau, Ross J. Standley, Fred Grof, Charles S. Allen, Alex B. Stoker, Ray Dinwiddie, Commodore W. Kellogg, Albuk Huska, Ernest Fellows, Harry E. Kitch, Gerrett VanDeneen, Edwin T. Lund, Ira C. Chadd, Thurston R. Givens, Alfred G. Cleveland, George L. Jackson, James W. Cassell, Talmage Smith, James W. Booker, Merl S. Ritenour, Fred Hodapp, Dan F. Hoover, Charles Ochtman, Glenn H. Gibford, John F. Myers, Robert W. Newman, David C. Burgis, Willis F. Haycock, Fred A. Humphrey, Thomas A. Stuckey, Bernard Main, Dale Hawlette, James C. Overgard, Paul V. Bekne, Lester R. Kister, Cecil A. Freil, William E. Faith, William H. Voth, Ernest H. Wilson, Andrew N. Gandy, Alfred B. Mills, Henry E. Cain, Linn Paine, John Swick, Orville Farmer, William R. McCormick, Lawrence Ray, Anton Christensen, Irvin J. Haeberle, William D.

Pester, Henry O. Engelsgerd, Reede R. Fox, Nels C. Mohr, Charles J. Redfern, Peter Peterson, Edmund P. King, Jesse B. Mossman, Harvey B. Duncan, Wesley J. Anderson, Mervin A. Shadel, Willie Klatt, Albert E. Hutt, John Rudge, Walter Brown, Harvey Porter, Branson J. Dull, Willie L. Wolfe, Olaf E. Olson, Charles Spencer, Henry Crable, John H. Olson, Vergil C. Horne, Clarence E. Anderson, Thomas E. Huff, Harrison B. Livermore, Harry Huffman, Carl Nelson, Roy E. Fox, Andrew A. Hall, George W. Calvert, Nirrus D. Baldwin, Meredith T. Reneau, Troy J. Fonda, Archie C. Higgins, William F. Moody, James H. Rigby, James H. Bryan, Roscoe B. Rhodes, Clarence H. Byler, George A. Spelts, Cleo Durnell, Herbert F. Manning, Earl L. Widaman, Flavious McRae, Frank A. Tappan, Charles W. Haeefe, Norman E. B. Spalding, Fred Palmer, Claude H. Hiker, James C. Johnson, Frank J. Haumont, Charles O. Lohr, William Moore, Andrew J. Backes, Horace P. Isaacs, George G. Riley, Leo R. Conroy, John L. Rickell, Sylvanus A. Brummett, Henry C. Wrasse, William R. Hill, Archie M. Russell, George Yeoman, Arthur C. Tickel, John H. Jacobson, Buel F. Porter, Earl N. Barcus, George C. Hill, Roy H. Lewis, Clarence F. Swope, Albert Smith, Ray L. Lockhart, Roy C. Dale, John T. Taylor, Vincent Dewey, Raymond R. Robinson, Clarence E. Carothers, Enoc F. Vitter, Guy Dady, Charlie Stockham, Earl H. Sharp, Edward F. Shea, Floyd E. Junk, Edgar M. Whitehead, Paul Coffman, J. H. Rudge, George Mary, Jr., Ralph Willis, David L. Applegarth, Lonnie A. Smith, Ralph Caldwell, John D. Leonard, Chester R. Cox, Charles H. Veith, Paul J. Lash, John Scott, Channing K. Boyle, Loyd M. Chrisman, John M. Mery, Clarence E. Fuller, Thomas H. Powers, John J. Pirne, Neville L. Radcliff, William R. Dean, Herman Dillavou, Francis L. Arthur, August Devish, James W. Ankney, Otto L. Drexell, Alfred E. Gresse, Lynn Grisamer, Clari A. Tucker, William E. Ash, Henry F. Koch, Paul H. Shew, William G. McCreath, Charles F. Reams, John W. McGinnis, Harold E. Johnson, Orien H. Daggett, Roy C. Rinker, Clarence A. Arnold, Walter M. Ellis, Jefferson D. Crist, Clifford S. Lomax, Henry G. Vik, William T. Poor, Emil Wolsleben, Jesse A. Chase, Way Dishman, Howard S. Dietz, Earl L. Smith, H. E. Redfern, Jess E. Simpson, Leslie D. Miner, Rufus K. Hill, Sam Moore, Walter E. Moran, Roscoe R. Ross, Robert Baldwin, Paul H. Palmer, William M. Ross, Minor J. Taylor, George T. Robinson, Murl E. Bryant, Ernest P. Haumont, Jennings B. Stockham, Joseph P. Martin, Wilbur J. Henderson, Sidney VanDyke, Lyle Cornish, Major W. E. Talbot, Arthur E. Stoddard, Ira V. Stewart, Hiram B. Rosenbaum, Paul R. Sellers, Allen M. Scott, August Vandervene, Arthur C. Norcutt, Mark A. Miley, Hollis E. King, James W. Runyan, Oliver Baker, Floyd Alton Furrow, Robert P. Waters, Claude Horton, Orvil J. Walter, Edward Baker, Charley Spencer, Harold England, Gaius Cadwell, Walter F. McGuigan, Glen Buckner, William E. Hough, Frank D. Mills, Stacy F. Dietz, Dan Thomas, Willis W. Wilson, Francis G. Holden, Boyd P. Hill, Charles L. Williams, John C. Francis, Clarence E. Rapp, Henry Beal, Jesse Riley, James L. Lowder, James Cornish, Loren Hays, James Stevens, R. B. McCandless, Charles C. Robertson, Roy C. Holcomb, Glenn N. Whitman, Thomas J. Dalrymple, Charley L. Boyle, Richard Claris Talbot, William D. Grant, Ray E. Martin, George R. Caldwell, Garrett Vanderveen, Guy N. Furrow, Earl C. Martin, Arthur Glen Reyner, Glen Runyan, Claude Spencer, Guy Carlson, Gordon Beck, Calvin Remington, Roy Daggett, Adli Robertson, Patrick F. Lynch, Carl L. Wagoner, Richard R. Stockham, Ben H. Bramer, Charles B. Monnell, Leroy Ash, George W. Marsh, Ray Wilson, William E. McGinn, Cornelius C. Delosh, Jake Schmid, Glenn I. Jacquot, James Ingram, Harry D. McCaslin, John Neve, Charles W. Mytton, Martin A. Nilson, John E. Swenson, Frank Peterson, Cecil Swick, Floyd E. Horton, Earnest Miller, Julius C. Hastings, Charley A. Morrison, Henry L. Harbert, Francis W. Brock, Charles W. Porter, George C. Paine, Charles Beshaler, Lowell Bryan Patterson, Forest E. West, Fred Knight, Lewis W. J. Campbell, Frank L. Hemphill, Edward Ov-

erbard, John Henry Fleischer, Michael C. John, Ray Robertson, Earl R. Byers, Gunner Z. Anderson, Rudolph P. Schmidt, Charlie Olsen, Lewis L. Zachary, Clarence E. Bramer, Harlan W. Miller, Ray Adams, Melvin L. Ellingson, James N. Jacobson, George A. Miller, August C. Krager, Guy Glover, Allie J. Watkins, James Gier, Hugh C. Newman, William J. Skelton, Frank Walter Olson, Harlan O. Crist, Roy Switzer, Lewis D. Richtmyer, George C. Helmuth, Melvin Horn, George W. Beaver, Adrian M. Ohlson, Anton Ruzicka, Pat. A. Dickson, Ora Deal, Reuben V. Shaw, Alfred C. Anderson, Carl Herbert Case, Edgar Cecil Ransley, Bryan Ibach, Raphael Chartrow, Edward R. Holms, Otis Earl Daugherty, John Lester Real, Harold Joseph Hubbard, Walton T. Huff, Otto C. Blakeman, Glen W. McAllister, James Oral Henry, Bertram Lee Zeigler, Ralph A. Bennington, Harry B. Yates, Frank Klapal, Loren D. Galloway, Carl W. Schmidt, Ralph E. Ash, Orville J. Waters, Walter E. Spooner, Owen H. Cox, Leslie W. Nider, Clyde O. Thomas, George H. Evans, Frank Cooksley, Harvey M. Sloggett, Eddie L. Corder, Gustav Roerick, Raymond T. McCarty, Mark R. Murray, Robert P. Waters, Michael F. Newhouse, Charlie F. Wantz, Albert P. Larson, William E. Paxton, Clarence E. Palmer, Fred R. Fessenden, Earl C. Shirey, Raymond L. Ross, Emil E. Malm, George C. Roeder, Clarence Bruner, John Ostrand, Ellis S. Owen, Ora B. Amsberry, Dwight C. Elliott, Chester A. Chrisman, Albert E. Allee, Raymond Clouse, Joe Bernert, Ralph Lewis, Paul H. Chase, Jess L. Willenberg, C. Floyd Brabham, Nazare Catanzani, George O. Leibert, Raymond W. Dewey, George C. Lowe, Harry Frey, Floyd B. Landreth, Clarence E. Mills, William Mekkers, Fred Divish, Edward H. Solt, Charles S. Simms, Ivan A. Weaver, Max Fountain, Samuel B. Hoblyn, Lewis D. Gibson, Lee Wagner, William G. Armstrong, Hans Nielsen, Clarence L. Dunn, Thomas A. Deal, Lloyd D. Elliott, William L. Wolsleben, Linus H. Work, Olof Albers, Fenton E. McEwen, Oscar P. Tallin, Gust A. Anderson, Charles Beach, Herman Henry Franzen, William Andrew Rush, Myron M. Miller, Henry R. Reed,

Vincent Gourley, Ambrose B. McCarty, Leroy Otis Todd, Fred Leroy Huston, Grant L. Turpening, Bert Sanford Amos, Bruno Strieder, Miles Andrew Priel, Jesse Grant Barrett, Bert Hall, Claud B. Hoover, Floyd Pulliam, Levert House Farrell, Robert P. Leep, Frank H. Rohde, Vernon O. Tubbs, LeRoy. Farmer, Jacob Henry Brock, Chester Lee Hugo, Walter Lincoln Anderson, Roy Marion Scott, Clarence Howard Crawford, Edward E. Cornell, Floyd E. Furrow, Joe Wanitschke, Ted Terry Skinner, Tom B. Adams, Roland Samp, William George Ohmberger, James David Province, Hugh Raymond Downey, George Edmond Thompson, Victor Post, Emmett John Ford, Warren Alexander, John Skinner, Andrew Guy Lash, Mitchell A. Thigpen, Olvin H. Knudson, Ira T. Cool, Clarence I. Province, Asa R. Ryan, Ira Mason Henry, Lawrence Dayton Young, Anthony James Rock, Samuel Simon Strecker, Fred J. Province, John Patrick Fagan, Peter Muys, James Newton Burdick, Joseph Ellwood Palmer, George William Wadsworth, Vernon Devine, James Marion Myers, Jerome Joseph Griebble, Bernard Roelle, William Thomas Tompkins, William George Gates, Archie Alexander Murish, Roy Johnnie Stum, Frank Joseph McGuire, Carl Frederick Jackson, Joel L. Carr, Thornton Romine, Henry Ellwood Dye, Harold Arthur Grint, Harold C. Kepler, George Edward Forbes, Charles McCoy, George E. Pendleton, Joseph T. Graves, William R. Lord, Samuel T. Murray, Edward Sittler, Roy E. Sheppard, Maurits B. Malm, John D. Newman, John L. Frayne, Louis J. Juker, Walter F. Draper, William John Carter, Charlie Klussman, Wingate M. Foster, Alfred Roerick, Charles M. Frederick, Fred E. Moore, George L. Martin, William B. Skinner, Charlie Fleider, Elgie J. Bohringer, Roy H. Smith, Archie C. Duf, Charles V. Streeton, Royden J. Banning, John A. Crist, Leroy A. Osserkop, Rudolph H. Grabert, George R. Carr, James T. Carland, Orson D. Hemphill, Captain L. Dietz, Fred Brandenburg, Carl B. Lind, August C. Vaught, John E. Olafson, Ralph S. Cawthra, Bert D. Morrison, Hale H. Deidel, William Streitwieser, Scott P. Tietgen, Walter F. Matz, William A. Rob-

inson, Charles A. Shrike, Henry H. Brown, Carl H. Swanson, John R. Longfellow, Roy L. Culbertson, Frank Crist, Howard J. Face-mire, Lawrence L. Gregory, Emanuel Nordin, Richard H. Hoblyn, Guy Gooch, Lee I. Anderson, Henry L. Bailey, John Wilbur, Christian B. Nelson, Frank Powell, Charles H. Munn, Robert M. Ervin, Ralph E. Lanterman, Joseph J. Dixon, Harry Hilderbrant, Alvia W. Grisham, Ivan Lewis, William C. Harris, Rudolph M. Kolbo, Roy D. Fonda, Loyd S. Beltz, Leo Main, Weland I. Hayslip, William Ingraham, William H. Null, Walter W. Thornton, Jesse N. Edmisten, Bert Green, Felix T. Molkey, Guy N. Furrow, Guy Deal, Ray Marsh, Noel L. Amos, Olin F. Jacquot, Henry F. Hunt, Peter Hansen, Frank J. Koubek, John G. Helmuth, George Duclos Prairie, Sylvester J. Rourke, Lambert J. Nelson, Lawrence A. Manning, Earl D. Watson, Alexis Olson, James Wimmer, Perry J. Martin, James W. Thompson, Edward R. Weaver, Gage C. Sauter, Roy Crouch, Earl Case, Chester H. Webb, Fred Carr, Edwin E. Dunlap, William F. Gladson, George G. McCaslin, Gedion Nelson, Leroy E. Smith, Henry H. Schotman, Earl Brumbaugh, Lester O. Reynolds, Joe Jelinek, James C. Naylor, Albert L. Canfield, Chester Fisher, William Rosentrater, Floyd L. Spencer, Terry C. Boyce, Nelvin N. Whipple, Fred L. Shields, Jesse A. Cantrell, Forrest R. Smith, Ezra T. Walker, Clifford C. Johnson, William T. Redford, Walter H. Mathis, Homer Dishman, Lee Rash, Adolph E. Malm, Bertrand W. Cassel, Brohumil Malec, John Rosentrater, Otto Drum, Fred E. Govier, George D. Lessley, John T. Courtier, Clarence Morris, Edward Baker, Jesse F. McKnight, Ray V. Verley, Walter P. Sargent, James G. Rookstool, William R. VanSant, Glen Glover, Fred Whitney, Donald R. James, Farquar C. Aydelotte, Edwin Henry Ransley, Albert Johnson, Clyde Morl Kissell, W. Obie Bonar, Ernest H. Weeth, John T. Nicholas, Bert B. Marsh, Addison Zone Street, A. Carl Chase, Lewis Rudd Wolf, Claud M. Cooley, Robert Walker Brandt, Miner Pinkston, Ollie Ingram, Keith E. Templar, Benjamin Oastrand, Avalo Cox, James Leroy Cudaback, James F.

Predmore, Cecil E. Caldwell, Edmond M. Smith, Roy Herbert Brakeman, Verne McIninch, Orville Deal, Scott W. Winchester, Bennie L. Hatch, George J. Pointer, Roy W. Lichtenberger, Miltie J. Willard, B. Leonard Stephenson, Bortel Pagard, Charley Kriz, Delbert L. Burton, Robert Lewis Walker, Ernest E. Luther, Harold Ellsworth Young, Earl L. Null, Chester Henry Miller, Oscar Frank Nelson, Henry Ira Moriarty, Lawrence B. Carroll, Hans C. Johnson, Rollie W. Williams, Walter Elwood Howell, Phillip Carl Hutchens, Irvin Jerome Loffer, Otto B. Dunning, Clarence Philipsen.

WORLD WAR ACTIVITIES

Immediately upon the entrance of America into the world war, Custer county organized for practical co-operation, with a determination to meet every demand and to lend the government every possible assistance. The governor appointed Marshal Eddy, of Broken Bow, chairman of the Custer county council of defense, and he proceeded to the organization of a strong body or council, which has been active and aggressive in the prosecution of all war work. Emerson Purcell, editor of *Custer County Chief*, has been secretary of the council, and aside from helping other war organizations and leading off in patriotic demonstrations, war meetings, etc., the council has looked after the loyalty, or rather the disloyalty, of all parties who were reported as being in any way lax in regard to the support they were rendering the government.

THE EXEMPTION BOARD

The governor of Nebraska appointed Sheriff Joseph F. Wilson, County Clerk Robert G. Waters, and Dr. C. L. Mullins as members of a local exemption board, and they have been charged with the operation of all the draft machinery. Through them the questionnaires were sent out and all registrations conducted. They attended also to the physical examination and made out the first classifications of all registrants. It was a mammoth job, but they have been diligent and tireless. Many citizens volunteered their service and rendered valuable help under the direction of the board. The

members of the board should be given much credit for the manner in which they handled the affairs entrusted to them and also for the way they provided every possible comfort for the boys while mobilizing.

BOND DRIVES

Four different bond drives to the present time have been organized and successfully prosecuted in the county. The work of raising the quota of bonds supposed to be sold in Custer county has been largely conducted by the banks, the different bankers organizing for the work and seeing to it that the amount allotted is subscribed. There is no way by which the amount subscribed can be ascertained, and all that can be recorded is that every quota has been met, and that the responsive spirit of the people reduced the work to the minimum.

THE WAR SAVINGS STAMP DRIVE

A governmental arrangement was perfected by which the government sold stamps of twenty-five-cent denominations and in a series by which sixteen stamps and an additional payment of a few cents purchased a five-dollar, interest-bearing government bond. These bonds could be later exchanged for hundred-dollar bonds, and it was arranged that no one could invest in a stamp beyond the sum of one thousand dollars.

Custer county was asked to subscribe for over six hundred thousand dollars' worth of stamp bonds. H. Lomax, president of the Custer State Bank, was appointed county chairman, and organized for the task of raising the money. There was a state arrangement by which the 22d day of March, 1918, was designated as the day for raising the stamp quota. In no county in the state did it work out more perfectly in all the details of the plan than in Custer county. In every school district in the county the director assembled the freeholders, stated the object of the meeting, explained the operation of investment and announced the quota for that respective district. During the afternoon, over \$800,000 was subscribed, and Nebraska became the first state in the Union to raise its quota for this drive.

THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

Early in the beginning of the war Custer county was asked for \$125 for Y. M. C. A. war work. The amount was so insignificant, and the war work of the Y. M. C. A. then so little known, that little attention was paid to the demand. A few benevolent spirits made small contributions, and altogether \$119 was contributed. Six months later, conditions had changed. The Y. M. C. A. again asked Custer county for a contribution, and this time placed the quota at \$3,000. Alpha Morgan was made county chairman of an organization charged with raising the amount. It was assigned in different quotas to various localities of the county, and in one afternoon a little over \$6,000 was contributed.

PUBLIC MEETINGS AND CELEBRATIONS

All kinds of public meetings to arouse patriotism and unusual observance of all national holidays have been the order throughout the county. The people of every community have assembled in their halls, churches, or school-houses, and the interest manifested by the people in every phase of the war has been very remarkable. In later paragraphs is a description of a celebration of General Pershing's birthday, observed Friday, the 13th day of September, 1918. The day was observed in like and appropriate manner in every town in the county.

THE FOUR MINUTE MEN

Custer was second to no county in the state in the service rendered by her four-minute men. It was the duty of these four-minute men to appear, when appointed, in any public assembly, and make bright, breezy, four-minute talks on some phase of the war situation. This amounted to an education propaganda. N. T. Gadd was appointed chairman of the four-minute men and he organized his speakers and covered the entire county with an army of four-minute men who continually kept current conditions before the people and rendered a great service. Mr. Gadd also had charge of the general speakers' bureau, and through his office speakers were sent to any

place, day or night, when demands were made. He himself was in great demand and did an unusual amount of work in this direction.

WAR SAVINGS SOCIETIES

In connection with the stamp drive and in order to continue it throughout the duration of the war, and also for the purpose of forming habits of thrift and economy among the American people, war-savings societies were organized throughout the county, under the direction of N. T. Gadd. To this work Mr. Gadd gave unremitting energy and carried on the organization until at the present time he has over three hundred organizations of war-savings societies in the county. They are in every town and village and almost without exception in every school district in the county.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

During the last forty years, the Red Cross organization, known the world over as an organization that has standardized mercy and reduced to science and system the alleviation of suffering by ministering to the sick, caring for the wounded, feeding the hungry, and other like work, received during the present war time an almost incredible impetus. Its organization and operations have been extended throughout the world and it has given true angels of mercy in camps, in hospitals, and on battlefields of the present day.

In common with other counties and communities in the United States, Custer county enlisted in the great work of the Red Cross, just before the declaration of a state of war between the United States and Germany was made. Nobody knew very much about it, and the initiative was taken by the women, as is usual when there are no definite landmarks immediately available to guide a forward movement. As the women were first to undertake the impossible task of embalming the body of the crucified Nazarene, without counting the cost or knowing how or by whom the great stone of difficulty would be moved, so in this great undertaking they were ready and willing to begin a task of the details and magnitude of which they had only small conception. They

only knew that the young men of the nation, of the state, of Custer county, of our homes, were about to be put into jeopardy of body and soul and would be in desperate need of the ministrations of womankind. So they took counsel only of their courage and the necessities that had arisen, and launched the beginnings of what is now the Custer County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

On March 22, 1917, a meeting was called at the office of Mr. Alpha Morgan. The following ladies are recorded as present: Mesdames L. D. George, M. S. Eddy, C. H. England, Alpha Morgan, and H. B. Landis. Mrs. Landis was chosen secretary of the meeting. It was agreed that steps should be taken to form in Broken Bow an auxiliary of the American Red Cross, and another meeting was planned for April 7th, to be held at the city hall. A general invitation was extended to the women of Broken Bow and vicinity and they were asked to bring certain materials to be made up for the Red Cross. Mrs. Landis, Mrs. Derr, Mrs. Mevis, and Mrs. Ford were made an executive committee to push the work ad interim.

The meeting of April 7th brought the following ladies together: Mesdames Apple, Mevis, Henry, H. Lomax, G. O. Joyner, Robinson, Clute, Skillman, Adaline Johnson, Joe Wilson, Stapleton, A. Morgan, Thostesen, Stockham, Floyd, and Hickenbottom. Membership lists were opened and the payment of dues made, thus making a definite membership. Weekly meetings were held for such work as was at hand. On May 14th a motion was carried to call a meeting at the court house for the purpose of organizing a chapter with the county as the unit. Committees on publicity, program, and advertising were named. This meeting was held May 22, 1917, and Judge N. Dwight Ford was chosen chairman.

Mrs. Alpha Morgan outlined the plan of work for an organized chapter, and the organization was immediately effected, with the following officers: President, Mr. Jules Hautmont; vice-president, Mrs. Alpha Morgan; secretary, Mrs. H. B. Landis; treasurer, Rev.

George P. Trites. Forty-nine memberships and sixty dollars were received.

At a meeting on May 23d, the officers named the following executive committee: J. M. Kimberling, P. A. Black, W. W. Waters, Mrs. O. H. Mevis, Judge N. Dwight Ford, Dr. C. L. Mullins, Mrs. Derr, Mrs. A. Morgan, Mrs. H. B. Landis, Jules Haumont, Rev. George P. Trites, and M. S. Eddy.

At a later meeting a publicity committee was named, consisting of Judge N. Dwight Ford, Rev. George P. Trites, and Dr. C. L. Mullins, to bring before the people of the county the matter of organizing branches of the chapter. A committee of five—M. S. Eddy (chairman), Mrs. C. H. England, Mrs. H. Lomax, Mrs. L. D. George, Rev. James Hermes—were named to have charge of the membership campaign. To accelerate the movement of extending the work out into the county, a committee on extension was named, as follows: Alpha Morgan, assigned to Sargent and Comstock; H. Lomax, to Oconto; Dr. C. L. Mullins, to Arnold; M. S. Eddy, to Merna; Mac Warrington, to Mason City; Judge N. D. Ford, to Ansley; Mrs. Alpha Morgan, to Anselmo; Rev. George P. Trites, to Berwyn; Jules Haumont, to Westerville. The effect of the committee's vigorous work was immediate—branches sprang up in every part of the county and the membership increased rapidly. The treasurer's receipts from June 23 to June 30 were \$780.90. January 1, 1918, the total reached \$3,685.75. On October 1st the total receipts from all funds passing through the treasurer's hands amounted to \$19,652.75. This does not include the money sent directly to Washington as the major part of the two Red Cross war-fund drives in the county, nor does it include the moneys raised by the several branches for the purchase of materials, with the exception of fifty per cent. of the membership dues in those auxiliaries. The second war-fund drive alone totaled \$34,968.07, of which amount \$28,655.09 was deposited for the credit of the treasurer of the national society, W. G. McAdoo.

Communities entered into the spirit of the

work with marvelous zeal. There was an abandon of giving such had never been seen in this county for any purpose. Donated articles were offered in auction sales in every town and community. Fabulous prices were paid for articles and the buyer would at once donate them again, and separate items often sold again and again. In this way thousands of dollars were put into the hands of the workers to buy goods to be made up for hospitals, soldiers, and refugees. The women met every week to sew and knit, and in many localities three afternoons were willingly given for the service. Competent women were put over the work, generally divided under separate heads, such as surgical dressings, knitted goods, and sewing. Under the parent branch in Broken Bow the knitting work was under the oversight of Mrs. F. W. Henry, and upon her departure Mrs. C. L. Gutterson was appointed. Mrs. Gutterson has been chairman for the county work with the duty of distributing the yarn and censoring the work. Mrs. H. Lomax was given immediate oversight of the Broken Bow workers aside from knitting, with the competent aid of Mrs. C. H. England and Mrs. H. D. Huntington as cutters. Mrs. Joseph Molyneux was made chairman of the county work and censor of sewing. In each of the branches, was made such division of labor as would best further the work and produce the best results. For faithful and sacrificing labors, the names of scores of women would rightly find a place in this list of workers. The following list of materials made and shipped will give something of an idea of the scope of the work accomplished. The figures given cover only the year beginning October 1, 1917, and ending October 1, 1918.

Total number of different articles shipped, 35,305. Some of the principal items are: 7,468 surgical dressings, 1,799 suits of pajamas, 4,225 pillow cases, 906 bed sheets, 5,995 hand towels, 575 bath towels, 1,215 bed shirts, 1,321 sweaters, 2,258 pairs socks.

Shipments of used and new clothing have been gathered by the Red Cross in the county for relief of the suffering Belgian and French

people remaining behind the German lines. More than a ton gross weight of this material has been shipped.

In the spring of 1918 the territory around Callaway, in part, was made into a separate chapter, known as Callaway Chapter, with H. H. Andrews chairman. The reports here given do not include that done therein after that chapter was constituted.

Changes in the official corps of the society were made necessary in the late winter of 1918, and W. A. Baldwin was chosen chairman, Mrs. Charles Luce, secretary, and W. L. Gaston, vice-chairman. Mrs. Luce opened an office and sacrificingly gave her time to the increasing duties of the office until June 1st, when the management of the office was placed in the care of the chairman, and John P. Robertson was chosen secretary. A well located office is donated by the Broken Bow Abstract Company, Messrs. Hansen and Luce. Furniture was borrowed, including a fine desk, from F. M. Currie, and the Custer County Red Cross is doing a splendid and creditable work in the great war for humanity. All the varied interests of the organization within the limits of the Custer County Chapter center in the office.

The executive committee at this writing is as here noted: Chairman, W. A. Baldwin; vice-chairman, W. L. Gaston; secretary, John P. Robertson; treasurer, George P. Trites; and M. S. Eddy, P. A. Black, and Dr. C. L. Mullins.

WOMAN'S COUNCIL OF DEFENSE

In war as well as peace, the activity and patriotism of the women have always equalled, if not excelled, those of the men. If the men have had their organizations and prosecuted any special division of work, the women have had their corresponding organizations and have made a like prosecution, only perhaps displaying a little more energy. This is true in the matter of the Woman's Council of Defense.

The woman's committee was organized, at the request of the government, to co-ordinate the activities and the resources of the organized and unorganized women of the country, that their power might be immediately utilized

in time of need, and to supply a new and direct channel of communication and co-operation between men and women and governmental departments.

The Custer county branch has not been idle, but has successfully managed the registration of women, the baby registration, three Liberty-bond drives. The branch has raised most of its quota for the state work; has assisted and entertained speakers who came to the county for educational purposes; has helped with the Red Cross work and drives; has furthered Americanization; has sold flag pictures; has, with the assistance of the county superintendent, distributed liberty and patriotic programs to the rural schools; has sent in to Camp Dodge and Camp Funston about thirty-five gallons of wild-grape juice for the convalescent soldiers; has kept "open house" and distributed a vast amount of literature at the county fair; has staged a patriotic pageant in the park during fair week, for two nights; has held community singing in the park for six weeks, until it was turned over to the Four-minute men. The members took up with proper authorities the matter of sending home the body of one of the deceased soldier boys without proper embalming, and had the ones in charge reprimanded. They took charge of a tubercular soldier, saw that he was outfitted properly, and sent to a sanitarium for treatment; took up with the health officers, school board, and physicians, the matter of compulsory medical inspection in our schools, and had it carried through; and are now on a campaign for nurses and for the civilian and army schools — and all done gratuitously, of course. The only money paid out was for necessary postage, for this committee are not allowed any "franking" privileges, such as are accorded the men for their work.

The woman's committee of the Council of Defense for Custer county is composed of the following named members: Chairman, Mrs. Alpha Morgan; vice-chairman, Mrs. C. H. England; secretary, Miss Dorothy Maulick; treasurer, Mrs. Hazel Sidwell; Red Cross and allied relief, Mrs. C. H. England; food conservation, Mrs. Addie Hall; child welfare, Mrs.

Clyde Wilson; Liberty loan, Miss Keo Currie and Mrs. J. G. Leonard; maintenance of existing social agencies, Miss Eva Cadwell; educational propaganda, Miss Nellie Taylor; health and recreation, Miss Dorothy Maulick; Americanization, Mrs. John Reese; publicity, Mrs. J. H. Melville; registration, Mrs. Hazel Sidwell. District chairmen: Mrs. J. H. Kerr, Ansley; Mrs. Rose Dailey, Anselmo; Mrs. Lizzie Morris, Sargent; Mrs. F. M. McGrew, Callaway; Mrs. J. T. Woods, Mason City; Miss Essie Haskell, Arnold.

GENERAL PERSHING'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

On Friday, the 13th of October, 1918, Broken Bow and all surrounding vicinity celebrated General Pershing's birthday. It was no mean occasion, and the celebration was on a par with any other celebration ever before "pulled off" in the town. Nothing elaborate had been planned—everything was to be on a simple scale—yet everything was exceedingly appropriate and fitting. The parade of the school children and citizens was one of the finest street demonstrations ever seen in the city. The enthusiasm of war time, the local patriotism of the people, the allegiance to the leaders of the armies and nation—all gave to the occasion a spontaneity and spirit rarely ever seen before. At two o'clock P. M. the pupils of the North Side grade school and the high school marched from their respective buildings, under the direction of their teachers, to the court-house lawn, where it was arranged that the parade should form. The scholars carried flags and marched in double columns. The boy scouts had a prominent place in the North Side parade. One of the features to attract much attention was the High School Cadets, who made a fine exhibition of the training they had received from Superintendent Hewitt. Professor Hewitt had the cadets in charge and they marched with the erectness and precision of a squad that had had long military training. The North Side pupils lined up on the north side of the square and awaited the coming of the South Side children, who, with their flags and banners, marched in double column and lined up on the south side

of the square. The band assembled in front of the court house and played one or two patriotic selections, after which was formed the parade to the park where the speaking was to take place. The high-school flag, carried by the Council of Defense, led off, followed by the Broken Bow band; then came the South Side schools, followed by the fife and drum corps; next the North Side schools, with the cadets in the rear of the school procession. After the cadets came citizens generally. The procession marched down Broadway to Eighth avenue, then north along the east side of the square to Eighth avenue, thence west along the north side of the square to the north side entrance to the park, where they entered the park and marched round and round the band stand until the procession wound itself up into a solid mass of American humanity, gay and resplendent with all the national colors.

The scene was one long to be remembered. Hundreds of flags fluttered in the breeze. The children and older pupils looked the part of young Americans, which role they are playing in the great world-drama of the present time.

At this juncture M. S. Eddy, chairman of the Council of Defense, put in an appearance on the band stand, called the people to order and asked all, old and young, to join in singing "America," which was done with a loyal good will that could not but have been pleasing to General Pershing if he could have seen and heard the enthusiasm with which the national anthem was sung, and his natal day celebrated in Broken Bow. Rev. W. A. Baldwin, pastor of the Christian church, invoked a divine blessing which appealed to the great God for protection of our brave leader and the brave boys who are serving under him. The speaker of the day, Judge Morning, of Lincoln, was introduced and he delighted the people with an eloquent and patriotic address. Judge Morning is a personal friend of General Pershing and out of a full, warm heart he spoke of his acquaintance, of the General's magnificent leadership, and paid the American hero a splendid tribute.

His tribute to the American soldier and sailor, given in rounded periods, was loudly

applauded. His denunciation of Prussian tyranny was bitter and withering. Withal, the Judge is a pleasing speaker and the people of Broken Bow were glad to meet him and hear him. The entire celebration did honor to the occasion and reflected credit upon its promoters. The school procession alone was over four blocks long. The music was all that could be desired. The enthusiasm of the people passed all former bounds. It was a fitting celebration in honor of the modest leader of the American forces in France.

With that celebration, its procession radiant with flags and flag colors as a background, the news of the evening dispatches telling of the offensive made by our boys as a birthday celebration in France, in which 12,000 Germans were captured and the St. Mihiel sector squeezed off in such a way as to shorten the battle line twenty miles, made a fitting close to a "perfect day."

THE WAR ENDS

Since the foregoing paragraphs were written, great events have happened. The World War has come to an end. In the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, hostilities ceased between the allied armies and the armies of the central kingdoms of Europe. Great rejoicing and magnificent demonstrations resulted. Peace bonfires blazed in every town in Custer county. And the people are

exceedingly glad to be able to resume pre-war occupations.

A POST-WAR DRIVE

Before the cessation of hostilities a call for \$170,000,000 had been made by the following Societies: Young Men's Christian Association, Young Women's Christian Association, Catholic War Board Council, Jewish Welfare Society, Community Camp Service, National Library Association, and Salvation Army. Custer county's proportion of this amount was \$36,809. Organization to collect the same was effected and the following were elected as the executive committee: Alpha Morgan, chairman, representing the Young Men's Christian Association; Mrs. V. H. England, Young Women's Christian Association; Father James Hermese, Catholic War Board Council; W. L. Gaston, Community Camp Service; Mrs. J. H. Melville, Library Association; Simon Pizer, Jewish Welfare Board; Judge N. Dwight Ford, Salvation Army; N. T. Gadd, Victory Boys.

The county was subdivided by school districts, and allotments made to each district. The raising of the respective allotments was made the duty of the school directors. With marvelous unanimity, the directors responded, and the districts, with very few exceptions, met their quotas. The amount raised for this work in Custer county amounted to \$50,597.50.

CHAPTER XVI

CUSTER COUNTY LITERATURE

NEWSPAPERS OF CUSTER COUNTY — WESTERVILLE — BROKEN BOW'S FIRST PAPER — MORE PAPERS FOR WESTERVILLE — NOW COMES ANSLEY — ALGERNON — A DAILY PAPER — POLITICS DIDN'T PAY — PURCELL STARTS AT MERTNA — "SUN" SHINES AT ANSELMO — THE "CHIEF" SHOWS UP AT BROKEN BOW — ARNOLD — CALLAWAY — THE CALLAWAY COURIER — BERWYN — SARGENT — WEST UNION — COMSTOCK — OCONTO — S. D. BUTCHER, HISTORIAN — A STATE CONTRIBUTION — "FAREWELL HOMESTEAD SHANTY" — ELMER E. DOWSE — A PICTURE OF EARLY DAYS — MRS. M. B. A. MARTIN — "THE BROKEN BOW" — A. J. MCARTHUR, M.D. — PRIZE ARTICLE — CUSTER COUNTY — GEORGE B. MAIR — "THE SOUTH LOUP RIVER" — HARRY B. ISZARD — TABULATED KNOCKS — MRS. G. W. DEWEY — "THE BLIZZARD" — COURT HOUSE CORNER STONE — CORNER-STONE POEM — A CUSTER COUNTY POET — "LITTLE BOHEMIAN GIRL" — "EARLY DAYS IN CUSTER" — SOL. J. COOK — "THE POET" — MRS. MARTHA A. HUNTER — MRS. A. H. STUCKEY — "THE LARK'S RETURNING" — "THE GOLDENROD" — "THE SERVICE FLAG" — MRS. SABINA PENROD — "DAWN IN THE CUSTER COUNTY HILLS" — GASTON'S RHYMES FOR PADDING — "HOME IN BROKEN BOW" — "WALKING THE WATERS"

Custer county, given over to agricultural and domestic pursuits, is not expected to pose as a producer of literary men and women, yet it may be said that here can be found an intelligence and a literary genius not outranked elsewhere in the middle west.

We may not have produced prodigies but we have produced a corp of literary athletes who are vigorous in style, strong in expression, and in the realm of constructive English might be called trapeze performers on the King's English. We enroll a few, with a product of their pens in either prose or verse, but would not have anyone suppose that this short list exhausts the supply.

The newspapers of Custer county are, and have been, for the most part manned by literary men who have shaped the county's journalism into creditable literary contributions. Some of these editors have been geniuses in the field of their operation and have distinguished themselves among the writers of the state. In this class we might call the names

of E. R. Purcell, George B. Mair, D. M. Amsherry, Mac Warrington, and many others. Now follows the story of Custer county journalism.

NEWSPAPERS OF CUSTER COUNTY

There has been no agency employed that is entitled to more credit for the rapid development and advancement of Custer county from its organization than its newspapers. During the first five years of the county's history there was not a newspaper published in the county. The following is a list of the various papers that have been published in the county up to the present time, as far as the writer can procure data from the records at his command. While there may be some mistakes, and possibly a few unimportant omissions, we think it is in the main correct:

WESTERVILLE

In the fall of 1880 James Westervelt established a store on Clear creek, the location being at that time called Elm Bridge. The name

was given the place because of a near-by bridge which the settlers had built across the creek and which was constructed of elm logs taken from the canyons. Other business men located there that winter and the following spring, and in honor of the first resident, James Westervelt, the new town was christened Westerville. It was here that Custer county's first newspaper, the *Custer County Leader*, was born, on June 13, 1881, with George Trefren, publisher, and Samuel G. Beebe, editor. The *Leader* continued at Westerville until 1883, when Mr. Beebe moved with it to Broken Bow, where the county seat had been located the previous fall. Mr. Beebe continued to edit the *Leader* until 1888, when he was appointed postmaster of Broken Bow, by President Harrison. The *Leader* fell into the hands of the Central Nebraska Bank on October 26th of that year. It was for a short time edited by J. H. Inman, then by R. H. Miller, after which the plant was leased to Jake Horn, of Callaway, and W. O. Chapman, of Ansley. Fred Shaffer succeeded Horn and Chapman, as editor. Mr. Shaffer, after a few months' experience, discontinued the publication and moved to Denver, where he continued in the newspaper business. He invested in mining stock that in a few years made him rich. The frequent changes in management went against the *Leader* and the material was sold to other offices.

BROKEN BOW'S FIRST PAPER

The first newspaper published in Broken Bow was founded, by Robert H. Miller, June 29, 1882. Mr. Miller had been in the newspaper business at Wood River, Hall county, Nebraska. In transferring his plant from Wood River it was freighted across the country, nearly 100 miles, by wagon. The town of Broken Bow had been platted only a few weeks previously. For lack of lumber or railroad facilities, and the great distance from any point that lumber could be procured, the first office building for the *Republican* was built of sod, on the corner now occupied by the Broken Bow State Bank, northwest of the Public Square. The building was occupied by the

editor and his family, as well as by the *Republican* office.

The *Republican* continued under the management and control of its founder until March 3, 1887. On that day the plant was purchased by D. M. Amsberry, who at that time was serving his third term as county superintendent of schools of Custer county. The office was continued in the sod building until July of that year, when it was moved to its new quarters in the Custer Block, which was built by Trefren, Talbot, and Amsberry. In later years the *Republican*, under its new management, was owned by a stock company, and its equipment was enlarged by the purchase of the type and machinery of the *Broken Bow Times*, a Democrat paper established by George Trefren and Sam Meseraull. The stock company was finally discontinued and the stock taken over by Mr. Amsberry, who continued as editor and publisher of the paper until 1914. It was under his management of the *Republican* that a campaign against the licensed saloon was inaugurated, in the spring election of 1888, and continued from year to year until the open saloon was voted out of Broken Bow. During the years of the saloon agitation, the *Republican* was strongly opposed to the saloon business. In 1914 the ownership of the *Republican* passed into the hands of a young man by the name of Norman Parks, who after a few months turned the plant back to Mr. Amsberry. A few months thereafter the plant was sold to E. C. Shea, who continued its publication until the spring of 1916, when he sold the plant to James K. Hewitt, of Alliance, who is the editor and publisher of the paper at this time. It is now the oldest newspaper in the county.

MORE PAPERS FOR WESTERVILLE

The *Westerville Times* was started at Westerville in 1883, by C. H. Dalrymple. The paper was of short life and after a few months the plant was moved to Nonpareil, a town in the northwestern part of the state. The third paper, and fourth in Custer county, to be published at Westerville, was the *Westerville Echo*, which was started in 1884, by a young

Englishman named Knox. Mr. Knox soon became tired of journalism, and disposed of the *Echo* to James Westervelt, who put his son Eugene in charge. In 1886, on the occasion of the building of the B. & M. Railroad up the Muddy valley, the village of Ansley was platted and established by the railroad company, and the *Echo* was one of the institutions moved to the new town, where Eugene Westervelt had full charge of it.

NOW COMES ANSLEY

In April, 1887, the paper was sold to J. H. and W. O. Chapman, two practical young newspaper men, who came from Cambridge, Illinois. The name of the paper was changed to the *Ansley Chronicle*, and it was published by the Chapmans until 1895, when it passed into the hands of Tom Wright, a young Scotchman who was then but eighteen years of age. Mr. Wright continued to publish the *Chronicle* until 1912, when he was appointed postmaster at Ansley, by President Roosevelt. He then disposed of the paper, to A. H. Barks, who consolidated it with the *Argosy*, which had been founded by C. H. Hargrave.

Later on the *Ansley Argosy* was purchased from Barks by Harris & Maltman. In a few months Maltman retired from the business, and the publication was continued by N. A. Harris until 1914, when the plant was destroyed by fire. As Tom Wright had established the *Ansley Herald* about this time, no effort was made to rebuild the *Argosy* plant, thus leaving the town, as it had been for several years, with but one newspaper. Mr. Wright continued its publication until June, 1918, when he sold the plant to James Wallace, who is editor and publisher of the paper at this writing.

ALGERNON

Upon the advent of the B. & M. Railroad up the Muddy valley, in 1886, the *Champion* was started at Algernon, by a Mr. Watkins, who, after the village failed to secure a depot, removed the paper to Mason City and changed its name to the *Mason City Advocate*. He disposed of the plant to J. M. Amsberry, who continued it until 1895, when he suspended it

for a year, subsequently, in 1896, resuming its publication at Ansley, under the name of the *People's Advocate*. In the fall of 1900 Mr. Amsberry disposed of the paper to W. F. Greenlee, an inexperienced young man in the newspaper business, under whose management it was suspended in March, 1901, the type and other equipment being shipped to York, where they are used in a job office by the former owner.

The third paper published in Broken Bow was the *Broken Bow Times*, established in 1885, by G. W. Trefren and S. I. Meseraull. Financially, the *Times* was for a short time a great success, as land notices were plentiful, but, owing to some misunderstanding between the proprietors of the *Times* and Mr. Higgins, register of the land office at Grand Island, where most of the land notices came from, the latter induced R. E. Martin, an ex-Confederate soldier and forcible writer, to establish another Democratic paper at Broken Bow. The paper was launched in March, 1886, by R. E. Martin and J. S. Dellinger, and was christened the *Statesman*. To it Mr. Higgins transferred his land-office patronage, and the *Statesman* prospered immensely. It established a branch paper at Mason City, named the *Mason City Transcript*.

A DAILY PAPER

The *Times*, not to be outdone, started a daily edition and christened it the *Broken Bow Daily Times*. Messrs. Martin and Dellinger disposed of the *Mason City Transcript* to James Whittaker, and two or three weeks later Mr. Whittaker sold it to M. C. Warrington, who continued with the paper until 1917, when he disposed of it to James Pebles, the present owner. Martin and Dellinger dissolved partnership, Martin retained the *Statesman*, while Dellinger and Walters established the sixth paper for Broken Bow, known as the *Broken Bow World*. The *Daily Times* and the *Daily World* were soon consolidated, Mr. Walters becoming editor-in-chief and the mechanical work being done in the *Times* office. In 1888 Trefren and Meseraull disposed of the good will of the *Times* to R. E. Martin, and

about the same time the *World* suspended. R. H. Miller then started the *Daily Reporter*, and had the mechanical work done at the *Republican* office. In the course of three months the *Reporter* suspended and was succeeded by the *Daily Republican*, published by D. M. Amsberry, in connection with his weekly edition. The *Daily Republican* was continued until October, 1895, when the plant was leased to J. H. Chapman for one year and the daily edition was discontinued. In the fall of 1888 E. M. Webb and George S. Tappan established the *Nebraska Citizen* in Broken Bow. The paper continued until the following spring, when its publication was suspended. It was largely due to this paper that the Alliance or People's Independent ticket was elected in the fall of 1889.

POLITICS DIDN'T PAY

A few of the leaders of the Farmers' Alliance resurrected the *Citizen* and established the *Alliance Motor*, with A. J. Evans, of Thedford, as editor. The *Motor* was not a financial success and soon suspended. In April, 1890, the *Motor* material was gotten together by the stockholders, and the paper was re-established, C. W. Beal, president of the Farmers' Alliance, being elected president and manager. The paper was called the *Custer County Beacon*. In 1890 E. M. Webb became associated with Mr. Beal in the publication of this paper. The *Beacon* was soon recognized as the leading Populist paper of central Nebraska. In the course of three years E. L. Beal, of Ansley, was induced to leave his farm and join his brother, C. W. Beal, in promoting the Alliance doctrine. The Beal brothers eventually purchased a majority of the stock of the other members of the company, and assumed full control of the plant. Except during the year 1898, when C. W. Beal served one term in the state senate, the two brothers did all the editorial and mechanical work of the office. During C. W. Beal's absence, F. A. Amsberry, of Mason City, was employed as assistant editor. The Beal brothers continued to publish the *Beacon* until 1907, when Elgin I. Beal retired to the farm, with his family, and left the entire charge of the paper to his brother, Charles W.

Beal, who later leased the plant to a man from Ord, Nebraska. The publication of the *Beacon* was soon afterward discontinued and the material sold.

PURCELL STARTS AT MERNA

In November, 1886, Purcell Brothers established the *Merna Record*, which was edited by E. R. Purcell. Under his management the *Record* flourished. It subsequently changed ownership and was moved to Callaway, the name being changed to the *Custer County Independent*. In the latter part of 1891, A. Z. Lazenby started another paper in Merna, which he christened the *Merna Reporter*, but it had a short life. It was resurrected in 1893, by Captain Gatchell, and continued until the fall of 1894, when he moved it to Sheridan, Wyoming, continuing in the newspaper business there until his appointment as register of the land office in that state. In 1899 Rev. Mr. Clifton commenced the publication of the *Merna Sun*, which, in the spring of 1900, he sold to Theodore A. Miller, who abandoned the paper in January following, and returned to his home in Omaha. Most of the material was shipped back to York, whence it had been leased. This left Merna without a newspaper for several years—until the *Merna Postal Card* was started by Claude Hall, who continued its publication until 1916. It was then sold to W. R. Dutton, who rechristened it the *Merna Messenger* and who is owner and publisher at the present time.

"SUN" SHINES AT ANSELMO

Dale for a short time had a newspaper, which was started by Trefren & Meseraull in 1886, in anticipation of the railroad being built through that valley. But when they failed to realize their anticipation, the plant was moved to Anselmo and named the *Anselmo Sun*.

The first issue of the *Sun* was from a tent, and S. I. Meseraull was its editor. J. H. Zehrung, Ben Sanders, and others tried their hands at making the *Sun* shine, but with indifferent success, until it finally fell into the hands of J. J. Tooley, present secretary of the state

banking board, who, in connection with teaching the Anselmo school, succeeded, with the assistance of his wife, in causing the *Sun* to cast weekly rays of light and glory over the people of the little village. Becoming tired of his double duty, the professor sold his interest in the paper to Al Hummel, of Gandy, in 1890, and it was finally sold to E. R. Purcell, who added it to the outfit of his *Merna Record*. For several years the people of Anselmo were without a newspaper, but for the past few years they have been able to obtain a good one, the *Enterprise*, which is published at the present time, by R. H. Miller.

THE CHIEF SHOWS UP AT BROKEN BOW

In April, 1892, the *Custer County Chief* was established by W. G. and E. R. Purcell, under the firm name of Purcell Brothers, and they published the paper in connection with the job office that had prior to that time been run by W. G. Purcell. The *Chief* espoused the Populist cause, which at that time was very popular in the county and state. The *Chief* prospered greatly under the public patronage that was thus afforded. Since the death of the Populist party the *Chief* has been neutral in politics. Some years ago the newspaper and job departments were separated, and each operated independently of the other. The job department was taken over by W. G. Purcell and the newspaper by E. R. Purcell, who is still sole manager and editor of the *Chief*. The *Chief* is recognized by the newspapers of the state as having a larger circulation than any other weekly newspaper in Nebraska.

ARNOLD

The first paper published in Arnold was the *Tribune*, which was established in the year 1886, by Francis Ainsworth, and which had an existence of about a year. The *Bugle Call*, state organ of the Independent Order of Good Templars, also was published at Arnold for a time, about 1887, but the mechanical work was not done there. Miss Anna M. Saunders was its editor and publisher. After the suspension of the *Tribune*, Arnold was without a news-

paper until February, 1888, when the *News* was established there, by S. L. Carlyle, who continued to publish it until 1894, when he moved the plant to Nehawka, Nebraska. Arnold now has a newspaper published by J. B. McCoy, and called the *Arnold Sentinel*.

CALLAWAY

Callaway's first newspaper was the *Standard*, which made its first bow to the public August 19, 1886, the town being at that time just seven weeks old. The *Standard* was a newsy paper, published and edited by C. A. Sherwood. The *Standard* grew and prospered with the town, and was finally sold by Mr. Sherwood to S. L. Carlyle. Mr. Carlyle continued its publication until 1888, when he moved the plant to Arnold and established the *News*. In the fall of 1887 J. Woods Smith, head of the Callaway townsite syndicate, purchased a newspaper outfit and, on October 15th of that year, established the *Callaway Headlight*, with O. H. Barber as editor and F. W. Conly as manager. The paper was named *Headlight* in anticipation of the early completion of the railroad. The paper was purchased, on February 24, 1888, by H. M. Baley, and on October 20th following, by F. W. Conly, who eventually sold it to the *Independent*, April 30, 1892. Shortly after the beginning of the People's Independent party movement, the political managers of that organization concluded that they needed a newspaper to spread their gospel at Callaway, and E. M. Webb was sent over from Merna with the old *Merna Record* outfit. Thus the *Custer County Independent* was founded, and for several years the *Independent* enjoyed a good patronage. In the fall of 1896 E. M. Webb was elected a member of the Nebraska legislature, and in 1898 he retired from the newspaper business, being succeeded by W. A. Overman, who conducted the *Independent* until 1901, when the paper was discontinued. Shortly after selling the *Headlight*, F. W. Conly established the *Weekly Tribune*, on July 2, 1892, which he continuously published, with the exception of fifteen months during which it was consolidated with

the *Independent*, until 1908, when it was consolidated with the *Loup Valley Queen*, which was edited by Ray Barnard.

THE CALLAWAY COURIER

The *Callaway Courier*, a newspaper that for a number of years was one of the leading papers of Custer county, was established in 1888, and was, as the records show, the outgrowth of a local town-fight between some of the citizens of Callaway and J. Woods Smith. The publication of the *Courier* was presided over by George B. Mair, who bore the reputation of being one of the best editorial writers in the county. In 1910 Mr. Mair was elected clerk of the district court of the county and disposed of his interests in the *Courier*, which was later consolidated with the *Queen*.

While Callaway for a time supported three newspapers, it now has but one, which is owned and published by Professor W. A. Rosene, with J. C. Nailer as editor.

BERWYN

For a few months, in 1890-91, the village of Berkyn sported a newspaper, called the *Berwyn Times*. It was published by Dr. Nickerson, and died a natural death, after a short and not overly brilliant career.

SARGENT

The *Loup Valley Eagle* was the first publication to herald the rise and growth of the village of Sargent. It was established by E. P. Savage, owner of the townsite, and was edited by C. D. Kelly. The *Eagle* was succeeded by the *Sargent Times*, owned by F. M. Currie and edited by J. E. McCray. The paper was discontinued in 1894, and the material sold to *The Grip*, of Alliance. From that time until 1897, Sargent was without a newspaper. In the latter year J. C. L. Wisely started the *Commoner*, afterward changing the name of the paper to the *Sargent Era*. In 1900 C. S. Osborne established the *Sargent Leader*. In the course of a few months he sold it to Howard Savage, who shortly afterward sold it to A. H. Barks, who, after a short time disposed of the paper. It has changed ownership several

times in the past few years, but is being published at the present writing by Guy Livermore, a native son of the vicinity, and it is fairly prosperous.

WEST UNION

West Union for a number of years enjoyed the luxury of a newspaper, which was known as the *West Union Gazette*. Among the editors of this paper we recall Ham Kautzman, Jud Woods, and W. H. Predmore. The *Gazette* was suspended during the drouth period in the '90s and since that time West Union has been newspaperless.

In 1893 W. H. Predmore and E. M. Webb started the *Custer County Citizen*, which was run during the campaign, in opposition to some of the Populist candidates. After a few weeks Mr. Webb returned to his claim near Callaway, and Mr. Predmore continued the paper for some time. He then leased it to Mrs. Louise Raymond, who ran it for a short time, in connection with the job-printing business. Charles A. Cook succeeded Mrs. Raymond, and continued the paper for some months longer, when it was discontinued, in 1894. For a time Rev. George Bailey, pastor of the Presbyterian church from 1893 to 1899, published a church paper in connection with his work, as also did Rev. Mr. Epley, pastor of the United Brethren church. The *Populist*, a paper started in opposition to fusion, was published in Broken Bow from September 1, 1900, to February, 1901, by James Stockham and J. G. Painter.

COMSTOCK

One of the later villages established in Custer county has been favored with a newspaper since soon after its birth. The *Index* was published by Harold Cooley. This paper passed to the ownership of Elmer E. Wimmer, who continued to publish it until the month of July, 1918, when he was called from his labors by death. Mr. Wimmer was one of the honorable and worthy citizens of Custer county, of which he had been a resident for more than thirty years.

OCONTO

Oconto's newspaper career has been some-

what varied, but for several years it has maintained a good weekly paper, called the *Register*, which is now published by F. M. Bryner.

S. D. BUTCHER, HISTORIAN

Custer county owes to Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Butcher more than it can ever pay. They have been valuable pioneers. With incessant toil they gathered historical data for the last two score years, and they have assembled the large

of western history — a history that would treat generally the middle west and especially central Nebraska.

On June 1, 1886, he made the first picture for his book, and by 1892 he had made 1,500 pictures and had written that many biographies. The intention was to reproduce these old sod houses and dugouts with a short biographical sketch under each picture, making a picture album of early days in Custer county,



S. D. BUTCHER AND FAMILY

est aggregation of pictures of Custer county scenes and Custer county pioneers ever compiled, perhaps, by any county. This history of the county is deeply indebted to Mr. Butcher's collection, not only for illustrations but also for much of the historical data it contains. Names, dates, and events have been culled profusely from the Butcher compilation. These names and dates could have been obtained from no other source. Back in the early '80s Mr. Butcher began his work, with the intention, then, of becoming a publisher and an illustrator

on the largest scale that had ever been attempted by any county. The drouth period stopped the enterprise for several years. On the morning of March 12, 1899, a fire destroyed Mr. Butcher's home and its contents, including the biographical manuscript of the proposed history, thus making it impossible ever to replace the sketches of the early pioneers, as many had left the country. Fortunately the negatives were stored in boxes, in an out-building, and were saved. In a few weeks after the fire Mr. Butcher commenced

taking orders for his *Pioneer History of Custer County*, with short sketches of early days in Nebraska, and in eighteen months he had completed this work, of 400 pages. He sold one thousand books.

A STATE CONTRIBUTION

A June issue of the *Nebraska State Journal* in 1916 devotes an entire page to the historical pictures Mr. Butcher had contributed to the historical collection of Nebraska, and from the accompanying context the following is an excerpt:

"A picture gallery of Nebraska frontier life! The old sod houses, dugouts, log cabins, and shacks; the 'family gathering,'—the whole family as we knew it in the frontier days,—father, mother, the babies, the faithful old horses, the little bunch of cattle, the pigs, the poultry, and, not least, the family dog. The familiar farm and ranch operations in the old style—breaking prairie with a yoke of oxen, threshing the first wheat crop with the old horse-power machine, planting sod corn with a one-hand 'Punch' planter. The old frontier gatherings—the 'big feed' at the sod house when the friends from a dozen claims gathered to eat at a long table; where the children romped together, and the 'old folks' (who were generally young) looked out into the future and cheered each other with the prospects. The other neighborhood gatherings—the Sunday school picnic, the frontier wedding, the roundup on the cattle range, the circle hunt, the Farmers' Alliance, and that most tender and never-to-be-forgotten incident of frontier childhood—the 'last day' of district school.

"There are three thousand two hundred of these pictures in one collection. It is called the 'Butcher collection.' It is the work of Mr. and Mrs. Butcher, who settled in Custer county in 1882, and combined homesteading with photography for the next twenty years, traveling part of the time in a photographic wagon over the vast and thinly settled region of northwest Nebraska, taking pictures of the people and places just as they found them. A history of Custer county grew out of these travels and

these thousands of negatives, slowly accumulated through the years.

"The legislature of 1913 appropriated \$600 for the purchase of the Butcher collection for the Nebraska legislative reference bureau and the Nebraska history work of the state university. During the past winter the collection has been carefully gone over, with the assistance of Mr. Butcher, classified, catalogued, and prints made from a large part of the negatives.

"These pictures tell the story of life in western Nebraska thirty years ago more effectively than any other descriptive matter. The almost infinite variety of sod-house architecture and farm-yard arrangement is in them set forth. The clothing, the furniture, the hopes, the purposes, of these pioneers are eloquently told in the family groups and neighborhood gatherings. The way in which the Nebraska frontier built its houses, planted its crops, dug its wells, gathered its harvest, went to school, received religion, played its games, and gathered for social and civic purposes, finds expression in these negatives, where the sunlight and silver nitrate have fixed for all future time the shadows of the people and the events whose originals are fast fading from sight and memory.

"What would not the American world give to-day for such a collection of New England life from the year 1620? What would not some of the older people of to-day give for the pioneer pictures of New York, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin? Long before the end of the present century this collection will be held beyond price and its material used over and over in publications upon western art, literature, and history.

"Most of the negatives are six by eight inches in size, taken with an old-fashioned camera which looked like a six-pounder brass cannon, and required special genius and pains to secure results. Their preservation through all the vicissitudes of frontier life, fires, washouts, movings, cyclones, seems providential.

"Mrs. Butcher, to whose faithful services as a frontier wife, mother, and photographic helper, is due a large part of the honor for preservation of this collection, passed away

December 29, 1915. Her husband, after some years of absence, is once more back in Custer county, in the field of local history."

Aside from photography, Mr. Butcher has been a prolific writer of descriptive articles. On a few very rare occasions the poetical streak in his nature has broken out and got beyond control. One such an occasion was when, after proving up on his homestead, he left his old shanty by addressing to it the following sentiment:

FAREWELL, HOMESTEAD SHANTY

(By S. D. Butcher)

Farewell to the homestead shanty;

I have my final proof;

The cattle will hook down the walls,

And someone will haul off the roof.

Farewell to my sheet-iron stove

That stands in the corner, all cold;

The good things all baked in the oven

In language can never be told.

Farewell to the crackerbox cupboard,

With gunny-sack hung for a door;

Farewell to my store of good things

That I shall never want any more.

Farewell to the little pine bedstead,

'Tis on thee I slumbered and slept;

Farewell to the dreams that I dreamt,

While the fleas all over me crept.

Farewell to the down-holstered chair,

With the bottom sagg'd down to the ground;

Farewell to the socks, shirts and breeches

That fill it again to the round.

Farewell to the nice little table,

Under which I have oft put my feet,

Then chose from the bounty of good things

The substantial things to eat.

Farewell to the sour dough pancakes

That none but myself could endure;

If they did not taste good to a stranger

They were sure the dyspepsia to cure.

Farewell to the tea and the crackers;

Farewell to the water and soap;

Farewell to the sorghum and buckwheat;

Farewell to the lallacadope.

ELMER E. DOWSE

Elmer E. Dowse was born in Custer county,

a genuine Custer county product, and lives near Comstock, this county, at the present day. This prose article, written by Mr. Dowse, was read at one of the old settlers' picnics several years ago and was awarded a prize for merit and historical value:

A PICTURE OF EARLY DAYS

"Imagine yourself standing with me, about the middle of July, on one of the bluffs which commands a view for several miles up and down the Middle Loup valley. There is presented to us a panorama of singular and varied beauty. Dark green fields of corn alternate with fields of rapidly ripening wheat and oats. The Middle Loup, winding like a serpent up the valley, until finally hidden by a bend in the hills, its banks lined with willows in a manner so truly artistic as to challenge the possibility of reproduction, and dotted here and there with exquisite little islands, completes an unsurpassable picture of peace and beauty.

"Let us close our eyes and drift backward over a space of time covering thirty-three years. We open our eyes and — O wondrous change! Where are those prosperous farm dwellings, those magnificent fields and that little village resting at the foot of a bluff several miles up the river? The stream flows on with the same majesty, the grandeur of the valley is undiminished, but now all we see is a long, level sea of waving grass. Here and there herds of deer and antelope are feeding and several miles to the north a long line of elk wind their way to the stream of water. Apparently the wild animals and the Indians have full and free possession. But what is that we see at a distance of about two miles? The upward curling smoke which has attracted our attention, indicates that a human habitation is near. We conclude that it cannot be Indians, because of the absence of the typical tepee, although the willow poles scattered about in various places show that the tepee was much in evidence before the last prairie fire. A walk of forty minutes brings us to the place from which the smoke is emanating. It is the abode of Henry Snell, one of Custer county's first settlers, and merits a brief description. It is

simply a dugout close to the bank of a swamp, and is about nine feet long, three feet wide, and six feet deep. In one corner is a fireplace and in another a hole in the top of the roof serves as a door. Sumptuous wall decorations and gorgeous carpets are conspicuous only by their absence. The roof is on a level with the ground and all is well arranged to afford concealment from the Indians, who are known to be in large numbers a little farther northwest. Henry Snell, the lord of this castle, is a well proportioned man, six feet in height, with a pleasant, kindly countenance, and about thirty years of age. He has been a school-teacher and possesses intelligence and refinement to an unusual degree.

"The first white settler of Custer county was my father, L. R. Dowse. He came up to Douglas Grove in August of 1873, put up hay and selected a homestead. Returning to Loup City, he came back, bringing his wife and children. They occupied the dwelling place of Henry Snell, which I have just described, until my father, with Henry's help, had time to construct a house of cottonwood slabs. Soon Frank Ohme, B. D. Allen, W. H. Comstock, and others came up with their families, and Douglas Grove began to be a settlement of considerable size.

"At this time Custer county was truly a hunter's paradise. Elk, deer, and antelope could be found in abundance almost anywhere. Grandpa Wagner, one of the first to come to Douglas Grove, might well be called the 'Leather Stocking of the Middle Loup.' He was endowed with a magnificent physique, marvelous physical strength and endurance, a cool head, clear eye, and steady hands. Passionately fond of hunting and trapping, he found here abundant opportunities to exercise his skill. Many men have won fame and renown whose exploits did not equal his.

"During the first few years, when the ravages of the grasshoppers threatened to cause a famine in the little settlement, Grandpa's unerring rifle kept his own family and many other families in meat. Many long winter evenings I have sat for hours and listened to his tales, made doubly entrancing by his quaint, original

manner of relating them. When he was unable to bring his game home with him, the empty cartridge placed on the body of the carcasses served to keep away the hungry coyotes. But his stories of long tramps, of being caught in blinding blizzards, and battling home against wind and driving snow — these stories were told me when quite young and my recollection of most of them is rather indistinct. One simple little incident, however, which I remember with considerable distinctness, will serve as an illustration.

"It is an afternoon in February; the patches of bare ground visible in many places give promises of returning spring. Grandpa is sitting at the door of my father's house, which gives an excellent view of deer, led by an immense buck, coming down the eastern hills and toward the river. Waiting until the buck, which is a good distance ahead, has covered about half the distance to the river, he procures his long-barreled rifle and crosses the stream. When he reaches the other side, he perceives that in order to get within range he must keep to the north of the buck, on account of a slight wind which is blowing from the south. By taking advantage of a slight rise in the intervening ground and creeping a couple of hundred yards, then following a little draw southward for a short distance, he can come within easy rifle shot.

"Accustomed as he is to stalking deer, this is for him an easy task. The buck feeds quietly for the most part, waiting for the rest of the herd to come up, and pausing occasionally to raise his lofty antlers and sniff the air for evidences of possible enemy. In a half-hour Grandpa has gained the coveted position. As he raises himself slightly, to draw a careful bead, some intimation of danger seems to strike this king of the prairies, and, raising his noble head, with his sensitive nostrils quivering, he starts to bound away. There's a puff of smoke and a sharp report which seems only to increase the deer's momentum. It seems that for once the old hunter's steady hand has failed him. But the buck covers less than a hundred yards when he stumbles and falls. Another trophy has been added to Grandpa's long list.

"Another time he was not so successful, though through no fault of his. For some reason, instead of using his own trusty rifle, he borrowed a gun of a man named Ross and set out toward the head of a little creek commonly known as Spring creek. Coming up over a large bluff, he saw below him, and in easy range, twenty-four elk feeding on the tender grass near the edge of the creek. What must have been his chagrin when his gun refused to do its work! After snapping it repeatedly he was obliged to return empty-handed, leaving the elk stamping and snorting on the creek below.

"An Irishman living on Victoria creek should be mentioned in connection with hunting in the early days, on account of his unique method of pursuing the game. He had a large, gray horse which was somewhat of a runner and was accustomed to chase the elk in vain attempts to run them down. Once he chased a large herd up into the head of a canyon. Here the elk found it impossible to scale the steep sides and collected in a bunch, stamping and snorting. The Irishman, in great glee, thinking that now he would have the laugh on his neighbors, who had watched his former attempts with so much amusement, dismounted and began to take pot-shots at the elk. When he began his fusillade, the elk began again to make frantic attempts to scale the sides. At every shot it seemed that an elk rolled back. But when this son of Ireland thought that he must have most of them killed, those which had escaped his furious bombardment got together and, making a precipitate rush down the canyon, almost overturned him and his horse. When he went to see the extent of the carnage he had wrought, nothing but torn and beaten earth greeted his astonished gaze. His bullets had all flown wild and the elk which he had seen falling were merely submitting to the laws of gravitation and not to his marksmanship.

"In the summer of 1876 occurred the massacre of Custer and his little band, and a general condition of unrest prevailed among the Indians in Montana and the Black Hills. This state of affairs created much uneasiness among the settlers, because they knew that there was

nothing to prevent the warriors from swooping down the Middle Loup, if they should happen to get started in that direction. Indian massacres on the Republican also added to their alarm. As a means of providing against such a possibility, a company, known as the 'Custer County Rangers,' was formed and W. H. Comstock was elected captain. A fort about forty feet square was constructed of sod and logs. But these precautionary measures, although wise enough, were entirely unnecessary, as the Indians never came, and Douglas Grove was never seriously endangered by the red skins.

"One could write almost indefinitely upon the early incidents of this settlement alone. Many quaint and peculiar, as well as good and noble, characters of that time and place, have not been mentioned, but are worthy of a full description and history. But people of Custer county, as you view with pride your excellent educational facilities, the wonderful industrial development of the county, and the general peace and prosperity, remember that it is largely due to the daring and industry of pioneers such as I have mentioned. Let us pause occasionally in the scramble and rush to attend our daily duties and pleasure, to glance back to that period in Custer county's history when all was as it had been for hundreds of years and nothing was in abundance except that provided by the kindly hand of God and nature. Then let us regard with a greater degree of respect and admiration those noble men and women who, dedicating their lives to the county's welfare, in spite of perils and hardships, kept on with unwavering perseverance.

"As I let my thoughts turn backward

Through the misty haze of years,

Filled with joys and fraught with fears;
To those early days so hopeful,

As I think of the hopes and efforts

Of those pioneers so bold,

Of the deer and elk and Indians,

Of strange adventures never told;

Emotions strangely impressive

Come stealing over me,

And my tho'ts I cannot utter,
Nor can I pen such reverie."

MRS. M. B. A. MARTIN

Mrs. M. B. A. Martin was an old-time Custer resident who came to Broken Bow from Creston, Iowa. She was an intelligent, well educated lady, and after the death of her husband she devoted several years to teaching here in the county. She was a talented writer and possessed a keen imagination which readily lent itself to romance and poetry. The most notable of her rhymed productions was an Indian romance and tragedy woven about the "Broken Bow" for which the town is supposed to have been named. It is written in the metre and style of Longfellow's "Hiawatha." As a work of imagination, the story, plot, romance, and descriptions are more remarkable than the language.

THE BROKEN BOW

(By Mrs. M. B. A. Martin)

Slow the moon rose o'er the valley,
The valley of the Big Sioux river,
Shining down upon the wigwams;
They, the red men of the Sioux tribe,
They had camped to hold a council
With the chief of the Dakotas,
Known among them as War Eagle,
For the scalp hung from his girdle;
He had slain among the cañons,
To the southward, to the westward,
He had fought and butchered many;
But his brother, Navasota,
Had been slain among the cañons;
He fell fighting the Paducahs
For the fair lands of Nebraska.

Each tribe claimed the elk and bison,
Claimed the deer among the cedars,
That roamed among the tallest cedars,
Fed upon the grass that grew there.
The Paducahs gained the battle,
Drove the Sioux from off the valley,
Far beyond the Niobrara,
To the valley of the Big Sioux,
Where dwelt the tribe of the Dakotas,
Dwelt the Indian maid, Winneta,
The daughter of brave Navasota.
In the council Eagle Feather
Sat and smoked beside his father,
Sat and smoked the pipe among them,
Listened to the great War Eagle,

As he planned the coming marriage
Of the Indian maid, Winneta,
To his son, the Eagle Feather.

Was not her mother of the Sioux tribe
Rich in wealth of lands and ponies,
When the father of Winneta
Claimed her for his Indian bride?
And the union of the two tribes
Made them richer, made them stronger.
Now the union of Winneta
To my son, the Eagle Feather,
Will more united make the friendship
Of the Sioux and the Dakotas.

Then they called the Indian maiden,
Told her bid the Eagle Feather
To do some daring deed of prowess
To prove his great love for Winneta —
He shall do Winneta's bidding.
With her eyes downcast and thoughtful,
With her voice so clear and mournful,
Spoke she then to Eagle Feather:
"Go to the land of the Nebraskas,
Far beyond the Niobrara,
Where the Sioux and the Dakotas
Hunted, fished, and roamed the prairies,
The deep cañons far beyond them.

To the eastward flows the North Loup,
To the southward flows the South Loup,
Where the foes of my dead father
Dwell and hunt among the cañons,
Kill the buffalo by hundreds,
Kill the dark friends of Winneta,
Killed the brave chief, Navasota,
Will you go and bring a token
From the spot where sleeps my father?
Bring his bow and bring his quiver,
Bring his quiver full of arrows,
That the Paducahs may not use them
To slay more friends of poor Winneta;
Ere another moon grows darkened
You may return and wed Winneta."

Then arose the Eagle Feather,
Cast his eyes upon the maiden,
"I will go and do your bidding."
Seized his tomahawk and scalp-knife,
Fastened them into his girdle,
Fastened then his bow and quiver,
A new quiver full of arrows.
Strode he out into the moonlight,
Mid the war whoop of the red men,
Walked away adown the valley,
Walked he on until the sunrise
Found him hurrying southward, westward,
To the Niobrara valley.

Stopped at night beneath the cedars,
Made a fire of withered branches,
Slept beside the campfire soundly,
Slept until the wild birds called him,

Called him to pursue his journey
 By their sweet songs in the morning,
 Welcoming the pleasant sunrise.
 Southward, westward, Eagle Feather
 Hurried on to do the bidding
 Of the dark-eyed Indian maiden.
 For five days the Eagle Feather
 Journeyed on toward the South Loup,
 Slept at night beside the streamlet;
 Tired, weary, on the last night
 Made his fire beside the Muddy;
 Laid him down to rest and slumber,
 Heeding not the howling coyote
 Warning him of coming danger,
 Warning him his foes were near him;
 Slept and dreamed of home and kindred.

Dreamed he saw the dark-eyed maiden
 Coming down the path to meet him,
 Coming down to greet her lover,
 To receive the bow and quiver;
 Dreamed he on till almost sunrise.
 When the war whoop echoed wildly
 Through the cañons on the prairies,
 Echoed up and down the Muddy.
 Waked he then among their yelling,
 For his foes had found him sleeping.
 Then they scalped the Eagle Feather,
 For they numbered near a hundred;
 Forced him then to tell his errand.
 Then they took his bow and quiver,
 Took his bow and broke it rudely,
 Threw it down to warn the Sioux tribe
 That they'd slain their Eagle Feather.

Then they took their suffering prisoner
 With them far beyond the South Loup,
 Let him die and soon forgot him.
 Many moons grew bright and darkened,
 Yet the Eagle Feather came not,
 Never came to claim his promise,
 Never more returned to meet her.
 "He must be dead," she murmured lowly,
 "Or he would come to poor Winneta.
 Farewell, Eagle Feather, farewell,
 Your Winneta's heart is breaking.
 Breaking for her Indian lover.
 I will go away in sadness
 To the wigwam of my mother,
 Lay me down, and sleep the death sleep.

"In the spirit land I'll meet him,
 Meet him and my brave old father;
 In the hunting grounds of the red men,
 Happy land of the Great Spirit,
 Will commune with Eagle Feather
 In the land beyond the sunset."
 Years have passed and left the traces

Of the Sioux and the Dakotas,
 Westward they have journeyed farther,
 And their tribes are growing smaller,
 Their hunting grounds are now rich corn-fields
 For the white man's plow and reaper;
 And their cabins dot the prairie,
 And they cut away the cedars,
 Frighten all the elk and bison
 From Nebraska's fair prairies.

Years swept by, the pale-faced settlers
 On the prairies of Nebraska,
 On the swiftly flowing South Loup,
 Built their cabins on the North Loup,
 Hunted on the Niobrara.
 Built their cabins on the Muddy.
 Near the place where Eagle Feather,
 The young chief of the Dakotas,
 Met his fate by the Paducahs,
 Came the pale-face, walking slowly,
 Thinking of the growing city
 They were building on the Muddy,
 For many men had come together,
 Brought their wives and children with them,
 To populate fair Custer county.

And the people of the Muddy
 Now must name this fair young city.
 For a new name searched they often,
 Oft rejected, half discouraged,
 While out walking on the Muddy
 Came he where the bow lay broken;
 Pondered he of how it came there,
 All alone beside the Muddy.
 Pondered he, this pale-faced Hewitt,
 As he homeward walked more quickly,
 "I have found a bow that's broken."
 Said he to his fair wife waiting,
 "An Indian bow that has been broken
 And left beside the Muddy river.
 Let us name our city for it,

Name our city Broken Bow:
 Sent the name, it was accepted.
 Never was a name just like it,
 Never one half so romantic.
 Full of wonder came each stranger.
 "Such a strange name for a city,"
 Said each stranger when they heard it.
 Broken Bow, in Custer county,
 Built beside the Muddy river,
 Near beside those wondrous cañons
 Where the Indian tribes had waged war,
 Where the coyote warned the red chief,
 While he dreamed of dark Winneta;
 Where he suffered death by torture,
 Left to us his Broken Bow.

A. J. McARTHUR, M. D.

A. J. McArthur was born in Hocking county, Ohio, May 6, 1862. He was educated in the public schools of Ohio, in the high school at Maryville, Missouri, and in the Northwestern Normal at Stanberry, Missouri. He graduated from the Missouri Medical College, St. Louis, Missouri, in March, 1891. He located first at Maryville, but moved later to Westerville, Nebraska. He practiced there and at Weissert for many years—till bad health forced him to discontinue.

Dr. McArthur came to Broken Bow in August, 1916, in order to put his children in the high school. Aside from the practice of medicine, he has given considerable attention to literature, and he has been a contributor to eastern magazines. A few years ago he was party to a joint debate with a Catholic priest, in the columns of the *World-Herald*, which attracted state wide attention. For the last few years he has been a regular contributor to the *Truth Seeker*, of New York.

When the war first began there appeared in that publication a series of articles of unusual literary ability, signed "George Sibel." They were powerfully pro-German, but so skillfully prepared that their object was not at once apparent. As soon as the United States had declared war Dr. McArthur wrote an article for the *Truth Seeker* calling attention to the character of these articles. This brought a reply, and he finally charged Mr. Sibel openly with not being a loyal citizen, reviewed the articles as they appeared, and quoted his previous work to such purpose, that the articles soon ceased to appear.

The Doctor's Custer county prize article follows:

PRIZE ARTICLE

During the early part of 1906 the *Custer County Chief* offered a prize for the best Custer county article in which the advantages and resources of the county should be exploited. F. M. Currie, Alpha Morgan, and George Mair were selected as awarding judges, and by their decision the following article, written by Dr. A. J. McArthur, was given first place.

CUSTER COUNTY

"J. Proctor Knott once humorously stated that the city of Duluth is exactly in the center of the universe, and for proof adduced the fact that the horizon came down to meet the earth at exactly the same distance, in all directions. This is equally true of Custer county, but it is further true that Custer county is the center of the most central state in the Union, which, in its turn, is the most central country in the first continent on the globe. To the unsophisticated eastern tenderfoot, who, in a lifetime, never ventures beyond the purlieus of his township, central Nebraska is only a barren, windy waste, scorned by the flocks of cranes and geese as they hasten over, and peopled only by rattlesnakes and skulking coyotes.

"'Happy is the country that has no history,' for it means peace and prosperity. What a sight it would be to one of these men, who every morning of his life has taken his little basket and gone out to feed his dozen shoats, if he could visit an average Custer county farm, to see the farmer hitch a stout team to a big wagon, scoop in fifty bushels of corn and drive into the feed yard with the morning rations of a quarter-acre of hogs. Then to realize that this is only the commencement of the morning chores—that there are more hogs and perhaps hundreds of cattle still to be fed. When he looks at the alfalfa meadow, dotted with scores of stacks, looking in the distance like the tented bivouac of an army, he will remember how, for years, he has carefully fed old Dobbin a little timothy sprinkled with water to guard against the heaves, and pitied 'those who dwelt in desert places.'

"The name of Custer county and the name of her metropolis, Broken Bow, conjure visions of clashing interest and border strife, but the strife has long since ceased. The Indian, in token of defeat, has cast down his broken bow and passed on to the west, and where once roamed the majestic herds of buffalo are now found the matchless herds of fine cattle.

"We have often wondered if the residents of Custer county ever think upon her stupendous possibilities or speculate upon her future. We have an empire within our borders. Custer

county contains more than one and one-half millions acres of land. Larger than some of the states, larger than some of the monarchies of antiquity, the history of whose people and their deeds of valor is now taught in our public schools. Indefinitely larger, if measured by the lavish ensemblage of natural resources of this, 'The Great American Desert.'

"Many farmers can remember with what misgivings they first ventured into Custer county, twenty-five years ago! Timidly, tentatively, looking back, but dreading the derision that awaited them there, they found the Eldorado of their dreams: soil which, 'tickled with a hoe, laughed with a bounteous harvest,' and which, after a quarter of a century of cultivation, is the same soil still. Expecting to find man wandering, insane from thirst, they found a water course every ten miles, a climate that gave new life and strength, cool nights that snatched the languor from the most wearied limbs, and — and fleas. Some turned back, of course. Nature would furnish the grist, but Nature would not grind it, so they went back to their wives' folks to gather hickory-nuts and persimmons.

"And now Custer county is about to realize her hopes, to stand free from the calumny of her traducers. When it takes half a train to haul a man's stock to market, he is past the place where you can argue with him about his prosperity or raise the ghost of his long-forgotten doubts as to his country. Long misunderstood and reviled, farmers are coming to understand that Custer county is mighty, but benign, if her moods and peculiarities are respected. She has shown her contempt for long-haired prophets and rain-makers, and has settled down to certain crops, equal to any produced in the Mississippi valley.

"The great activity in real estate and the rapid advance in value of land, shows that farmers are beginning to appreciate the country, but Custer county land is still ridiculously cheap. Eastern men who come here are made suspicious by the mean prices that farmers put on their land. We simply have not the nerve or the sense to ask for it what it is worth. Real-estate men are growing rich buying from the unwary and in a few days selling again, often

for nearly double the purchase price. Think how rapidly the country is developing, all because of a better understanding of the climate and soil. Only a few years ago it was commonly believed that winter wheat could not be grown here. Now it is a staple crop and the yield equal to that of the northern wheat belt. How long since every farmer believed that the native grass was the only forage or pasture that would grow here? Now there are numbers of grasses that only need a start to thrive here and outyield the native grass five to one. In annual grasses we have never in any other country seen such profusion of varieties or such rank growth.

"A few years ago farmers were raising little patches of alfalfa in their gardens, indifferent, without confidence, saving a little seed to sow the next year. Now it is the staff of the country, ranking right with corn in all around utility. The yield of alfalfa is almost past belief. One acre will feed twenty hogs through the entire summer, and it defies the frost till late in the fall. If mowed and carefully saved, an acre of alfalfa will make from eight to twelve tons of hay. Brome grass is proving itself to be a close second, with the added advantage that it may be pastured at any time with impunity.

"With the coming of these things is come the honey bee. With ordinary care bees increase very rapidly and produce honey in plenty, and of fine quality. They care nothing for wire fences and will garner from your neighbor's fields as well as from your own — and will go a long way to do it. In a short time this country will outclass all others in bee culture, and the production of honey.

"Nearly all kinds of fruits are now grown here, not only 'successfully,' but with profit. A 'lick and a promise' will not grow corn, nor will it grow fruit trees. Neither do fruit trees, especially when young, make good pastures for cows. But the right varieties, properly planted and properly cared for, will produce fruit of any kind. Who thought of strawberries some years ago? Now farmers raise them by the bushel.

"The whole secret, in Custer county, is in

knowing the climate and soil, and a reasonable care of the crop. It would not be fair to omit the most important crop of all—the babies. For no other crop is the soil so productive. Families of ten or a dozen are found on every section, and upon no other crop does the future greatness of this county so much depend.

“Nothing else so completes a man’s satisfaction with Custer county, as a visit to the home of his boyhood. There will come the homesickness—the longing to go back—‘back to Grigsby’s Station, back where we used to be so happy and so pore.’ He will go and come again, entirely disillusioned of the sylvan and elysian memories that he has cherished, and wondering how people there manage to make a living. They don’t. The New England states are dotted with hundreds of deserted farms, so worthless and so numerous that they are becoming a huge problem to be solved by the people of these states.

“Great as Custer county has come to be, she is still in the early morning of her life, a toddling infant just quitting the threshold of her nursery for a life of strenuous endeavor and great achievement. With the accumulated wealth of ages in her soil, a matchless climate, skies as blue as Italy’s, stars as bright as any that ever looked down upon ancient Egypt, peopled by men and women whose restless energy would not brook the sterile parsimony of other lands, she is like the block of fine marble that only awaits the hand of the sculptor to release the angel imprisoned within.”

GEORGE B. MAIR

George B. Mair, descriptive writer, editor, and poet, deserves a prominent place in the literary annals of this western county. He was a resident of long years in the Callaway district, where he made a newspaper record that might well be envied by most any quill pusher. A few years ago he was elected clerk of the district court, and from that time he made his home in the county seat until the fall of 1917, when he removed with his family to Oakland, California, where he now resides.

In his irrational moments George indulged

in poetry, and the following song of the river is a rare contribution to Custer literature.

THE SOUTH LOUP RIVER

[By George B. Mair]

In the heart of Niobrara,
Rushing onward like an arrow
Speeding from the bow,
Flows the laughing South Loup river,
While its rippling waters ever
Murmur soft and low.

How I love to sit and ponder
On its bank, just over yonder,
When the setting sun
Throws a sort of dreamy sadness
O’er the stream which danced with gladness,
Ere the day was done.

Then to me it tells the story
Of a long departed glory,
In the days gone by;
Of the valley flower-scented,
Where the painted savage tented
‘Neath the autumn sky;

Of the dusky Indian maiden,
And her lover, coming laden
Homeward from the chase,
Laying at her feet his treasure
While her smile reflects the pleasure
Beaming in her face.

Far adown the sloping valley
I can see the warriors rally,
And the council fire,
Where the wise men of the nation
Meet in solemn consultation,
While the squaws retire.

Then the war whoop of the savage,
As he sallies forth to ravage
The village of his foe;
Followed by the noise of battle
And the ever-changing rattle
Of the twanging bow.

Then I see the braves returning;
And the ruddy camp-fire burning
By the river side,
Lights their wild and savage dancing,
As it flickers in the glancing
Waters of the tide.

Then again the ceaseless chatter
Of the dancing, eddying water,
Ever faint and low,
Strikes my fancy like the rushing,
Rumbling war-tread of the crushing
Herds of buffalo.

And I see their dark brown masses,
 Surging through the canyon passes,
 As I almost dream;
 When they rush with noisy clatter,
 Deep into the cooling water
 Of the grateful stream.

And a thousand fancies hover
 'Round the hazy hills, and over
 Every landscape scene,
 And the laughing South Loup river,
 Floweth on and on forever
 Thro' its valleys green.

But I wake from out my dreaming,
 And I find the waters gleaming,
 Ever, as of yore;
 But the council fire has vanished.
 And the savage has been banished
 Hence, forever more.

And the dusky Indian maiden
 From the banks with flowers laden,
 Long ago has gone,
 And upon the far horizon
 I no longer see the bison
 Coming swiftly on.

Gone the wigwams and the dances
 And the olden time romances
 Of the hunting grounds,
 Where the white man's lowing cattle
 And the harvester's fierce rattle
 Make discordant sounds.

Fields of waving corn are growing,
 And the south-land breeze is blowing
 O'er wheat fields of gold;
 But the laughing South Loup river
 Floweth on and on forever
 As it did of old.

HARRY B. ISZARD

Harry B. Iszard is entitled to be styled one of the literary persons of Custer county. He has been a resident of the county for the last fourteen years and during that time has been a very prolific writer. The story and news pages of the *Custer County Chief* attest the versatility of his pencil and the fascination of his style.

Mr. Iszard began as a newspaper man on the *Leadville Democrat-Herald*, under the tutorage of the locally famous "Cad" Davis. Later he worked on the Denver papers, where his writings attracted both notice and comment throughout the mountain state. His Denver

work was responsible for a staff position on one of the Omaha papers, where he did two or three years' work. Aside from newspaper work he has been a contributor to magazines, and in the field of short stories has distinguished himself to the extent of putting a Custer county name into the list of literary producers. From his desk in the *Chief* office the local county stories come forth with a pungent flavor that makes them remarkably readable. Harry, as he is familiarly called by his friends, has the faculty of infusing into an otherwise dry article a rich vein of subtle humor. He tells his story differently and contrasts his style in such a way that both are called unique.

A year or so ago he ran in the *Chief* a series of attractive articles which he styled "Tabulated Knocks" and which attracted the attention of state writers and newspaper men.

TABULATED KNOCKS

In the articles entitled "Tabulated Knocks" he introduces the different members of the "Hammer-Fan Family." Each member of the family figures, in his or her respective comic role, to the hilarity and delight of the reader.

Below is given Mr. Iszard's introduction of "Miss Hammer-Fan," who, with "Bosom Friend," puts in an hour at the picture-show.

Scene: Either of the picture theatres. Time: Any old night between eight and ten o'clock. (Miss Hammer-Fan and Bosom Friend approach the box-office window.)

Miss H. F. (frantically pawing her purse for small coins) — "Wait a minute, Beulah, this is my treat—that is, it will be if I can ever find those two dimes. (Still pawing.) What on earth has become of them? Oh, here they are under this sample of silk. (Produces two dimes and pushes them in at the window. The two girls enter the theatre and block up the aisle while surveying the house.) We've missed the first of this reel and our regular seats are occupied, as usual. It would be an act of common courtesy for them to keep our seats all the time, considering the amount of money we spend in the house every week."

Bosom Friend (indicating seats) — "Let's sit here and maybe we can keep on our hats. (As they seat themselves there is a sharp canine yelp and the bosom friend screams.) Mercy! What was that?"

Miss H. F. (wearily) — "You've only

kicked a dog, that's all. They come in here and chase themselves all over the place. It's a wonder the house wouldn't furnish pillows for them to sleep on. (Two school boys enter, drop into seats back of them and commence making comments.) Now we'll have some music."

First boy (in a stage whisper) — "Lamp the head dresses in front, ain't they giddy?"

Second boy (in a squeaky voice) — "Hats off, please."

Miss H. F. (turning half around) — "Mind your own business, you little animals." (Both boys giggle.)

First boy (solemnly) — "What kind of an animal are you, Chink?"

Second boy — "I'm a cat, I am; meow, phist!"

First boy — "Do cats wear hats?"

Bosom Friend (resignedly) — "Oh, we might as well; they'll give us no peace until we do." (Takes her hat off.)

Miss H. F. (viciously) — "I hate to humor the little beasts. (Also removes her hat.) Now you two shut up or I'll have you fired." (Boys giggle and subside.)

Bosom Friend — "What's the name of this reel?"

Miss H. F. — "Dunno, but I'm sure I saw it in Omaha three months ago. We never get anything until late here. Honest to goodness, they ran some stuff this month that I saw in Chicago nearly two years ago. Oh, there's the name: 'The Pink Puppy.' Yep, it's the same thing I saw in Omaha."

Bosom Friend — "That isn't 'Pink Puppy,' it's 'Pink Poppy.'"

Miss H. F. — "Well, it's wrong, anyway; poppies are red, at least so I have always understood. Now watch this hateful old thing what he is doing. He's jealous of the young hotel clerk and in order to put him in bad with the plumber's daughter, he steals an artificial flower from — Bingo! To be sure, the film would have to part just at the critical moment. Now we can sit back and twiddle our thumbs for five or ten minutes while they are gluing it together. That's the trouble up here, everything is so ancient that it drops to pieces almost before they can get it on the machine. Say, kid, you should have seen the 'Tango Tangle'; they had it in Grand Island last week. Kerry Worrigan does the leading part and he's just the sweetest thing —"

Bosom Friend (disdainfully) — "Kerry Worrigan isn't in the same class at all with Marsh Cocopello."

Miss H. F. (with careful sarcasm) — "If he was he would sure be a 'dead one.'"

Bosom Friend (with heat) — "Worrigan is a joke."

Miss H. F. (putting on more pressure) — "And Cocopello is an 'also ran.'"

Bosom Friend (with a sniff) — "Looks like it when the University people have been on their knees for years begging him to come over to them."

Miss H. F. — "Nothing doing. The Linseed outfit would have dropped him long ago if he hadn't been tied to them by an iron-clad contract. (Spitefully) I wish I hadn't paid your way in here."

Bosom Friend (calmly) — "You didn't. That dime was coming to me; it's one you borrowed two weeks ago."

First boy (from behind) — "Sic 'em, Bowser."

Second boy — "I'll bet on the 'catty' one."

Second boy (quoting at random) — "'Tis the friend of my childhood's days."

Miss H. F. (as the photoplay is resumed) — "They've got it fixed — and it's about time. Maybe the chorus back of us will now take a rest. See those two big rummys down there with their heads together. Wonder how they expect us to see anything? Must think we belong to the X-ray family. Look, here is where the hotel clerk pushes him off of the cliff into the water. Zowie, what a splash. I'll bet those people who do the water stunts have colds in their heads all the time. I met a moving picture actor in Denver last year and he told me that the managers made them do all sorts of horrible things and some of the men in his company almost drank themselves to death, in order to keep up their courage. One actor had a bottle of booze behind a rock and when he went to get a drink there was a rattlesnake coiled up. The poor fellow thought he was seeing things and ran screeching to camp and they had to put him in a hospital. (Suddenly stops and sniffs the air.) I smell somebody's feet. (A young man sitting next to the girls turns a painful red and tries to push himself through the wall.) Don't you, Beulah?"

First boy (nudging his friend) — "Put on your shoes, Chink, you're attracting the attention of the nobility. Gee, it's fortunate I took my annual bath this morning."

Second boy — "After this I'm going to carry a piece of cashmere-bouquet soap in my pocket."

Miss H. F. (getting up) — "Oh, come on, let's go to the other side. I'm going to speak to my father and see if this sort of thing can't be stopped." (Both start for the other side of the house.)

First boy (cheerfully) — "Come again, girls; you're always welcome to our little city."

MRS. G. W. DEWEY

Mrs. G. W. Dewey, who with her husband resides in the fertile valley of the Middle Loup, near Gates, is one of Custer county's literary women. Both she and her husband have been pioneers and actively identified with the growth and development of the county.

Mrs. Dewey has been one of the prominent teachers of the county, and probably her teaching extends over a longer period than that of any other person now teaching in Custer county. Public-spirited, she has been in the fore and front of all educational movements and has always been a welcome and interesting contributor to all public-school programs. So prominent has been her participation in county school affairs that her services are still secured for county institutes, summer schools, and educational conventions held in the county.

Her rich imagination, combined with the genius of expression, has enabled her to produce several poems which have received favorable notice and some of which are entitled to be enrolled as classics. Special reference is made to her poem entitled "The Blizzard," which is not only vividly descriptive but also presents a style dramatically weird and fascinating.

THE BLIZZARD

(By Mrs. G. W. Dewey)

There's a threatening calm, and a lowering mist
On the northwest hills, and a thrill of fear
Is running through earth and air and kine,
For the chase of the Great White Bison is near!

No longer the bison shaggy and dark,
Moves like a cloud from mountain to lea,
Gone like his wild bronze master of old,
And only their phantoms we hear and see.

Here they come with thunder of hoofs!
A wild Valkyrie, zenith high,
Their ghostly forms go billowing past,
For the Great White Bison Chase is nigh!

Pressed in the rear by the Arctic wolves
Of the cruel North Wind, past they go,

Stopping for nothing, human or beast,
Bison and wolves are white as snow.

All day they press with flight and moan,
And the settler cowers by his scanty fire,
Or helpless thinks of those in their track,
Or his cowering stock in their wind-lashed byre.

Night falls pallidly, lit by their flight,
Thousands they press and trample by;
Man and beast have surrendered the path,
And the wild White Bison rules earth and sky.

All night long in mad stampede,
Morning dawns and the herd is past,
Feeding in peace in some sky-known mead,
Ghostly fugitives safe at last!

But woe to the living thing that fared
Across its path when flight was on;
For the silence of death broods stark and grim
On the hills where the wild, white chase has gone.

COURT HOUSE CORNER STONE

In 1912, when the corner-stone of the present Custer county court house was laid, by a public ceremony held on the court-house lawn, Mrs. Dewey contributed the following poem to the program. The poem is descriptive of the building, the county, and the occasion, and brings into the rhyme and lines every precinct in the county.

CORNER-STONE POEM

(By Mrs. G. W. Dewey)

When Israel's king beneath the orient skies,
Prepared to build a temple to his God,
To Zion's height they brought abundant store
Of costly stones; the Mediterranean's flood
Bore from the land of Hiram, cedars tall
Of Lebanon, and fir on many floats.

"So they prepared timber and stones, the house

Of God to build." The old recorder notes,
Grandly it rose on Mount Moriah's height,
A stately pile without, of costly stone;
Fragrant with cedar carved and o'erlaid with gold,

Within altar and Cherubim in beauty shone,
Yet not in beauty did that temple old
Excel the ancient shrines of Pagan skill,
But in the great truth it shone, avowed,
One God, Jehovah! Israel's message still.
Unity of mankind, oneness of God!

Proclaimed that ancient shrine to every land;

And thus began the upward trend to light,
 Peace, progress, liberty, on every hand.
 To-day we lay upon the blackened site
 Of what was once our pride and honest boast,
 Foundation of the new, that shall proclaim
 Once more our oneness and the gathered host
 From Hayes' to Elk Creek, Sargent clear to
 Wayne!

Repeat in unison we meet again
 Foundation here to lay of this our house
 Of civic progress, justice, liberty.
 United stands our empire, that this house
 In size and beauty shall show fittingly.
 In wealth and standing, Custer, gracious queen
 Of mid-state counties; may no ruthless hand
 Dissect one member from thy body fair,
 But whole in strength and oneness may we
 stand.

Zoned by the silver Loups in triple flood,
 Seamed by green canyons, dark with ash and
 plum,

Thy tables lay in wide unbroken sweep,
 Thy busy towns with vim and progress hum.
 West Union, Lillian, and Victoria hold
 Upon the north our farthest border line;
 Grant, Loup, Elk Creek, Wood River, Wayne
 Upon our south in constellation shine.
 Hayes, Arnold, Elim, mark our farthest west,
 Douglas Grove, Myrtle, and fair Algernon
 As eastward rolls the planet are the first
 To greet the golden arrows of the sun.
 Cliff, Kilfoil, Triumph, Custer, Broken Bow,
 Lillian, and Garfield, smiling Westerville,
 Delight and Custer, Ansley and Berwyn, too.
 The glorious roll call of our precincts fill.
 And as our fathers on this natal day
 Proclaimed their purpose and confederacy,
 And the foundation laid of unity;
 So in like hope and loyalty may we.
 Long may this edifice, whose corner-stone
 We lay, stand record to our hopes and aim.
 Temple of justice, pride of our commonwealth,
 Unbroken be our boundaries and fame.

A CUSTER COUNTY POET

Tom H. Burlin, or Tommy Burlin, as he was known to the people of Merna, where he spent the last days of his life, was a real Custer county poet. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bradford Burlin. Unfortunately some disease that rendered him helpless fastened itself upon him in early life, so that for years he was not only confined to his room but to his bed as well. Thus he lay, year after year, with ossification of his joints slowly creeping on, so that he had but little use of his limbs.

Without complaint or murmur, he lay upon his couch and communed with the Muses. He was the author of several very popular songs, which received merited recognition and wide sale.

Perhaps the most popular of his songs was the "Little Bohemian Girl," which was published by a St. Louis house and had a very popular run. We also reproduce here a poem written by "Tommy," descriptive of early days in Custer county, which was produced for a special occasion and made a decided hit when read at the old settlers' picnic, at which it was the feature of the program.

LITTLE BOHEMIAN GIRL

Far beyond the deep, blue Danube
 And the castles by the Rhine,
 O'er the snow-clad German mountains,
 Lives that little girl of mine.
 Like its gleam on golden Ophir
 Falls the sunbeam on her hair,
 And her face, like the Madonna,
 Is as pure as it is fair.

CHORUS

Little Bohemian Girl,
 Fair and as bright as a pearl;
 My hope ever lies
 In your smile and your eyes;
 Dear little, sweet little girl,
 Little Bohemian Girl.

From the plains of fair Nebraska,
 In the new land of the west;
 Soon my heart will send its message
 To the one I love the best.
 She will brave the storms of ocean,
 Cross the Danube and the Rhine,
 And will traverse plain and mountain,
 For her heart is bound with mine.

EARLY DAYS IN CUSTER

(Written by Tom H. Burlin, Merna, Nebraska, and read by Mrs. G. O. Joyner at the old settlers' picnic at Broken Bow, August 5, 1903)

Bright shines the sun on Custer's hills,
 Or softly falls the gloaming,
 Where once by all its living rills
 The buffalo herds were roaming.

Still glows the moon, her calcium light
 Falls now on field and meadow;
 The myriad stars are shining bright
 Beside the Queen of Shadow.

But where are all the buffalo now
And where the Texas cattle?
Where fields of grain abundant grow,
Rode cowboys in the saddle.

When ranchers curbed in wild career
Their mustangs' wild vagaries,
And grazed their herds, both far and near
Across the broad prairies.

How changed the face of nature seems,
By field and fences broken;
Almost as if it were in dreams
We hear the old names spoken.

How strange, if now the Seven Bar
Ranged twenty-thousand cattle!
Or Robert Olive's rising star
Waned in a rustler battle!

Or that his blood had been avenged,
The rustlers hanged and burning,
By chance the public mind was changed,
And to the thieves was turning.

Unscared, the elk no longer dwells
Where once he loved to wander
Through brakes and braes and sunny dells;
Its home is here no longer.

No more the deer ungalled lies
The shade of plum brush under.
The antelope no longer flies
Before the mounted hunter.

The canyons deep and silent lie,
But sad indeed their story.
No more the cedars pierce the sky,
That lent them all their glory.

No more the elm tree's spreading shade
Makes glad the weary toiler,
The keen axe at its root has laid,
It fell before the spoiler.

The romance of the former years —
A saddened vein comes o'er us,
And oft as through a mist of tears
The old scenes rise before us.
The spirit of adventure, then,
Spurred all to grand endeavor;
Recurring, thrills our hearts again,
Its memory lasts forever.

SOL. J. COOK

The following poem was written, in Merna, some time in the year 1903, by Sol. J. Cook, who was probably an intimate friend of Tommy Burlin's. No one seems to remember the writer, but his work possesses merit, and we submit it because this especial verse was dedi-

cated to his friend, the late Tommy Burlin, of Merna.

THE POET

(By Sol. J. Cook)

Remote from mercenary throngs,
In childlike faith and love absorb'd,
A spirit wash'd of social wrongs,
And eyes profound with wonder orb'd,

The poet kneels; — his holy shrine,
A Universe. What magic strains
His reverent touch with divine
Skill wakes, descends as summer rains,

On souls that wilt in the world's heat,
Awakening the tender bloom
Of sentiment — that flower sweet,
Which brightens life's else cheerless gloom.

Child of the seeing eye, and hand,
Immers'd in seas of harmonies.
Immensity thy cradle grand,
Thy limits the eternities.

Close-clinging to dear Nature's breast,
Whose lullaby soothes thy repose;
What dreams fold thine enchanted rest?
What mysteries to thee disclose?

Hark! what diffus'd delight doth thrall
Responsive souls! The poet-child,
Midst his sweet dreams, again lets fall
A jewel'd note undefiled,

Of sparkle rare, revealing 'gain
Some hidden mine of Nature's realm,—
A gem for man's eternal gain
Wrought to enrich Love's diadem.

Aye! The world richer grows, when sings
The bard; and tamer grows the beast,
As from his lyre music springs,
All things assume a golden cast.

MRS. MARTHA A. HUNTER

The Blue Book of Nebraska women, edited and compiled by Winona Evans Reeves in 1916, contained the following biographical sketch of Mrs. Martha A. Hunter:

"Martha Angeline Beck Hunter was born on a farm near Walshville, Illinois, in 1858. She is the daughter of Moses and Emily Caroline (Barlow) Beck. Her parents were both of a high type of Christian character. Of Mr. Beck, his pastor said, 'He as fully meets God's description of a good man (Isaiah 33:15-17), as any one I ever knew.' Her mother was the

And ever as you call before the door,
I see thy playmate hasten as of yore;
The golden curls unbonneted, untwined,
The harp strings of the wind.

My arms reach out to gather her again
To their embrace. Hush'd is the melting strain.
I fold them slowly o'er my hungry breast;
Song bird, you know — the rest.

THE GOLDENROD

Hail noble flower! Thy peerless golden glory
Is now emblazoned on Nebraska's crest, —
Fit herald to proclaim her wondrous story,
And like her, monarch of the mighty West.

No mortal hand assisted at thy sowing,
The stars wept tears upon the barren earth;
The dewy clouds knelt down to kiss them,
flowing,
When lo! The travail of thy glorious birth.

And as since, each glowing constellation
Has shared its splendors with thee, Golden
Rod,
Has taught thy golden heart, hymns of obla-
tion,
That Heaven's stars breathe to the Triune
God.

In vain, Aeolus and his wind god revel
And scatter devastation through each bower,
The violets wither, roses proud dishevel;
Thy scepter still defies his blighting power,

The pioneer beheld thy pristine beauty,
Where for his dwelling thou bedecked the sod,
Thy very life went out in love and duty
Upon Penates' altar — Golden Rod.

When through old Nature's heart each warm
pulsation
Grows feebler, as the dying year grows old,
Last of all thy race! O'er all the desolation,
Shines out undimmed thy diadem of gold.

Hail, matchless flower! Long may thy golden
glory
Blaze out upon Nebraska's giant breast,
Her fair escutcheon glittering with thy story,
And with her, rule fore'er the mighty West.

THE SERVICE FLAG

'Twas twenty centuries ago,
Against the whiteness of the dawn,
There blaz'd a star of meteor glow,
In splendor over Bethlehem's khan.
The service banner of The Lord
In heaven's window was unfurl'd,

And angel hosts awoke the chord
That gave its message to the world.

Then, tyrants trembled for their might,
Then, idols tottered to their doom,
As through the deep of slavery's night
That service flag first pierced the gloom.
The shackles from men's souls were riv'n
Where'er in majesty it shone,
And freedom unto faith was giv'n,
The world's democracy begun.

And proven; when, on Calvary's height,
Where gleamed the wondrous flag outspread,
Was woven round its field of white,
Golgotha's broidery of red.
No greater love than this hath man,
That, for his friend, his life he give,
And in the rear guard, or the van,
He dies; that truth and freedom live.

Down thru the stress of centuries,
Thru conflicts that have mark'd each age.
Thru rise and fall of dynasties,
O'er unknown depths, thru tempest's rage,
Have come these colors consecrate.
The star of hope from out the skies,
The white of faith, commensurate
With red of love's great sacrifice.

The pilgrims brought them o'er the sea;
The patriot wore them in his heart;
And when the arm of tyranny
Was raised to wield the crushing dart,
Old Glory to the world was born;
The red and white, her glist'ning bars,
And blue, from heaven's dome was torn,
To hold forever fixed, her stars.

God! how it pulsates to the breeze!
This flag infused with a soul.
Its song rings over farthest seas,
And echoes back from pole to pole.
It shouts, it calls, it thrills and swells
With tidings of great joy, it gives;
Like pealing of ten thousand bells.
Old Glory! O! it lives! it lives!

For two score and one hundred years,
It waves above a nation free,
And, in its sacred covenant, clears
The way to earth's democracy.
When mad with lust of pride and pow'r,
A tyrant hurls war's ruthless sway,
And nations cry in that dark hour
America! America!

Old Glory answers to her need,
From East and West; from South and North,
Where'er her glitt'ring stars shall lead,
Her loyal sons spring bravely forth.

They kiss the hem of that dear flag,
As kneeling, did of old, each sire;
And vow no despot's hands shall drag
Its honor thru dishonor's mire.

Then from each window, streaming bright,
'Neath lowly eave, and palace grille,
Shines out a banner thru the night,
Like beacon fires upon each hill,
The flag that points the tyrant's shame;
Its white, that scorns the coward's dross,
The holocaustal red, its frame;
Its star, enhallowed by the cross.

O lads, while at the Vesper hour
You mark "attention!" as you stand,
And music throbs, as proud hands low'r
The starry emblem of our land,
With misting eyes, your oath renew
To keep it without spot or stain, —
We raise this service flag to you,
Till you bring victory home again.

Hats off! and lift it to the skies,
This banner of the heart and home;
This pledge of service that our boys
Swear by Old Glory's halidom,
*"That flag shall strive for the oppressed,
Until all peoples shall be free,
Until all nations call her blest."*
Old Glory! God be praised for thee!

MRS. SABINA PENROD

Mrs. Sabina Penrod will be remembered as being a delightful, cultured woman. She and her husband cast their lots in the Yucahill district of western Custer county, shortly after the opening of the country under the Kinkaid Act, and there they lived for several years. She was a writer of unusual ability, and sold many poems to eastern magazines. Some of her most famous ones were "Nature" and "Life's Pathway." We submit here a poem inspired by the beginning of a "Perfect Day" in the Sand Hills.

DAWN IN THE CUSTER COUNTY HILLS

(Copyright 1916)

By Sabina Penrod

Oh! the glories of the morning!
When the day begins to dawn,
When the first faint streaks of sunlight
Lightly fall across the lawn,
From a night of peaceful slumber,
Restful sleep, I gladly rise

And behold with admiration,
Radiant beauties of the skies.

How I wish I were a painter;
I would paint a picture fair,
Of a rare and beauteous landscape,
'Neath a balmy-hazy air;
But I couldn't paint the beauties
Of this life among the hills;
There is something in its freedom
That my soul with rapture fills.

In the days of early summer,
When wild roses are in bloom,
When the calls of grouse and chicken
Echo with a constant boom,
I love to stand at day-break
And look out across the hills,
As the first rays of the sunrise
With their light all nature thrills.

The shadowy hills and valleys
And the smell of dewy grass,
Mingled with the scent of roses,
Leave a joy that will not pass;
And I know where'er I travel,
I these lovely scenes will see,
That, where'er my habitation,
They will always dwell with me.

I will always sense their sweetness,
In my heart these sounds will ring
When the bees begin their humming
And the birds begin to sing;
I will see the shadowy vapors
Floating over vale and hill;
I will see the wild birds bathing,
Hear their early morning trill.

I will see the lowing cattle,
Slowly moving as they graze,
Hear the hoof-beats of the horses
As I see the sun's first rays.
I will see the beauteous colors
Of the flowers and sky and sod,
Feel the joy of ever-living
Close to nature and to God.

GASTON'S RHYMES FOR PADDING

W. L. Gaston, the author of the lines below, in no way poses as a poet. He began his career in the field of journalism and won his first honors over the nom de plume of "Billy Rip-ton." He has done a good deal of commercial writing and a year or so ago engaged in story writing for a journal in the eastern part of the state, over the nom de plume of "Frank French." He is the author of "Cheliel's Mes-

siah," "The Window in Tom," and "California Jubilee History." He has been ten years in Custer county. In the winter of 1915 he removed with his family to Wayne, where he lived for one year. On his return to Custer county he wrote the following poem, entitled "Home in Broken Bow." Several of his rhymes have been set to music and published in several of the modern song-books. One is reproduced here, for padding out the column.

HOME IN BROKEN BOW

I've searched full half the world, or so,
But find no place like Broken Bow.
I've crossed the plains, where some love best,
And climbed the hills to sunset west.
I know the east, the north and south,
From border lakes to river's mouth;
It matters little where I go,
My heart goes back to Broken Bow.

I've stood beneath the domes of state,
On carpets of the rich and great;
I've walked with prophets, sat with kings,
And heard the song the siren sings,
Where zealots pray and sinners sin.
But give me common folks and kin
And let me have, while here below,
A home-like home in Broken Bow.

I know the far-famed mines that hold
The thrice rich hoards of yellow gold.
I've seen the corn, like magic, grow,
In deep soil'd vales where rivers flow.
I've plucked the fruits and sipp'd the wines
Of fine old trees and older vines.
It matters little where I go,
I claim my home in Broken Bow.

I love the dells and hill-land slopes,
Where lazy sunshine lags and mopes;
The alder-shaded homes and lawns,
Where hustle breeds and plenty spawns.
Men sing the songs of war or trade,
Yet only home-like homes are made.
It matters little where I go,
My heart goes back to Broken Bow.

WALKING THE WATERS

(By W. L. Gaston)

Jesus is walking the waters,
Is walking in pow'r and might,
To every boat on sea afloat,
He's walking the waters to-night.

CHORUS:

He's walking the waters to-night,
He's walking in power and might,
Over the waves of dark Galilee,
He's walking the waters to me.

Over the mad waves, deep rolling,
He walks the dark Galilee;
Thro' wind and wave, He comes to save;
He's walking the waters to me.

Thro' sin and doubt's stormy billows
He's bringing both hope and cheer.
By every barque when night is dark,
Master and King is walking near.

Over the dark sea of death
He's walking the waves before,
O'er silent tides, His footstep glides,
Till ev'ry boat shall reach the shore.

CHAPTER XVII

AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

YEARS, TWO SCORE AND ONE — HORSE AND COW PULL THE PLOW — CORN WEARS THE TASSEL AND IS KING — A GREAT ALFALFA COUNTY — CUSTER STANDS AT THE HEAD — DRESSED IN GREEN, CUSTER COUNTY HEADS THE LIST — AN EARLY LIVE-STOCK ASSOCIATION — LIVE-STOCK RAISING — CATTLE GRADES IMPROVED — HOGS, BLACK AND RED — THE PORKER PAYS THE MORTGAGE — THE PURPLE BLOOD OF HIGH BREEDING — SHEEP IN THE WILD AND WOOLY COUNTY — A CITY MAN MAKES GOOD — A SAMPLE OF CUSTER COUNTY THRIFT — CUSTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY — OUT OF DEBT — RACES TWENTY YEARS AGO — THE LUNDY HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER PLANT — CUSTER COUNTY IRRIGATION — HORTICULTURE IN CUSTER COUNTY — J. D. REAM MAKES A FIND — FRUIT RECEIVED TOO LITTLE ATTENTION — THE MILLING INDUSTRY — THE BROKEN BOW ROLLER MILLS — ELECTRIC LIGHTS EVERYWHERE — TOWNS HAVE GOOD WATER — NO MINING INDUSTRY — HAS DEVELOPED WEALTH SLOWLY — HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NOW — "SINCE HE PAID THE MORTGAGE" — THE FIRST SETTLER TELLS THE STORY OF THE YEARS

No successful pioneer will despise the day of small things. To commence small and to grow, is nature's way. The agricultural and industrial importance of Custer county to-day has been developed from what the easterner would have called "laughing stock" in the days of the '70s. It has been experiment after experiment, many of which were costly and heroic. It has been a struggle with but little to struggle with. Naught but indomitable courage and ceaseless effort could have wrought the miracle. The man who saw Custer county in 1874 and has had his back turned ever since, can look again to-day and his first word would be the one last in the sentence above — a miracle.

YEARS, TWO SCORE AND ONE

Two score and one years have passed since the first settlers started the plow to fashion the field, and the spade and axe to fashion the dwelling. Then it was virgin prairie, altogether fieldless, and for the most part houseless. The first thing to do was to locate — select the homestead. The level land was first

selected, river bottoms — farms with river fronts. After the claim was selected then came the house. Something to live in, as well as a place to live on, must be provided. If the settler had a covered wagon, he must live in that until he could build or dig a house. The homestead was the first thing, but the house must be second. If the place is on the river or one of the timbered creeks he will build a log house. If he has a breaking plow and a team to haul a few logs from the timber he will erect a soddy. If he is not rich in these commodities he will rustle a spade, dig a dugout and call it "Home, sweet Home." The dugout of that day was the cheapest, and perhaps the most plebian, of the primitive habitations. The log house, though held down with a sod roof, was the abode of aristocracy. The sod house was middle-class and commonplace, yet many of those sod houses were comfortable and cozy. They were warm in winter and cool in summer, and if the roof were thick enough to keep out the rain they were not half bad. Generally the walls were plastered with hill clay or a native stucco, which

smoothed up better than the clay and most nearly resembled plaster. This, with a coat of whitewash, if lime could be had, made both interior finish and decoration. Some of the first houses were without floor, other than the native earth. One settler, in reciting the hardships of the early day, claimed that the soil was so rich that they had to cut the grass off from the floor of the sod house twice every week, so they could find the baby.

In such houses as these the best citizens of Custer county began their married life, and especially in such houses as these did they launch upon their Custer county careers. In this kind of house many of the present generation, now in active life, were born. Just such humble dwellings, located on a quarter-section of unplowed prairie, have since developed into the modern homes and improved farms that are the pride of the county to-day. That fine, white house, with modern light and water equipment; that big red barn; that flock of granaries, sheds, and cribs, together with the hog house, the hen house, the icehouse, and the garage; those productive fields, green in growing time, and gold in harvest time, with acres of waving alfalfa—all have come from that humble beginning.

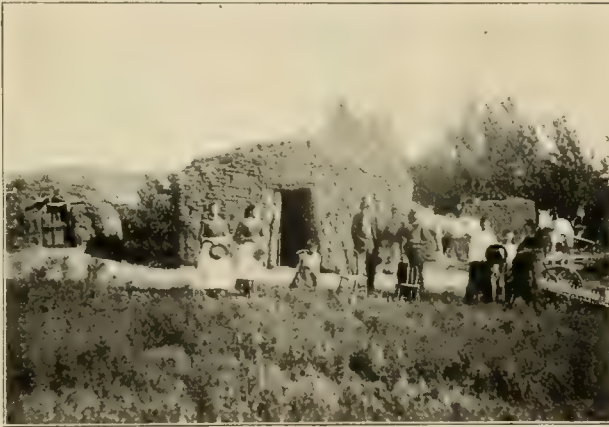
HORSE AND COW PULL THE PLOW

If the early settler had a team, he was not only fortunate, but also the exception. The most of the settlers were teamless. Some had a yoke of oxen, some were provided with only one horse, and in several instances the horse and cow were harnessed together and made up a sort of complex team. Some men had neither horse nor ox, cow nor plow. With just their two hands, alone and unaided, they

commenced the battle of life, and almost a phenomenal success has rewarded their efforts. They began with nothing, and to-day are the possessors of broad acres, equipped with modern houses, and have to their credit in the bank a competency for old age.

There is no country in the world that affords better advantages to the indomitable spirit who possesses youth, strength, and energy; no place will more liberally reward labor than the hills and valleys of old Custer county. Nowhere within its borders can you find a man, who has spent here a score of years, that is not singing the county's praises. In fact, most of the old settlers will very cheerfully get up

in the night to brag on the resources of Custer county. It has been, from the earliest day, the poor man's opportunity, the young man's hope, and the old man's haven. Its invigorating climate, its altitude, with its almost exclusive outdoor occupation, have made it a healthful land. There are

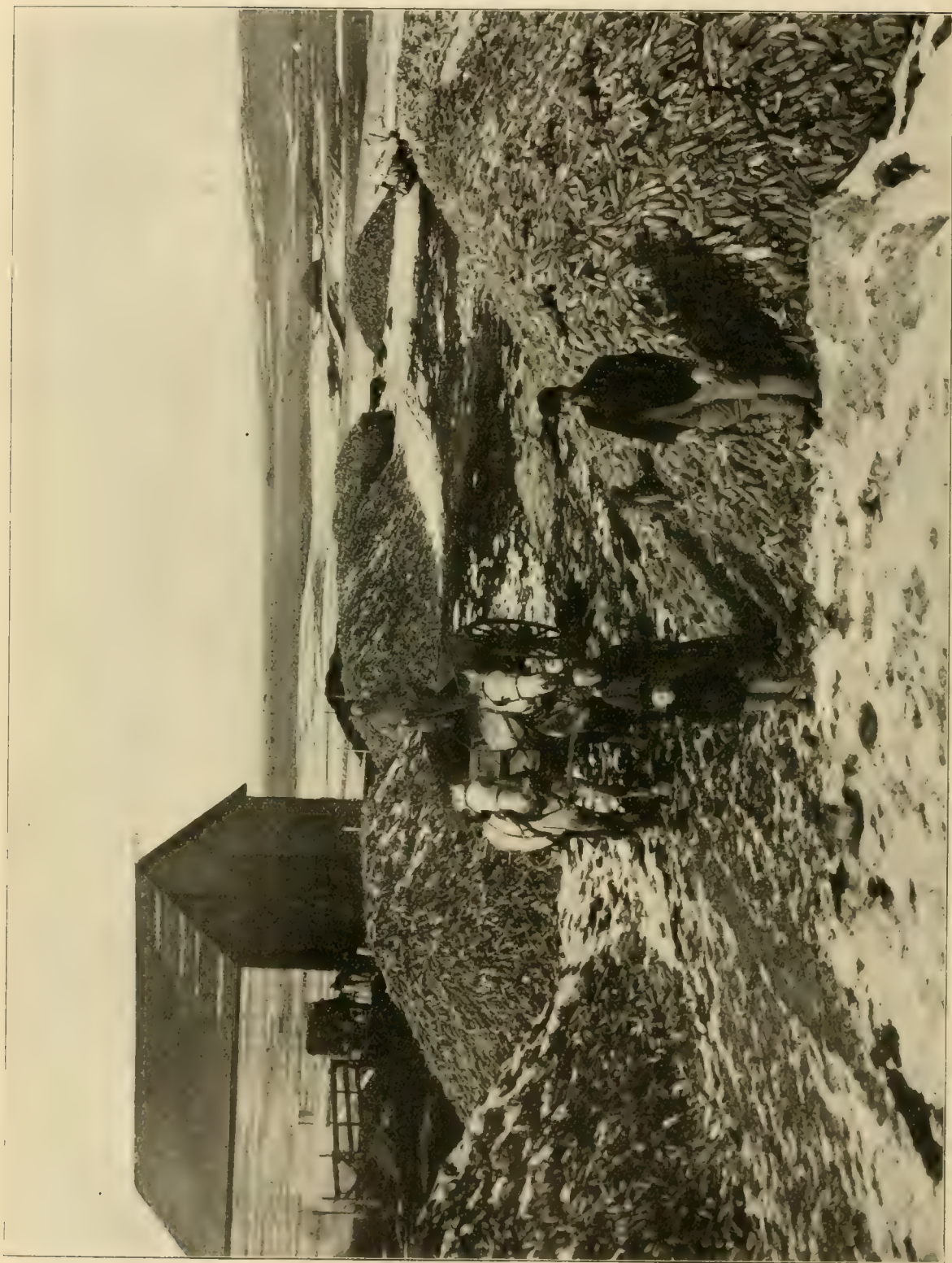


[Photo by S. D. Butcher, 1889]

A TYPICAL SOD HOUSE

no native diseases. Good health has always been universal. The old saying that the early settlers had to kill a man to start a grave-yard, might be true of almost every community in Custer county. In the starting days, when everything was new and the people young, doctors were hardly needed, and the first who came to the county would have starved to death if they had depended alone upon poor health and sickness.

The first crop of the first settlers, in which the soil of Custer county had first opportunity to demonstrate its fertility, was sod corn; the second was rye. The settlers of the first year, and they generally came in the spring time, turned over a few acres of sod, planted it to corn, and spent the rest of the time construct-



(Photo by S. D. Butcher)

Showing mammoth piles of corn raised by G. W. Farmer in 1902, on his farm between Broken Bow and Meria. There are over 6,000 bushels of corn in the stacks.

ing a habitation, and prospecting for water. Some settlers planted beans along with the corn and thus, in the fall, they had demonstrated that the soil was adapted to both corn and beans. In the New Helena country rye was the first fall crop and, nourished by the new, strong soil, made an astonishing yield. We have no record of any oats being sowed until the spring of 1877. From that time forth oats have been one of the standard crops. Spring wheat made its advent about the same time, or perhaps a little before the oat crop. Custer is to-day one of the wheat-producing counties of the state.

The county commenced its wheat industry like most new counties, with spring wheat. The soil was new and rich, and the yield was big. The price, however, prevented rapid accumulation of wealth by the wheat-raisers. Fall wheat came later, when weeds and chinch bugs began to challenge the spring wheat, and fall wheat has made a record during the years, the truth of which is expressed in the closing sentence of the above paragraph.

CORN WEARS THE TASSEL AND IS KING

The great outstanding crop of this county has always been corn. Several years it has led all counties in the state in its production. All varieties will mature in good seasons, but early varieties are most regular in production. The sod corn of the first settlers was a surprise to the men who planted it. If the crop was not eaten up or destroyed by the ranchmen's cattle, the forage was fine fodder and the yield sometimes reached twenty-five bushels an acre. Since the cultivation of land and better methods in farming have come into vogue, Custer has been rated as a corn county. In these days of greater production, every stalk wears a tassel, and every ear is wrapped in silk. When the stalk puts off its summer robes of green and dons the autumn tan, the ears turn to gold and droop modestly at the praise of their own magnificence.

The foregoing sentiment may be rated as stilted praise, but Custer corn deserves all that can be said of it. The real story of the corn, however, is told in a few quotations of figures

which go to make up dry statistics. Statistics of any early day are lacking. If records were kept, the state department of agriculture made no reports. The following figures are given only to show what the county has done in the banner years of the past. The years of 1905 and 1906 seem to be the banner corn years of all the forty-three years that are passed. In 1905 Custer ranked second in the state in the production of corn. The total yield that year was 7,681,863 bushels. That was a great corn crop. The average per acre throughout the county was 36.5 bushels an acre. The average in the state that year was 37.65 bushels an acre. It was the great acreage in Custer that boosted it to second place in the state. The next year was an even better year for corn in Custer. The acreage increased and, although the average yield per acre was just one bushel less than in the previous year, the total crop came to the high figure of 8,251,158. This enormous yield put Custer into first place in the state. In this year the average yield per acre in the state was 35.28 bushels per acre, while in Custer the average yield was 35.5 bushels per acre, which put the county above the average in yield.

The last few years have not been so favorable for corn and, like with alfalfa, the acreage has been decreased in favor of wheat. This year's crop (1918) is estimated at 5,000,000 bushels, in round numbers.

The great bulk of the corn crop, and likewise the great bulk of the hay crop, is fed at home, less than five per cent. of the corn raised being shipped out of the county. It is fed to cattle and hogs and thus made to bring an added profit.

A GREAT ALFALFA COUNTY

The importance of alfalfa as a forage crop cannot be overestimated. Alfalfa is one of the standard products, and the one which has done more to bring profit to the farmer than almost any other. The deep-green fields in evidence everywhere, are the gold mines of the county. If the "porker" has been a mortgage-payer, he has had to stuff himself with alfalfa in order to play the role. The dry times reduce

the crop, but it is never an entire failure. The prices have been good at all times—in fact, so good that it is safe to say that no crop has been more profitable than Custer county alfalfa. If corn is king, alfalfa is queen, and together they fatten a royal family of beef and pork. Farmers depend on alfalfa, and raise it with less expense than any other forage. The climate and soil of the county have always contributed the natural elements to make it the hay crop of the middle part of the state.

CUSTER STANDS AT THE HEAD, DRESSED IN GREEN

It took the farmers a long time to realize fully the importance of the alfalfa crop. For

of inducing several farmers in different parts of the county to seed a few acres to the new crop for which so much was claimed. Judge Lavender was perhaps the first man in the vicinity of Broken Bow to try a small field, for hay and pasture purposes. The production of alfalfa was very limited for years. Seed was hard to obtain and the price was almost prohibitive. Alfalfa, like everything else, had to buck its way up hill against a field of opposition. As the years went by, it made progress and to-day it has its place and fame established. It ranks in importance with corn and is absolutely indispensable to successful stock-raising.



A CUSTER COUNTY ALFALFA FIELD

years it was raised only in small patches, and its value as hog pasture, and as winter hay for calves, milch cows, and stock cattle was hardly known. The first record of alfalfa in the county harks back to 1882, when Virgil Allen, on the South Loup, sent to Sacramento, California, and procured enough seed to experiment with four or five acres. The experiment was successful, and year by year he added to the field until he had in cultivation broad acres of this imported meat and milk producing hay. Very early in the '80s several experiments were tried in the Middle Loup river valley, and these likewise proved successful. In 1886 Robert Hunter began the agitation for more alfalfa and was the means

In the years 1907 and 1908 the acreage was largely increased and in the year 1909 the county came into prominence as an alfalfa producing county. The agricultural reports of this year rated Custer as the second county in the state in the production of alfalfa. In 1910 it again forged ahead and went to the top, with 48,419 acres to its credit. This seems to have been the high year. For the next two years the acreage decreased at the rate of one thousand acres a year. In 1913 the acreage is reported as nearly 5,000 less than in 1910. This year, 1918, the county stands in third place. The hard, freezing winters of later years and the pressure used to increase the wheat production for war purposes, have caused the

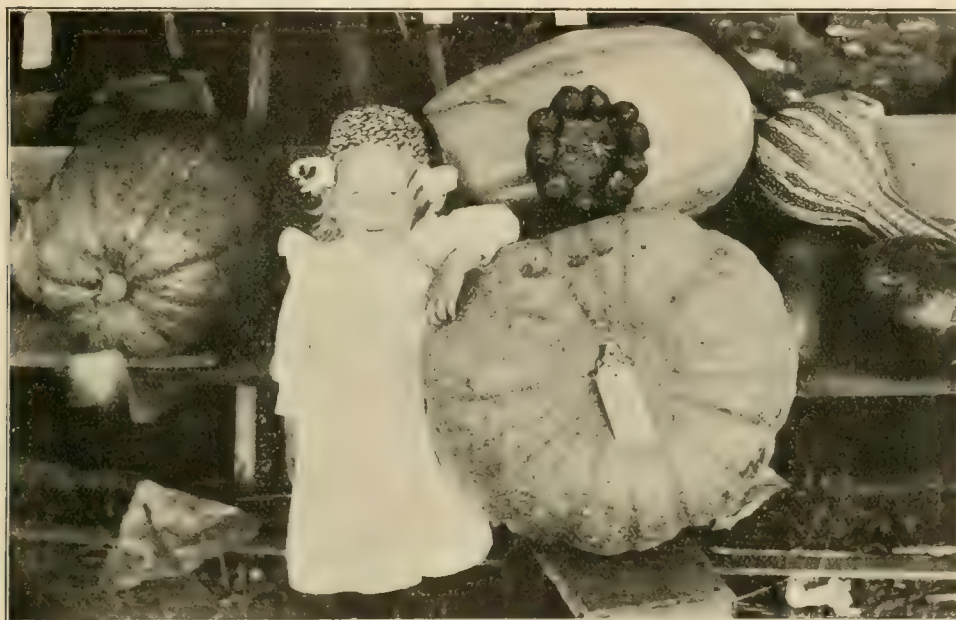
decrease noted. In spite of decreased production and increases of other crops, the average value of the Custer county alfalfa crop for the last eight years has been over \$1,600,000.00.

In the 1918 Nebraska State Fair Custer county alfalfa was awarded eight different premiums.

CUSTER COUNTY HEADS THE LIST

The following extract from a 1917 issue of the *Custer County Chief* shows how the

race for supremacy as a corn producer, with conditions represented by eighty-eight out of a possible one hundred points. Custer county is also in the high rank for oats, with ninety-four points, several counties having the same average. The other counties which are of equal rank in this respect are Red Willow, Buffalo, Hall, and Sherman. Custer county again touches the high mark in the wheat average, it being twenty-seven bushels per acre, with Red Willow county, another wes-



[Photo by S. D. Butcher]

TWO CROPS THAT NEVER FAIL

county ranks in agricultural products for the year 1917:

"The bureau of labor has, during the past week, completed the work of compiling the crop conditions of Nebraska by counties, and the report presents some surprises. It was only a few years ago when the eastern part of Nebraska was far ahead of other portions of the state, but things have changed, and this year, to see the finest crops in Nebraska the people have to come to Custer county. In speaking of the report of the bureau of labor, the *Lincoln News*, of July 31st has the following:

"Custer county kicks the high places in the

tern county, a close second, with twenty-five bushels per acre."

AN EARLY LIVE-STOCK ASSOCIATION

The first live-stock association of which there is any record was organized in 1878. As the story goes, it was time for the spring roundup of 1878, and a meeting to organize for that purpose was called at Custer, which at that time meant the Young ranch and which was also the county seat, for the purpose of organizing for the roundup and for the added purpose of organizing a live-stock association. There were several large ranches represented, by owners and employees. The meeting had

all the characteristics of the early day and western stage. The organization for the roundup was effected by electing Phil Dufrand as captain. With the roundup business out of the way, they proceeded to organize the Custer County Live Stock Association, the object of which was to promote the cattle industry and protect herds from cattle rustlers and those engaged in slaughtering "slow elk." The officers of the organization were: President, I. P. Olive; secretary, Harry Windsor; treasurer, Jacob Boblits; inspector, J. D. Haskell.

Most of the farms are conducted with a view to handling stock. The abundant grasses of the pasture land are strong and nutritious, and cattle in pastures fatten rapidly. The forage crops of the cultivated lands are sufficient to winter all the cattle that the grass lands will summer. This makes Custer county farming very profitable.

The passing of the great herds that roamed over the country in an early day, when everything was ranch and range, has not lessened the number of cattle. If there are no longer



THE PALE-FACE CATTLE HAVE TAKEN CUSTER COUNTY

A committee, consisting of I. P. Olive, S. C. Stuckey, and E. J. Boblits, to draft a set of by-laws and set a constitution, was formed. This was the first cattle or stock association of any kind ever formed in the county. Their roll of membership has not been preserved, nor are minutes of any subsequent meeting obtainable.

LIVE-STOCK RAISING

That much-talked-of, invisible line which divides the grazing from the corn belt runs through Custer county. That makes it incline to both agricultural and grazing pursuits, a combination of farming and stock-raising.

herds of 5,000 head, seventy-five herds of one hundred head each have come to take their place. On the smaller holdings, into which the big ranges have been broken, are better cattle and more to the square mile than in the days when everything was cattle.

CATTLE GRADES IMPROVED

On the small farm, where the herd is smaller, more care is given to stock and great pains is taken in quality selection for breeding purposes. As a result, cattle are of better grade than formerly. The scrub male no longer heads the herd. In its place is found the king of models, bred in the long lineage

of purple blood. Fine models of blooded stock are consequently found on every farm.

Virgil Allen claims the distinction of importing the first blood in the cattle line. His fancy early ran to shorthorns. By importing thoroughbreds he set for his neighbors a fine example in herd improvement. The influence of the example has not been lost. Everywhere cattle have been improved until it is safe to say that no better cattle are found anywhere in the state. The county is full of shorthorns and white-faces, while Polled Angus and other varieties of polled cattle are not uncommon.

The dairy interests have become enormous and milking strains of Durhams bred for the purpose, the famous milk-producing Holsteins, and the cream-producing Jerseys have come to stay. These milkers are in the dairies and in the one-cow barns of the town people.

The cattle interests of the county are well developed and profitable.

HOGS, BLACK AND RED

When the early settlers came, some of them brought a few hogs with them. It has been, however, almost impossible to ascertain who brought the first hog into the county. The early hog served his purpose. He had to pioneer and take his chances on short rations, the same as the other stock. The hog was cheap, but the great incentive to raise him spelled lard and bacon.

The first breeder of a pure strain of hogs, of whom there is any record, was J. L. H. Knight, of Lee's Park, who as early as 1885, while only a youngster himself, paid thirty dollars for a pure-blood Poland-China gilt. The offspring of this gilt in after years put good hogs on every farm in the eastern part of the country.

To-day hog raising is one of the great industries of the county. The two and three cents per pound price of the early day has improved as much as the breeds. At the time this page is being written, hogs are worth on the market, in any town in the county, eighteen cents a pound. The stock has developed, by select breeding, from the hazel-splitters of pioneer times to the square-blocked types of

Poland-Chinas and Duroc-Jerseys which are found on every farm to-day. These two breeds predominate. They have been found most profitable. They show up best in the pork barrel and in the bank account.

The agricultural reports of the state credit Custer in 1917 with nearly sixty thousand hogs. They constitute one of the greatest assets of the county. The hog crop of 1918 is far in excess of 1917.

THE PORKER PAYS THE MORTGAGE

F. M. Currie wrote the following article over seventeen years ago:

Custer county is in the geographical center of the state of Nebraska. Its elevation is about 2,000 feet above the level of the sea, and the average rainfall is not far from twenty inches per annum. It produces a large variety of nutritious grasses, and is well watered. Although streams are not very abundant, water is to be found everywhere, in inexhaustible quantities, at various depths, ranging from a few feet in the valleys to four hundred feet on the highest table lands. It was the home of countless numbers of buffalo before the advent of the cowboy. With the coming of the cattlemen, the buffalo were driven out, and it became a veritable paradise for the large cattle ranch. After it was opened for settlement, the homesteader claimed its broad and fertile prairies as his right under the law, and the cattle rancher was obliged to vacate. But the number of cattle was increased instead of diminished. In place of a few men owning hundreds and even thousands of head, a large number of men became the owners of small herds, and the total number was increased. Much of the land was broken out, and general agriculture became the occupation of the early settlers. Then it was that a more intensive agriculture became necessary, and the farmers turned their attention to the poor man's friend—the hog. The hog is essentially the friend of the poor farmer, because it requires very little capital with which to make a start. The number of hogs in Custer county has increased very rapidly, until nearly every farmer owns from ten to four or five hundred head. Of course the keeping of hogs necessitates the growing of corn. With the exception of two years—those of 1890 and 1894—Custer county has produced a sufficient quantity of corn to mature most of the hogs raised within her borders. The high altitude, the pure atmosphere, and excellent drainage of Custer

county make it exceedingly healthful for both human beings and animals. The animal diseases which are so common in most parts of the United States, are almost unknown in Custer county. In recent years there has been a slight loss from disease known (in the common parlance) as hog cholera, but Custer county has never had an epidemic which carried off whole herds of swine.

The farmer, unlike his predecessor, the cattle man, usually markets his cattle in a finished condition. The cattle man of the olden times gathered his beeves from the plains and shipped them in large numbers to the market in Chicago or Kansas City. Those that were fat enough to kill were sold to the butcher; those that were not finished were sold to the feeders in Iowa, eastern Nebraska, eastern Kansas, and Illinois. The farmer and cattle man of the present day feeds his own cattle and ships them, ready for the block, to the market in Omaha, which is distant about 180 miles. The cost of transportation is about thirty-eight dollars per carload. In preparing his beef, the farmer finds a large saving in the use of the hog. The cattle are put in yards and fed all the grain they will eat; at the same time hogs are put in the yard to follow the cattle, cleaning up the waste. The cattle usually absorb about one-half of the nutritive value of the corn that passes through their stomachs, the other half would be wasted were it not for the hogs which follow the cattle, and the waste is thus transformed into pork. The hog and cattle industry go together and furnish a considerable profit to the farmer. In good seasons, the average farmer on 160 acres of good land is able to turn off a carload of cattle and a carload of hogs each year. The cattle are pastured on the grazing lands of the county. They are fed in winter on the rough feed produced on the farming land, consisting of cornstalks, straw, millet, etc. The hogs are raised usually during the summer season, and in autumn the two are placed together; the farmer thus secures the entire profit accruing to the man who raises the cattle, who raises the hogs and who feeds them. Poland-China is by far the most popular breed of hogs, while Jersey Red, Chester Whites, and Berkshires are very abundant.

In some of the valleys farmers have turned their attention to the raising of alfalfa. They are thus enabled to raise their young swine at a very low cost, and are only put into the yard to be finished. In 1887 Custer county shipped 32,640 hogs from the various stations of the railways within her borders. Allowing for a reasonable number that were shipped

from stations outside of Custer county, but contiguous thereto, it is safe to estimate the number of hogs at 50,000. The future of the swine industry of Custer county is very promising, and it will always be one of the most important industries of the county.

THE PURPLE BLOOD OF HIGH BREEDING

The low grade of poorly selected stock with which the early settlers had to begin operations in the county was, of course, a tremendous handicap to stock-breeding operations. But it has been overcome, and the high-grade, pure strain in every department of live-stock breeding marks a commendable progress. Cattle, hogs, horses, sheep, have been bred for the last twenty years on the lines of best selection, and the fine-stock breeders of the county to-day, with their products, constitute one of our proudest assets. The following are some of our breeders who are making Custer county fine stock famous throughout the state:

Over in the Comstock region, Charles Nielhorn is producing Poland-China hogs and red polled cattle. He is making fine progress and has developed both species to high-class types.

J. A. Kellenbarger, west of Merna, has some very fine specimen of Durhams. Joe has been in the business for several years and is, first, a good selector of type, and then, a good feeder, both of which characteristics are necessary in fine stock-raising.

John Dietz, northwest of Broken Bow, is one of the progressive farmers of the community. He is perfecting a fine line of red polled cattle.

Benger & Son, of Callaway, are in the ring with classy white-faces, molded on long-lineage patterns and well marked and classic in color.

Sam Waddington, in Ortello valley, has been breeding white-faced Herefords for the last thirty years, and it would be hard to find a better marked, more evenly molded herd than his to-day.

H. C. Grabert & Son are hog breeders who are attracting attention in the region between Broken Bow and Westerville. They have pens full of the big rangy types of Duroc-Jerseys.

Lon Ash, north of Broken Bow, has already

established a reputation as a breeder of Poland-China hogs. He has made a crowning success and has very materially boosted the hog production of Custer county by contributing classy herd-heads to the community in which he is operating.

South of Broken Bow, the Miller Sons, continuing the breeding operations of the late Benjamin Miller, are producing Poland-Chinas of pure strain and acme style.

Teddy Scott, two miles from Broken Bow, is a young, progressive farmer who is making his mark in the Poland-China world. He has scarcely become an extensive breeder, but he has a foundation of fine selects and has already produced some types that might be envied by an older breeder.

John Amsberry, down in the region of Mason City, breeds black Polled-Angus cattle that are blocky types of beef and profitable farm cattle. John and his son are veterans in the cattle business and deserve well the reputation they have established.

Charles Wright, who has a good farm on the Muddy, is in the Jersey cattle business. He breeds the fawn-colored milkers and has some of the finest types of dairy and town Jerseys the country produces.

Bill Tenant and Joe Sittler are two other fine-stock breeders dealing in Jerseys and contributing to the cream and butter supply.

For years Dr. Brenizer has been one of the shorthorn producers and one of the county's most ardent advocates of selected blood. He has contributed as premiums many of the best Durham males ever bred in the west. Custer county owes much to Dr. Brenizer.

Zachary & Sons, substantial and progressive farmers of the West table, have given their attention to the high types of draft horses and are very successful home breeders. They have a line of home-grown Percherons that would be a credit to most any county.

George Stoffer, three miles north of Merna, likewise has given much attention to horse-breeding. Years ago he made purchases of classy Percherons, both stallions and mares, and to-day has produced the most magnificent types.

Cole Brothers, two miles east of Broken Bow, are quite extensive breeders of Shetland and Welch ponies.

Ivan L. Leech, a progressive young farmer in the Westerville country, is turning attention to blooded strains in cattle and hogs, inclining to the Durocs and the Durhams.

Charles Mytton, of Ansley, is an extensive breeder of Duroc-Jerseys and has reached a place where his annual sales attract attention over the central part of the state.

In the Ansley district, B. J. Tierney is a very extensive breeder of shorthorn cattle and has established a reputation second to none in



[Photographed in 1886 by S. D. Butcher]
AN EARLY-DAY TEAM

the middle part of the state. His productions head herds all over the county.

K. F. Dietsch is a new-comer who brought with him the best blood to be found in the northeast corner of the state. He has purchased a farm north of Broken Bow and named it Cedar Lawn Stock Farm.

H. E. Pressey, of Oconto, is an established breeder of Duroc-Jersey hogs. He has been long in the business and has made a very creditable showing. He has on his stock farm everything that makes of breeding a profitable occupation.

SHEEP IN THE WILD AND WOOLY COUNTRY

If Custer county was ever "wild and wooly," the wool was not furnished in any great quantities by home-grown sheep. If it was a Custer county Mary who had a little lamb with

fleece as white as snow, it was before Mary moved west. There have been a few sheep in the county all of the time since the winter of 1875, but only a few. There are a few good-sized flocks in different parts of the county to-day, but Custer has never been rated as a sheep county. In the days of cattle, conditions were the same here as in all range countries, and more or less antagonism has always existed between sheepmen and cattlemen. The early cattlemen of Custer coun-

storms have been natural enemies of the flock, yet natural conditions have not been unfavorable to the mutton industry.

In Butcher's history there is a picture of a splendid flock of sheep, marked "Sheep Industry in Lee's Park, in 1887," which is reproduced here. In 1882 the Haumont brothers, Jules and Ed., wintered sheep on the French table. In 1881 the Finlen brothers, Charles, Mike, and Tom, came from Streator, Illinois, and settled on the South Loup. They brought



[Photo by S. D. Butcher]

SHEEP INDUSTRY, LEE'S PARK, 1887

ty did not encourage the sheepmen. If one slipped into the country there was no reception committees appointed to extend the glad hand and say to him, "Welcome, welcome to our prairies. Turn your sheep loose and let them graze at their own sweet will." This was a social function that the cattlemen, not given to formalities, grossly neglected. They acted as if they never cared whether there were any sheep in the country or not. Sheep came, however, and sheep have stayed, and sheep are here to-day. Sheep-killing dogs, coyotes, and

into the country 1,000 sheep. They did not stay in the sheep business very long but merged into the cattle business as soon as possible. Pres Richardson started a sheep industry on his ranch north of Broken Bow and was very successful as long as he stayed on the ranch himself.

In 1910 Custer county had but 3,901 sheep. In the last report, given in 1917, Custer has 2,884, which is a decrease in the last seven years.

Judge John Reese is now and has been for

a number of years the prominent sheep man of the county. His ranch is about nine miles southwest of Broken Bow. The Judge has made a success of sheep raising.

A CITY MAN MAKES GOOD

An instance that illustrates how the rich soil of Custer county responds to energy and management, is related by James Pierce, and this is the personal experience and accomplish-

good boys and two good girls, all of whom believed, with Benjamin Franklin, that "He who by the plough would thrive, himself must either hold or drive." Improving on this adage, we have both held and driven the most of the time. The house is on the old homestead, and is one of the four frame houses owned by the family. There are also two good sod-houses and one small building owned by an invalid son, who makes his home with us on the old homestead. One son settled in Valley county. The rest are all near Somerford postoffice,



LIVE STOCK ON FARM OF GEORGE CHIPPES, NORTHEAST OF MASON CITY

ment of a man, city-bred and born, who, together with his family, has conquered the Custer prairie and made toil profitable and land productive. He says:

In the spring of 1880 we moved to Custer county, Nebraska, where we have since made our home. Having no experience in farming, except such as was to be obtained on salt water and on the paved streets of a city, I was not very successful at the new business and brought but little to Nebraska in the way of capital. A part of what we did bring was lost in the hard winter of 1880 and 1881. We brought with us, however, a family of six

where together we own seven farms, containing in all 1,720 acres. Besides the improvements of all kinds, in the way of barns, hog houses, etc., 480 acres have been bought by earnings of the old homestead. Besides this we have had a comfortable living, without crowding other people.

The farms are all well stocked with horses, cattle, and hogs. Most of the land is fenced and cross-fenced, with yards for different kinds of stock. Roughly estimated, I should say that the family had last year 10,000 bushels of oats, 12,000 bushels of corn, and perhaps enough of other grain to make up 25,000 bushels altogether. One piece of land, bought

by a son seven years ago, has never failed to produce enough each year to more than pay the purchasing price. Some years, last year for example, the crop brought more than twice what the land cost.

When we took the land in 1880 there was no wood on it, not enough for a riding switch. Now, if we want a load of fence posts, or several loads, we can cut them. Apple trees have been bearing for many years. All this with our own labor. What man has done, man may do. Stand up for Nebraska! There is room for many more here.

The above statement was written in 1904. The remarkable showing made up until that time has continued since in the same ratio. The writer has since moved to that greater country where all homesteads are river fronts. His sons and daughters are still here and are numbered among our best citizens.

A SAMPLE OF CUSTER COUNTY THRIFT

Anton Smock, with his wife and a three-months-old babe, landed in Custer county in April, 1886, and settled on a quarter-section of land near Oconto. To commence the operation of farming he had a yoke of oxen, a breaking plow, and a stone-boat sled. He had one cow and a calf. The above invoiced all his stock and implements. He had never had hold of a plow-handle in his life. His wife was city-bred. He says they did not make much of a success the first few years. He encountered dry years, hail storms, and all the drawbacks and hindrances that the law allows, so that when he got through the memorable hard year of 1894, he had but little more than the amount with which he started. He says he had learned, however, that milking cows and raising hogs was the most profitable thing he could do, and he made up his mind that he would stick to that.

Ten years later he owned and paid taxes on 1,400 acres of good Custer county land, of which 300 acres were under cultivation and the balance in pasture or hay land, the whole farm fenced and cross-fenced, and equipped with good buildings, ninety head of stock-cattle, twelve head of horses, 100 head of hogs, and thirty milch cows. In addition to stock and improvements, he had fine sheds, filled with

all kinds of farming implements. In relating his experience, he says: "My wife and I worked hard, but we did too much work with our hands and not enough with our heads." He loudly praises Custer county and declares that good soil, favorable weather, helped out with a little hustle, is the Custer county way of spelling success.

CUSTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

One of the most important organizations in the county is the Custer County Agricultural Society. It has done much toward the development of the county and is an institution to which Custer county people point with no little degree of pride. The large scope of territory from which the annual fair draws, makes it an attraction that brings to Broken Bow an immense concourse of people every fall. It has gained the well earned reputation of being one of the very best fairs in the state.

In the summer of 1881 a little band of homesteaders met at the town of Westerville and organized what was known as the Custer County Agricultural Society. The organizers were C. S. Elison, S. C. Beebe, George O. Waters, A. W. Squires, D. M. Amsberry, R. C. Talbot, J. H. Westervelt, J. L. H. Knight, F. D. Miller, John Welsh, Thomas Blowers, Edgar Varney, Martin Gering, C. T. Crawford, and B. E. Lamphear. The first officers were: C. S. Elison, president; George O. Waters, vice-president; S. C. Beebe, secretary; and C. T. Crawford, treasurer. The first fair was held the latter part of August of the same year, and while it was a primitive one, yet it was a great event for a new county, and the attendance included every homesteader within a radius of a good many miles. The attractions were limited, horse-racing being the main feature, while a pulling match, between Frank Doty, of Lillian, and H. Weakling, of Berwyn, was an important event. The exhibits were, of course, light, but nevertheless the display of corn, wheat, and oats was far better than one would expect in a country that was but sparsely populated. The pumpkin and melon show at this fair was something marvelous.

Another fair was held at Westerville in the fall of 1882. The following year Broken Bow had gained sufficient prominence to become a rival of Westerville, and divided honors with her by the fair being held three days at each place.

The first fair held in Broken Bow occurred about the middle of September, 1883, shortly after the Westerville fair. It was a great event. The grounds were located where the present court house stands, and the race course circled around a couple of blocks, where exciting races took place. It is hardly necessary to add that in those days, with the population made up largely of young men and with the sturdy cowboy element predominating, that favorite horses were backed with plenty of money and plenty of nerve. At both the Westerville and Broken Bow fairs that year a leading attraction was the walking of the tight-rope by Eli Armstrong, who was later sheriff of Custer county. Broncho-riding was a great attraction, and the cowboy who could rope, bridle, saddle, and mount a wild horse, unaided, and ride to a given point first, was sure of a good purse.

In 1884 the fairs were again held at Broken Bow and Westerville, during September and October, under the direction of the same society, which met at Westerville and voted the exclusive rights to a fair at Broken Bow. Shortly after this the society was incorporated under the laws of the state, its official title being the Custer County Agricultural Society and Live Stock Exchange. Forty acres of land were purchased, a mile east of Broken Bow, early in 1885, and permanent quarters were established. Suitable buildings were erected and a splendid half-mile track was made. The fair has been held regularly every year and has been constantly enlarged from its small beginning, with only a few dollars offered as premiums, until its premiums and purses have, during the past few years, reached \$3,500, while its crowds come from fifty miles in every direction. Its list of life-members is well up in the hundreds and it is, without doubt, one of the most progressive agricultural societies in Nebraska. Through the efforts of

the agricultural society, Custer county captured the gold medal offered by the state fair for the county exhibit which could take three successive first prizes. These prizes were won in 1888, 1889, and 1890, and this medal is prized very highly, as an everlasting monument to the agricultural resources of the great "State of Custer." A county that can win such a prize in three successive contests with nearly one hundred competitors, surely has some merit to its claim as an agricultural county.

Perhaps a word would not be out of place regarding those who have served as officers of this society. The official roster up to 1902 is as follows:

Presidents — C. S. Elison, 1881; George O. Waters, 1882 to 1884, inclusive; F. Zimmerer, 1885; Edmund King, 1886 and 1887; J. D. Ream, 1888 to 1896, inclusive; L. H. Jewett, 1897 to 1899, inclusive; J. O. Taylor, 1900 and 1901. Secretaries — S. C. Beebe, 1881; J. L. H. Knight, 1882 to 1885, inclusive; A. R. Humphrey, 1886; J. L. H. Knight, 1887 to 1890, inclusive; W. H. Cramer, 1891; Cary Kay, 1892; F. H. Young, 1893 and 1894; L. McCandless, 1895; J. M. Fodge, 1896; E. R. Purcell, 1897 to 1901, inclusive. Treasurers — C. T. Crawford, 1880 to 1882, inclusive; D. M. Amsberry, 1883 to 1886, inclusive; O. P. Perley, 1887 to 1893, inclusive; E. F. McClure, 1894 to 1898, inclusive; J. A. Harris, 1899; A. R. Humphrey, 1900; W. D. Blackwell, 1901.

The board of directors consists of nine members, three of whom are elected every year. This board has always been selected from among the very best and most progressive farmers, stock-raisers, and business men of the county. The officers during the year 1901 were: President, J. O. Taylor; vice-president, Thomas Finlen; secretary, E. R. Purcell; assistant secretary, F. W. Hayes; treasurer, W. D. Blackwell; directors, Ed McComas, G. R. Russom, John Finch, A. E. Hanna, W. A. George, H. Lomax, C. H. Miller, E. C. Gibbons, and P. F. Campbell.

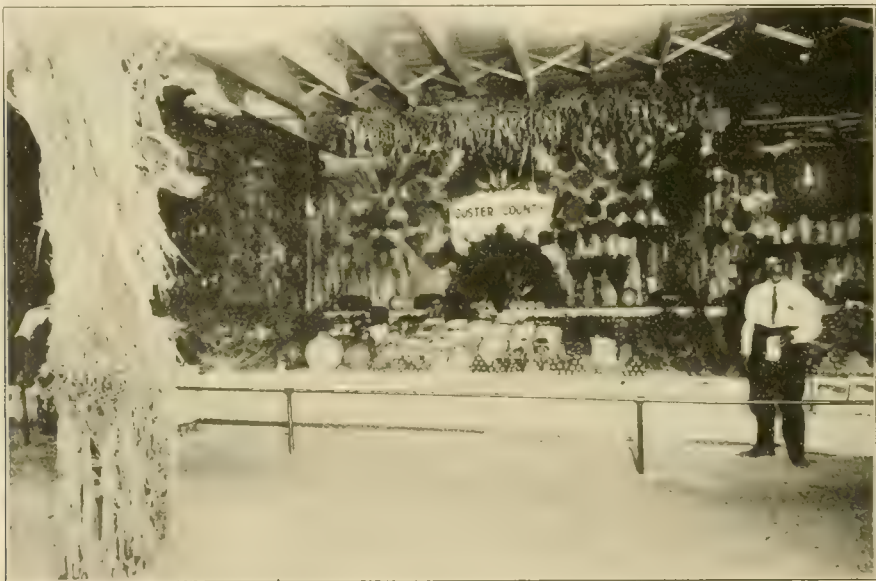
Since the foregoing roster of officials rendered service, the following prominent men of the county have served on the official board

and have done much to attain the present status of the association: Judge H. M. Sullivan, Alpha Morgan, Emery F. Bush, I. A. Reneau, James Stockham, Tom Finlen, and Judge N. Dwight Ford.

OUT OF DEBT

The organization is in splendid financial condition. The 1917 fair was pronounced a successful event by all who attended, and the Thursday crowd was conceded to be the largest in the history of the fair. All of the stock premiums were paid to the winners on the

Its present officers are: E. R. Purcell, editor *Custer County Chief*, president; Tom Finlen, retired farmer, vice-president; N. Dwight Ford, county judge, secretary; Alpha Morgan, lawyer and banker, treasurer. Directors—E. C. Gibbons, banker and rancher; C. H. Zachary, rancher and horseman; B. J. Tierney, rancher and stockman; J. O. Taylor, merchant; Charles Wright, rancher and stockman; James Stockham, farm-machine expert; J. J. Douglass, rancher and banker; Charles Melham, rancher and stockman; Herman F. Grabert, rancher and stockman.



A CUSTER COUNTY EXHIBIT AT THE NEBRASKA STATE FAIR

last day of the fair, and premiums in the other departments were paid in full within one week. After the business of 1917 was closed, all expenses of the fair were paid and all debts and judgments cleaned up, so that the organization stands to-day with a substantial balance to its credit and with every stockholder and 1917 attendant as boosters.

The 1918 management has made a special effort to carry out all of the instructions and requests of our government in regard to the stock and agricultural departments, which will be instructive and educational in every way and of great value to all. It will be Custer county's school of agriculture and stock-raising.

RACES TWENTY YEARS AGO

Just as an exhibit of the old-time fair held in the day when the horse was king and "Fords" unknown, the race program is here given of one of Custer county's fairs, just as it took place twenty years ago.

The program of races was exceptionally good this year and the field of horses large, while the minor sports created the usual amount of interest. The Wild West show was the main attraction and pleased the crowd.

The management of the fair honestly endeavored to give the people some genuine attractions, and advertised nothing that did not take place. Below we give a list of races and winners:

Three-Minute Trot; Purse, \$75.00

- 1st — Gold Dollar, owned by E. C. Gibbons.
- 2d — Maud M., owned by F. C. Embree.
- 3d — Dr. Keeley, owned by E. B. Harper.
- 4th — Prairie Queen, owned by Daniel Sweeney.

Pony Running Race; Purse, \$10.00

- 1st — Crickett, owned by William Salling.
- 2d — Baney, owned by J. M. Landers.
- 3d — Louie S., owned by William Spear.

Green Trot and Pace; Purse, \$20.00

- 1st — Satshaw, owned by Savage Brothers.
- 2d — Ed. L., owned by E. K. Litzenburg.
- 3d — J. R., owned by J. O. Russell.
- 4th — Don, owned by R. J. Vinton.

Slow Mule Race; Purse, \$6.00

- 1st — Fay, owned by Frank Doty.
- 2d — Jewel, owned by G. W. Pulliam.

2:40 Trot and Pace; Purse, \$75.00

- 1st — Fib, owned by J. R. Vinton.
- 2d — Maud M., owned by F. C. Embree.
- 3d — Bradshaw Girl, owned by E. K. Litzenburg.
- 4th — Tiddledewink, owned by J. N. Auble.

One-Half Mile Running Race; Purse, \$50.00

- 1st — John Corbin, owned by W. L. Cramer.
- 2d — Alice G., owned by C. A. Bailey.
- 3d — My Trump, owned by John Webb.

Green Running Race; Purse, \$15.00

- 1st — Midnight, owned by Isaac Reed.
- 2d — Butte, of Callaway, owned by J. M. McConnell.
- 3d — Brown Billie, owned by W. L. Hackney.

Special Race; Purse, \$60.00

- 1st — Pocahontas Billy, owned by J. Knight.
- 2d — Jesse Jewett, owned by Jesse Gandy.
- 3d — Monteno, owned by Savage Brothers.

Free-for-all Trot and Pace; Purse, \$75.00

- 1st — Fib, owned by R. J. Vinton.
- 2d — Pocahontas Billy, owned by J. Knight.
- 3d — Jesse Jewett, owned by Jesse Gandy.
- 4th — Gold Dollar, owned by E. C. Gibbon.

Novelty Running Race; Purse, \$40.00

- 1st quarter, Cadaverous, owned by Henry Crow.

One-half, one-fourth, and one mile, John Corbin, owned by W. L. Cramer.

Two-Year-Old Special Running Race; Purse, \$20.00

- 1st — Crickett, owned by William Salling.
- 2d — Midnight, owned by Isaac Reed.
- 3d — Baney, owned by J. W. Landers.

Colt Trot and Pace; Purse, \$25.00

- 1st — Ed. L., owned by E. K. Litzenburg.
- 2d — Satshaw, owned by Savage Brothers.
- 3d — Lady Winks, owned by J. N. Auble.
- 4th — Buck, owned by D. W. Laterman.

BICYCLE RACES

One-half Mile Handicap; Purse, \$6.00

- 1st — H. Kenoyer.
- 2d — Wilbur Holcomb.
- 3d — Ed. White.

One-half Mile Handicap; Purse, \$6.00

- 1st — Fred Maulick.
- 2d — Ed. White.
- 3d — H. Kenoyer.

One Mile Handicap; Purse, \$6.00

- 1st — R. B. Johnson.
- 2d — Wilbur Holcomb.
- 3d — Fred Maulick.

Slow Bicycle Race; Purse, \$2.25

- 1st — Frank Rublee.
- 2d — Fred Maulick.

One-fourth Mile Open; Purse, \$6.00

- 1st — Chestney Thompson.
- 2d — Fred Maulick.
- 3d — Ed. White.

Two-Mile Handicap; Purse, \$9.00

- 1st — Ed. White.
- 2d — R. B. Johnson.
- 3d — Chestney Thompson.
- 4th — Charley Shinn.

Broncho Riding; Purse, \$10.00

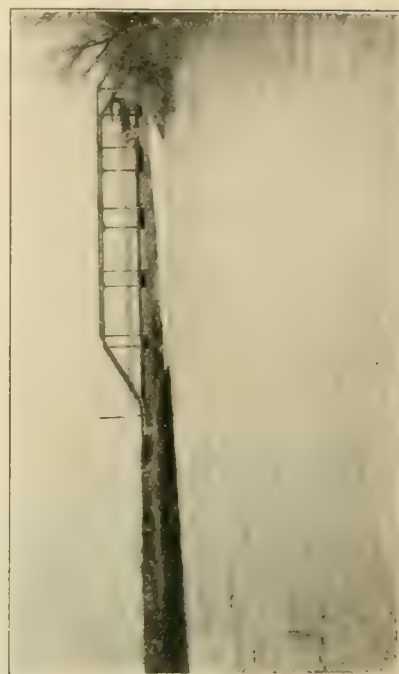
- 1st — Bill Pursell.
- 2d — Jim Kelley.

Team-Pulling Match; Purse, \$2.50

Won by H. L. Granger, of Wescott.



POWER HOUSE AND INTAKE OF DORIS HYDRO-ELECTRIC PLANT



MIDDLE LOOP RIVER ABOVE HYDRO-ELECTRIC PLANT NEAR SARGENT



LAKE DORIS, JUST ABOVE THE POWER HOUSE



SIDE-GATES TO IRRIGATION DITCH, LAKE DORIS

EQUESTRIANSHIP

Riding by Ladies.

1st — Mrs. C. R. Eubank.

2d — Miss Eva Jewett.

Riding by Girls

1st — Clara Jeffords.

2d — Lena Osborne.

THE LUNDY HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER PLANT

One of the most promising industrial developments ever inaugurated in the county is the so-called hydro-electric plant which is in course of construction at Doris, Nebraska, by James W. Lundy. Mr. Lundy is enthusiastic over the project and feels confident that he has power enough to transform Custer county, and central Nebraska as well, into a manufacturing center. Mr. Lundy is the owner of 1,600 acres of land abutting both banks of the river for a distance of nearly three miles. All of his land is under irrigation ditches, and this in itself constitutes a valuable asset. Although the average width of the river is 700 feet, Mr. Lundy has narrowed the river-bed through his land until it is confined to a channel 100 feet wide. The Middle Loup river, which is the main fork of the Loup, has an average velocity, at the Lundy point, of about 600-second feet.

The fall of the river generally averages six feet to the mile, but at Doris the fall is eight feet per mile, which makes this one of the best locations on the river to develop water power. The Loup is a very remarkable river, in that its flow is always regular. The average variation in rise and fall, at Doris, in drouth or flood times, is not more than twenty inches. The reason for this is found in the fact that there is no long, clay, valley drainage from surrounding hills leading either into the river or into the streams which feed the river. The volume of water in the river is maintained by springs and sand-seepage from distant lakes.

Lundy has arranged to divert from the river as much water as will be necessary for power purposes at this time, but has it so arranged that a larger volume can be diverted at any time. The construction of his plant is so ar-

ranged that the present unit can be added to at any time without disarranging the plant. The power canal which brings power water from the head-gates down to the side-gates and spillway is fifty feet wide and is capable of handling 400-second feet of water, while to operate the plant in its present proportions will require only 200-second feet.

It is arranged, however, so that the spillway will take care of the surplus water. The present plant unit is supposed to develop 225 horse-power, but its power can be easily increased at any time, with but slight alterations.

The dam proper is seventy-three feet wide and nearly fifteen feet high, which gives a twelve-foot working head of water. The foundations, which are necessarily on sand formation, are from sixteen to thirty-four feet below the level of the river and are made of solid cement, reinforced with steel. In the construction of the dam are 400 running feet of Wakefield sheet piling, six inches thick, tongued and grooved. One hundred and five round-piling, twenty-five feet long, help to fasten the dam to its moorings, and to stay the flood tide. Also used in the construction of the dam are 42,000 feet of hard-pine, two-inch lumber; 13,000 pounds of steel reinforcements; 250 loads of gravel; and 1,650 sacks of Portland cement.

The head-gates and ice-control are constructed from 2,800 feet of two-inch, hard-pine lumber, spiked to fifty, twenty-five, and thirty-five foot piling. In the construction of the side-gates and spillway, 35,000 feet of two-inch, hard-pine lumber was used. The side-gates are anchored in their places by cedar piling, ranging from sixty to twenty-five feet in length. More than 12,000 pounds of steel reinforcement is used in the cement part of the side-gate construction. For the cement work of the side-gates were required 175 loads of gravel and more than 500 sacks of cement. In this connection there should be noticed a device which is Mr. Lundy's invention. Heretofore, all river constructions or attempts to harness the river power have been hindered by large deposits of quicksand or silt-sand, which creeps along the bottom of the old channels. The new contrivance automatically separates

the silt-sand in the bed of the stream from the volume of flowing water and allows only clarified water to pass through the turbine. It is said that this is the only automatic device of the kind ever constructed. Mr. Lundy assures us that the design is simple and that it never fails to work out the results for which it was intended. It is so constructed and so simple that it requires no attention and is ready at all times to separate the sand. This contrivance means much for the future development of water power, not only along the sandy-bedded Loup river, but also along all quick-sand streams as well. Formerly the sand has been removed or overcome by expensive mechanical devices which have made water power too expensive.

Mr. Lundy will use a fifty-six-inch Leffel turbine wheel which is especially constructed for a low-water head and which develops in the present unit 225 horse-power. The power is transmitted from the turbine to a new Samson cable drive, which is the most effective power harness for turbines yet invented. The turbine is controlled by a Woodard oil governor. The generator is 100 K. W.; 125 K. V. A.; six-cycle, three-phase, generator electric dynamo and switch-board, which will generate 175 K. W., on peak load.

Then new plant now in course of construction, replaces the old plant, which has been used for a flouring mill for over thirty years. It is the opinion of those who have investigated the plant, and also the opinion of the assistant state engineer, that the new ideas used in construction by Mr. Lundy will make this plant a decided success and a remarkable power contribution to all the region of Custer county. It is claimed that the power generated here can be economically distributed for a distance of 400 miles, which radius will cover all central Nebraska. When it is understood that the Loup river is capable of developing 150 to 200 horse-power per mile, it requires no prophet to understand what a valuable asset the river is to the contiguous territory. With the power properly developed, Custer county need not depend upon her agricultural resources entirely. The opportunity to become

a manufacturing center is knocking at the door.

In constructing the new power plant Mr. Lundy has done all of his own engineering and constructing work, and has been assisted in the construction work by Harry Gardner, foreman, and John Wykoff, assistant foreman.

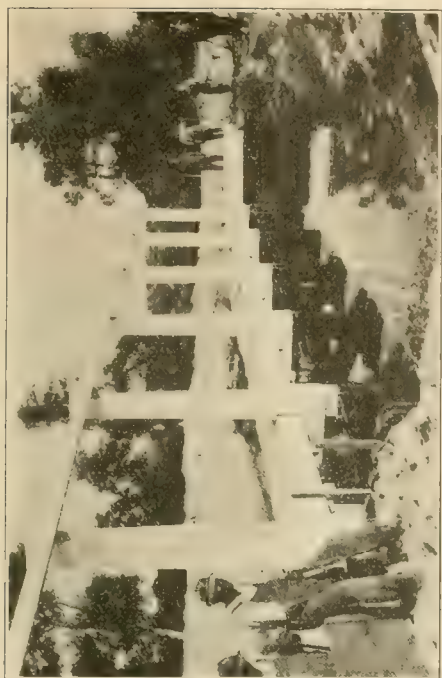
CUSTER COUNTY IRRIGATION

Once irrigation was the scheme and dream of all farmers in the county living along the river valleys. The dry year of 1894 brought the project of irrigation to the front, as the cure and prevention of crop failure. Two irrigation districts were formed, one in Lillian precinct and one in Douglas Grove. Both districts bonded themselves in order to construct ditches, flumes, and side-gates, but owing to a series of very favorable years the ditches have lapsed into disuse and are badly out of repair. Recently the Douglas Grove district was in litigation. A suit was brought by some of the water-right holders to compel the officers of the district to repair the ditch and furnish water to complainants. The suit was lost and at the present date the ditch is not used.

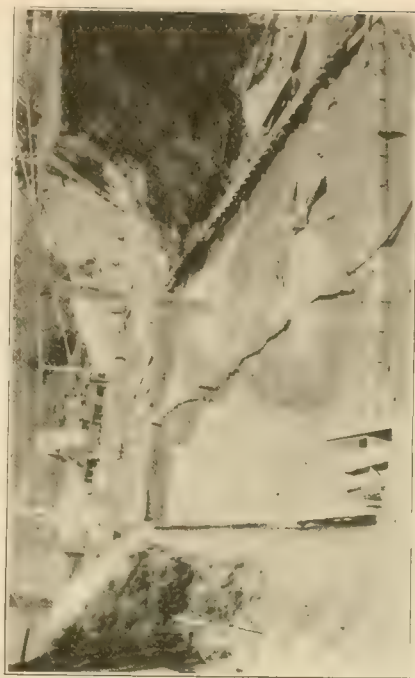
The Lillian ditch is practically abandoned, although in the vicinity of Gates a few farmers—George W. Dewey, estate of the late Ed. Bishop, Bert Gates, and others—are using water on their land. These men and J. W. Lundy, of Doris Lake, are the only Custer county farmers using water for irrigation purposes to-day.

Concerning the construction of the Douglas Grove ditch E. C. Gibbon, of Comstock, writes, in 1901, as follows:

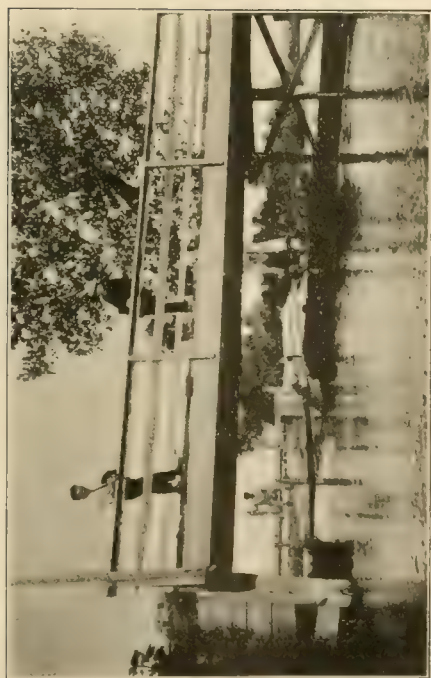
"If the terrible drouth of 1894 was responsible for the construction of the Douglas Grove irrigation ditch, it has proved to be a blessing in disguise to the people of the Middle Loup valley, as it was in that year that the ditch was located, surveyed, and active work commenced, and it was by means obtained by working on this ditch that a large number of the people of this township were enabled to live through that memorable winter and to eke out a miserable existence until another crop could be raised. An attempt was made to induce the township



HEAD-GATES, LUNDY HYDRO-ELECTRIC PLANT



FOUNDATION OF THE LUNDY HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER PLANT



MIDDLE LOOP BRIDGE AND HEAD-GATES TO IRRIGATION DITCH



POWER HOUSE IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION AT THE LUNDY HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER PLANT

to help in the work, as the sum asked to be voted would return to the taxpayers as remuneration for their work on the ditch, and thus help all concerned; but this aid was refused, and those living under the proposed ditch were compelled to organize a company and vote bonds upon themselves to obtain money to carry on and complete the undertaking. I will say nothing about their repeated discouragements and failures, but after one of the most desperate struggles, like Bruce's spider, they overcame all obstacles and the ditch has been finished from the Sargent bridge to Spring creek at Douglas Grove, a distance of thirteen and one-half miles, and covering an area of 7,000 acres of valuable land.

"As this is the only canal in this section of the country that has been successfully completed and is now in successful operation, blessing its builders with its benefactions, it must be stated that its completion is due to the unremitting and untiring efforts of a very few men, who stood by it, through evil report as well as good, until it was an accomplished fact, and the wonderful results obtained from the use of the water it furnishes have compelled those who were hitherto lukewarm supporters to become the most enthusiastic and generous friends of the enterprise. The ditch company at the present time is officered as follows: E. C. Gibbons, president; W. H. Comstock, secretary; Charles Wescott, treasurer."

The topography of the South Loup valley is so unfavorable to irrigation that no extended attempts to use the river water on adjacent land has ever been made. In this valley, hill-headlands project into the valley, coming up to the river banks in high cliffs, thus making the construction of ditches very expensive, if not impossible.

HORTICULTURE IN CUSTER COUNTY

The horticultural products of Custer county are not sufficient to warrant any extravagant claims concerning this being a great fruit country. The overwhelming preponderance of cereal crops causes the fruit industry to be neglected. A great variety of fruits, however, have been produced in the county and some varieties are

extremely well adapted to both soil and climate. Cherries seem to be the most prolific bearers and are most regular in the production of a crop. It is, perhaps, owing to the fact that the cherry is a hardy tree and matures early, that it has come into prominence and received more than its share of cultivation.

The early settlers planted small orchards as soon as they were able to procure the trees, and in most of these home orchards the cherry was the leading variety. Some few very large cherry orchards were put out for commercial purposes, but while the cherry is hardy and an early bearer it is likewise a short-lived tree, and the large orchards passed into decay. The owners did not feel that the profits of cherry-raising warranted them in replacing the dead trees and maintaining the orchards intact. But to-day, on almost every farm and on almost every residence lot in the cities and villages, can be found a few choice cherry trees which generally produce well.

Apples rank next to cherries as a Custer county fruit. The hardy varieties do exceptionally well if proper attention is paid to them. But in many instances the small farm-orchards receive little care and attention, and consequently it is not to be expected that they will produce large crops of well developed commercial fruit. Thus far the county has not raised enough apples for home consumption.

In this latitude the peach tree does not stand the hard winter, and very few bushels of peaches have ever been raised in the county. Small fruits and berries do well in the low lands where they have sufficient moisture. Grapes are admirably adapted to the county's climatic and soil conditions and if given more attention could be raised in great abundance and with good profit.

The whole county was full of wild fruit in an early day. An article written by James D. Ream thirty years ago will give an idea of the character and abundance of Custer county wild fruits:

J. D. REAM MAKES A FIND

The history of horticulture in Custer county would cover many pages if it included all the efforts and failures. But a few lines as to the

conditions found here at the time of the first settlement of the county may be of interest to some. While camping in the canyons with Wilson Hewitt, in January, 1880, I chanced to leave my gloves lying by the camp-fire in the evening, and when I looked for them in the morning I could not find them. After thorough search about the camp, Mr. Hewitt suggested that if I would tear down a pile of brush and trash that was about three rods from camp and that was three feet high and four or five feet broad, I would probably find my gloves, as it was a wood-rat's nest, and these rats had often carried off such articles for him while he was camped in the canyons. I immediately tore it down, and to my pleasant surprise I found my gloves, and nearly half a bushel of nice wild grapes, dried upon the stems, as clean and bright as when they were taken from the vines in the fall, and beneath these quite a quantity of dried plums. The rats had evidently provided the fruit for winter use, as they had eaten some of the plums, having gnawed the pits open and eaten the kernels out, but had not commenced upon the grapes. Here I obtained my first practical knowledge of the horticultural products of the county. I at once began to inquire regarding them, and to my surprise I heard some wonderful stories as to their variety and quantity. It was with great interest that I looked forward to the fruiting season, and, to my surprise, I found in the canyons, early in June, an unlimited supply of black currants, which, when stewed, with a little sugar added, made a sauce that was quite an addition to the meager fare of the average Custer county homesteader. We did not have very long to wait for the wild gooseberries to get large enough to stew, and of these, like the currants, there was an unlimited supply. Following these came the wild blackcap-raspberries, which, although not scattered all over the county, were very abundant in some of the canyons, and often bore large quantities of luscious fruit, one woman having picked and canned eighty quarts in one season. By the time these were gone, the earliest varieties of plums and choke-cherries were ripening. It would be useless to attempt to estimate the quantity of these two fruits produced that season, as every plum thicket was loaded with plums, the quality of many of the varieties being exceptionally good, while every clump of choke-cherry trees was black with the ripening fruit. I neglected the little wild strawberry that we occasionally find in the canyons. It is small, and not much of a bearer, but the flavor is very fine. The buffalo-berry is a fruit known

only in the western part of the state, growing on the sides and near the top of the steep canyons, and often bearing large quantities of very bright red and yellow berries, somewhat smaller than the tame currant. The bush or tree is a slow-grower and very thorny. The fruit is very sour and often hangs on the tree until winter, making a very pretty sight. It makes a fine jelly, and its juice is a valuable aid in making jelly from the more acid fruits. The wild dewberry was found on the Middle Loup river valley, but has not been extensively cultivated. In addition to all this we found some sections of the sand-hill country covered with what are known as sand cherries. The sand cherry is a low-growing bush or shrub, seldom reaching over eighteen inches in height in its native condition, but it is a very prolific bearer, a twig one foot high often bearing almost half a pint of fruit, which very often grew the size of tame cherries. The pits are large, the skin thick, and the flesh not so juicy as the tame cherry. The fruit has a peculiar, pungent taste that is disagreeable to many people, but this characteristic is much less prominent in some varieties than in others. For a long time it was supposed to be the sand-cherry of the east, *Prunus Pumila*, but Professor Bailey, in a bulletin issued by Cornell University in 1894, denied this, and named it *Prunus Besseyi*, in honor of Dr. C. E. Bessey, of the Nebraska University, who had made extended experiments with this shrub.

FRUIT RECEIVED TOO LITTLE ATTENTION

With all this array of varieties of fruit, and every bush and vine loaded to its utmost, is it any wonder that we entertained high hopes of the tame-fruit industry in the future? Whenever the pioneer turned the black loamy soil and planted and cultivated with reasonable care, he was richly rewarded with enormous production of grain and vegetables.

But while the farmer pioneer was imbued with the spirit of push and perseverance, while he refuses to give up hope when met by disappointments, he is not a careful observer or a diligent investigator. In this case he did not stop to observe that all these fruits, in every instance, were found growing under peculiar conditions. They were always found where moisture was abundant, and oftentimes where protection was afforded from sun and winds.

In this manner good old Dame Nature was trying to teach a valuable lesson. She had thus

written a message in every canyon, on every hillside, and in every valley. She had written it in large, plain letters, telling how and where to grow trees, fruits, berries, vines, and big weeds.

Did we read Nature's handwriting, and interpret her message of instruction? No, our untrained eyes failed to see the handwriting, and our undeveloped reasoning faculties failed to catch the lesson she had tried to teach us. We remembered the luscious fruit that grew in the orchard on the old home farm, in the eastern states where we used to live. We did not stop to question whether or not the varieties that flourished there, would stand this acrid climate, of hot sun, winds, and small rainfall. We planted what we thought we wanted to grow, and planted it where we happened to think we wanted it to grow, regardless of any laws of Nature, or any message that the good old Dame had sent us. We did not recognize that the location, the kind of soils and subsoils, the preparation of the ground, and the after-cultivation, were all basic problems that must be reckoned with.

The ever-present itinerant tree-peddler was on the ground, and, supported by the great variety of wild fruits found growing here, as well as aided by glowing pictures and full description of the wonderful fruits that he said could be grown here, he caused the pioneer's eyes to glisten and his mouth to fairly water, as he imagined he could see himself picking the ripening fruit from his own trees and vines, in the near future. Trees were planted galore, planted hither and yon—all laws of nature were disregarded and, in most cases, all known laws of cultivation and care were unheeded.

Failures, yes, ninety per cent. of the early attempts at fruit-growing here were failures. But sufficient success has been attained to prove that many kinds of the tame fruits can be grown here with reasonable success, when there is given an intelligent compliance with nature's laws. But the splendid fruit-growing sections of the eastern part of the state, where the hardier varieties of all kinds of fruits can be easily grown, and the equally

successful sections of the inter-mountain country to the west of us, have supplied us with such great quantities of splendid fruits, at reasonable prices, that the problem of fruit-growing has lost much of its interest and has not received the attention that it would otherwise have received. Another resulting loss is that many of our farm homes lack much of the attractiveness and homelike appearance that a well-cared-for orchard and a few flowers would have given them. The careful investigation and study required in successful fruit-growing under our conditions would have proven of great value to us in



COMSTOCK FLOURING MILLS

helping solve some of the many other dry-climate problems that we have met in our general farm enterprises.

THE MILLING INDUSTRY

Milling has been one of the industries of Custer county that has reached large proportions. In nearly every community a good-sized flour mill has been erected, and in most communities they are doing business at the present time.

The first mill built in the county was at Westerville. In 1885 a man named Grierson located in Westerville and put up a water-power mill on Clear creek. In this mill the first grists of the county were ground. With the building of other towns, at the expense of Westerville's ambitions, the mill ceased operations, and high water destroyed the race and dam. Other mills of the county were

built at Milldale, Callaway, Ansley, Mason, Arnold, Comstock, Sargent, Anselmo, and Broken Bow. Some of these mills have been destroyed by fire, but six are in operation to-day—those at Callaway, Arnold, Sargent, Comstock, Mason, and Ansley. Further reference to these mills will be found in chapter IX, under the respective histories of the towns in which the mills are located.

To S. J. Lonergan we are indebted for the following account of the Broken Bow mills:

THE BROKEN BOW ROLLER MILLS

The Broken Bow Roller Mills were erected in 1887. Messrs. Frey and Shoup, of Grand Island, Nebraska, commenced the work of building, and operated the mill for a short time. Owing to the liens filed by those who furnished the machinery—amounting to about \$11,000—it was closed. The property at the time it was closed was valued at \$20,000.

S. J. Lonergan, who located in Broken Bow in the spring of 1887, was induced to take the mill over on trial for three months, after which he decided to buy the controlling interest in it and made several needed improvements, costing about \$9,000. Thereafter he paid all the liens against the property and incorporated the business for \$29,000. Within this time George Frey purchased Mr. Shoup's interest in the company, but he later sold to the Central Nebraska National Bank, owned and controlled by John Inman and O. J. Coleman.

After this exchange of interests, the company continued to operate the property for several years at a profit, capital to do this being furnished by the stockholders, who received notes executed by the company, for money advanced. During the '90s the Central Nebraska National Bank failed, but before doing so it sold the milling company and paper to an Omaha bank, also disposing of their stock to some eastern parties. This action threw the property into court, and when it was sold it was bought by the Omaha banker who held the largest claim against it. Later on the Omaha banker sold the property to S. J. Lonergan, who immediately reincorporated the business, under the name of the Broken Bow Roller Milling Company. He proceeded to enlarge the plant, by building an elevator, with a capacity of 30,000 bushels, and also installed several thousand dollars' worth of needed machinery, expending in all for these betterments, \$13,000, which made the cost of the milling company's property up to and including that time, \$42,000.

S. J. Lonergan continued to run the mill for several years after this time, at a profit—up to the time of the panic of 1897. In fact, the mill was running night and day at the time of the panic, and was doing a profitable business. This panic came like a thief in the night; in the morning every banker in the country had crept into his cyclone cave, but the business man was left, like the private soldier on the firing line, to stop the onrush of this calamity or perish trying. Checks were valueless, money out of sight, property values were withered, and thousands of business men were carried out on the crest of this tide, to find themselves in the status from which they started in bygone years.

In 1912 S. J. Lonergan traded the mill for land. It then became trading property, and it thereafter changed hands one or more times,



MASON CITY FLOURING MILL

by lease or sale. While being operated in 1917, by Messrs. Jones and Bahr, it was burned and became a total loss.

ELECTRIC LIGHTS EVERYWHERE

In striking contrast to the lights used in the homes of Custer county forty years ago are the electric lights with which every town and village in the county is lighted. Forty years ago, candles were common and the oil-lamp of small, smoky burner was the major illumination. It was a fortunate farmer that had a lantern with which to do chores in the barn after and before daylight, but to-day things have changed. Not only do the dwellers in the towns have homes lighted by electricity, but many of the farmers have their own electric-lighting plants and thus are enabled to have every modern convenience on the farm, as well as in the city. The first lighting plant

in the county was established at Ansley. The second was in Broken Bow. After several attempts, Broken Bow finally secured a splendid plant, put in and operated by the Custer electric corporation of which Charles S. Martin is president and manager. This plant was established in 1909 and is a large, modern plant, well equipped to meet the needs of the community.

In 1915 the city installed a municipal plant and took over the city lighting, besides which it is now doing some commercial and residence lighting. Broken Bow is the only town in the county where two lighting plants are doing business.

TOWNS HAVE GOOD WATER

Over and again it has been mentioned that Custer county has the best water in the world. This is true not only of the country districts where hydraulic wells go down to gravel and tap the under-stratum of sheet water which is always found on the river levels, but it is also true of all the towns and villages in the county. Every town has a water plant of its own, and good, healthful, pure water is pumped out of a deep municipal well and forced into some adequate reservoir, from which it is distributed in mains and laterals all over the town. Because of the abundance of water and the easy and comparatively inexpensive method of putting down deep wells, all of the smaller places have been enabled to procure water plants that might well be envied by the larger cities of the east.

NO MINING INDUSTRY

With all her resources, no deposits of coal, iron, or other minerals have ever been found in the confines of Custer county. Indications of salt, potash, and other lesser productions of the earth have been found, but no investigation of the deep, underlying strata has ever been made. Down on the Charles Humphrey place, some five or six miles west and north of Callaway, oil indications are so prominent that talk of prospecting has been indulged, but to date no determined effort has ever been

made to find out what underlies the surface soil.

Buried underneath the surface of Custer county, are, beyond doubt, rich deposits of minerals, oil or gas, which await discovery and the push and pluck to develop and bring to the surface for man's utility. What may be the result of future research and investigation can now be only conjectured.

HAS DEVELOPED WEALTH SLOWLY

The phenomenal wealth described in the last chapter of this volume and attributed to the thrift and energy of Custer county citizens, has been the product of years. Soil has yielded rich reward to every persistent tiller, but the process has been slow — so slow that perhaps it is safe to say that thousands became discouraged and abandoned their attempts long before their labors could possibly be rewarded by nature, who weaves her pattern slowly and awaits her time for rewarding labor.

In 1878, one year after the organization of the county, the first tax-roll was made up and, notwithstanding the fact that a great many cattle still were in the county, located on extensive cattle ranches, the taxable property amounted to only \$136,054.50. This, of course, was the tax valuation of the property and in reality only one-fifth of the cash value of the property at the time of its assessment, but even at the actual value the property was far short of one million dollars — about one-seventy-fifth of the actual amount of property in Custer county to-day. It took seven years for the county to pass the million-dollar mark in property valuation, which it reached in 1886, when the taxable property was valued at \$1,131,507.20. The next year was a prosperous year, and more than a half-million dollars was added to the public assets. Two years from the time they crossed the million-dollar line, or in 1888, they crossed the two-million-dollar line, with an assessed valuation of \$2,256,281.00. Then for seven years little progress was made in the accumulation of property. Then came the memorable year of 1894, which found them

with only \$100,000 more than they possessed in 1888. But the notable change comes the next year, 1895, when, owing to removals and depreciation of values, there was a decrease instead of an increase. The years 1894 and 1895 are the only two years in the history of the county in which a decrease in taxable property is disclosed. In all other years small progress was made and some addition noted. In 1895 values depreciated below the two-million-dollar mark and stood for that year at \$1,970,300.95. The next year, however, they again passed the two-million-dollar line, and held the two million and a little more for nine years. Then, in 1904, they crossed the three-million-dollar-line, and the next year, 1905, crossed the four-million-dollar line. For two years more they stayed below the four-million-dollar line, and then, in 1908, a wave of prosperity seemed to strike them, or else increased valuations brought the holdings up to \$7,114,658.52. They stayed below or close to the seven-million line for seven years, or until 1916, when the assessed valuation of \$8,060,249.00 put them into their present place, above the eight-million-dollar line. In 1917 they added more than a half-million to the county prosperity, and from this time forth increases, on a larger scale than in the past, may be expected. The last report of the state auditor, for 1917, gives the Custer valuation at \$8,594,451, which, multiplied by five, would give us the actual valuation of property at \$47,972,255, which is many millions below a conservative estimate of property if it should be appraised at present high valuations.

HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NOW

Forty years of trials, hardships, and experiments are over. The farms are developed, homes established, the towns are located and permanent, the railroads are in vigorous operation and prosperous years have come to the Custer county people. The working over debts unpaid and mortgages that threaten to take the homesteads, are in the main part things of the past, and the feeling now of the old settlers is well described in R. F. Green's poetical lines in the *Wall Street Journal*:

SINCE WE PAID THE MORTGAGE

We've done a lot of scrimpin' an' livin' hand-to-mouth,
We've dreaded, too, wet weather an' we've worried over drouth,
For the thing kept drawin' int'rest, whether crops were good or bad,
An' raisin' much or little, seemed it swallowed all we had.
The women folks were savin' an' there ain't a bit of doubt
But that things they really needed lots of times they done without.
So we're breathin' somewhat easy, an' we're feelin' less afraid
Of Providence's workin's, since we got the mortgage paid.
I wish I'd kept a record of the things that mortgage ate
In principal and interest from beginnin' down to date!—
A hundred dozen chickens, likely fowls with yellow legs;
A thousand pounds of butter, and twelve hundred dozen eggs;
Some four or five good wheat crops and at least one crop of corn,
An' oats an' rye—it it swallowed in its life-time, as sure's you're born.
Besides the work an' worry, ere its appetite was stayed!
So we're more contented since we got the mortgage paid.
We've reached the point, I reckon, where we've got a right to rest,
An' loaf aroun' an' visit, wear our go-to-meetin' best—
Neglectin' nothin' urgent, understand, about the place,
But simply slowin' down by bits an' restin' in the race!
In time I'll get the windmill I've been wantin', I suppose;
The girls can have their organ, an' we'll all wear better clothes,
For we've always pulled together, while we've saved and scrimped and prayed,
An' it seems there's more to work for since we got the mortgage paid.

THE FIRST SETTLER TELLS THE STORY OF THE YEARS

In 1915 Lewis R. Dowse, one of Custer county's first settlers, visited the home of his childhood, Sherborn, Massachusetts, and while there was entertained by a historical society before which he paraded the experiences of a pioneer

in Custer county. The *Yankee State Daily* contains the following:

An interesting paper was read at the October meeting of the Sherborn Historical Society by Lewis R. Dowse, of Comstock, Nebraska, in which he said:

"After five years in Iowa we pulled out for Nebraska. We went in a regular prairie schooner. Some put the motto 'Nebraska or bust' on their wagons. I put up no sign, but have been bursting out there in Nebraska for forty-two years. I finally located in what is now Custer county, in the middle Loup valley. As we were the first and only settlers in the valley, we had our choice of some fine lands along the river. The soil there is very rich, but very different from that in Iowa. Those were days of real pioneer hardship. We had to go seventy miles to railroad and I had to make that trip to get provisions. That first winter the nearest white settler was twenty-five miles away. There were no roads, and elk, buffalo, and other wild animals were very numerous. We had some visits from friendly Indians, and once four startled my wife, coming to our camp when she was alone with the children. All they wanted was plenty to eat, and of course they got it.

"As soon as I could, after selecting my land, I rolled over the sod and got in a little corn. Then the grasshoppers came and ate it all up, and we were out for that year. The next year we raised a little, but the following year the grasshoppers again kindly harvested our crops. From that time on we gained a little, got more

land under cultivation and widened our circle.

"Then came our Indian scare, some time the last of the '70s, when General Custer and his men were massacred. Fearing that Indian war parties might wander into the valley of the Loup, the few settlers organized a company called the Rangers, and received arms from the government. They built a sod fort, with embrasures at the corners, so arranged that riflemen could gather there and sweep the sides of the fort with their volleys, and thus prevent storming parties from scaling the walls. Many of the settlers fled to the states farther east, but the dreaded redmen did not come to attack us. At last the Indians were overpowered and the scare was over. Our county was named in honor of General Custer.

"Years of prosperity followed. All through the '80s we had good crops and, with the exception of the drouth of 1894, things have been growing better and better. Then came the railroad, and now we are very comfortably situated. Where once was a free range, is now cultivated land. Where once I saw only wild animals, I now see the railroad train. The automobile goes over the old trail. Comstock has more people, more stores, more business than Sherborn. Such are the changes of forty years. My daughter Alice was the first white child born in Custer county.

"I am glad to revisit my old home and see the few now living who were here fifty years ago. I wish I could have with me my seven children and thirteen grandchildren. We will soon make Nebraska the real 'Dowse's Corner.'"

CHAPTER XVIII

PRESENT DAY WEALTH AND RESOURCES

A BRIGHT-RED CONTRAST — THEY GO FASTER NOW — THEY HAVE TRADED PLOWS — NO TELEPHONE GOSSIP — NO MORE FREIGHT HAULING — CUSTER COUNTY RESOURCES — PERSONAL PROPERTY — LIVE STOCK AND CROPS OF THE PRESENT YEAR — THE AUTOMOBILES HONK — BANKS AND BANKING — FIGURES IN RECAPITULATION — ANOTHER STATEMENT

A complete manifest of Custer county's present wealth and resources cannot be made. Statistics are too lame. Data cannot be obtained. The best that can be done is to give general statements and approximate figures. It is safe, however, to say that Custer is the peer of any county in the state — a ranking county on almost every proposition. It has a population of from thirty-two to thirty-three thousand people and in point of population ranks fourth in the state. Its people have good homes, well improved farms, with all the accessories of comfort and luxury. The people are happy, prosperous, and industrious. They have the progressive spirit, and latest methods are employed in every vocation and profession. Schools and churches constitute an asset in which the people have pardonable pride.

A BRIGHT-RED CONTRAST

Custer county is practically forty years of age, and between the sparsely settled, unplowed prairies of forty years ago and the high culture and splendid improvements of the present day there is a bright-red contrast — a contrast that can neither be pictured nor described.

Then there were about 200 people. To-day that number has been increased more than a hundred and fifty times. Then there were few roads. People traveled across country unmindful of trails or lines, and cared only for directions. They forded streams and wound

their way along the canyons or through the hills. To-day there are splendid roads, bridges, and culverts wherever they are needed. Every stream has been conquered, every hill subdued, and every place made accessible. Well marked automobile roads traverse the length and breadth of the county and bring the travel of other counties and of the state over the Custer highways. The central Nebraska automobile route runs through the county east and west, touching Westerville, Broken Bow, Merna, and Arnold. The potash road runs from the southeast to the northwest through the county, practically following the main line of the Burlington Railroad. The White Star line, from Lexington to Ainsworth, crosses the county north and south, passing through Lomax, Oconto, Broken Bow, Lillian, and Milburn. The Holdrege Black Hills trail crosses the county north and south in the eastern part, and connects the Black Hills and Loup river highway, at Burwell, with the Lincoln Highway at Elm Creek and the Burlington Highway at Holdrege. Another splendid automobile road runs through the southwest corner of the county and connects the central Nebraska route, at Arnold, with the Lincoln Highway at Kearney. This road follows the Union Pacific Railroad and traverses the South Loup and Wood river valleys.

THEY GO FASTER NOW

Forty years ago there were no automobiles,

steam cars, bicycles, or motorcycles, and only a very few buggies in the county. Travel was mostly on horseback. Some few had spring wagons, but if the family wanted to go any place and there were not enough saddle horses — and nine times out of ten there were not — they took the lumber wagon. Sometimes the wagon was drawn by a yoke of slow-paced oxen. In any event, traveling accommodations were very meagre, and speed regulations were not required. One old settler declares that common consent, if not law, prohibited the driving of a yoke of oxen faster than ten miles an hour. To-day all this is changed.

Top buggies came to take the place of lumber wagons and spring wagons and in them youth and age rode everywhere, in local territory. Phaetons and family carriages added a touch of aristocracy to this family of vehicles. Then came

the bicycle, which brought a mode of mobilization that developed leg muscle and appealed to the young bloods. As a family conveyance, however, the bicycle was never in high favor. To-day, the buggy and carriage are out of date, and motor cars frisk the population over the highways from farm to town and from town to farm, across county or across state.

THEY HAVE TRADED PLOWS

Forty years ago the breaking plow was the king of implements. Custer county husbandry began with the old "grasshopper" plow. It was a prairie breaker, with a square share running at almost right angles with the beam. A few curved rods guided the cut sod into

its place bordering the furrow, where it was supposed to rest bottom-side up. The second plowing was done with small, walking stirring-plows, and later corn was cultivated with the one-horse, double-shovel corn-plows, or small one-row cultivators of the primitive type then in vogue. There were no riding plows of any description.

The old-fashioned mowing machine came in for its share of work. Hay was the principal forage, and as grass grew abundantly everywhere, a mowing machine, a couple of bronchos and a little energy insured enough roughness for cattle and horses. The first



MILBURN BRIDGE OVER MIDDLE LOUP RIVER

grain crops were cut with the mowing machine, although one or two instances are recorded in which the grain was cut with the old-time cradle. With the Custer county people, the cradle was more popular in the house than in the

field. Later came the McCormick reaper, the Buckeye reaper, and then a little later the Marsh and Deering harvesters.

To-day the machinery is much improved and up-to-date. Gang plows, drawn by large, well fed draft horses or tractor engines, stir the same fields in which the old-time implements began the work. Planters, drills, seeders, harvesters or binders, listers, double-rowed cultivators, riding harrows, six-foot mowers, rakes, sweeps, stackers, threshers, and every other implement that has name or place in modern-day implement husbandry, are now in use in Custer county fields or on Custer county farms.

NO TELEPHONE GOSSIP

To the generation which has fallen heir to

modern-day improvements it seems strange that people could have lived and transacted business without the telephone, but forty years ago there were no telephone lines. The housewife could not call up the other women of the neighborhood for an hour's visit whenever she felt so disposed. The farmer could not take down the receiver and inquire all over the neighborhood for a stray cow. If a message had to be sent to a neighbor a mile away or ten miles away, it had to be carried.

NO MORE FREIGHT HAULING

The early settlers had no railroads. All kinds of supplies had to be hauled from railroad points east or south. It required days to make these trips. Almost indescribable hardships were endured by the men who made them. Teams were small and generally underfed, because grain was scarce. Wagons were old and often in poor repair. All this meant small loads, break-downs, tired-out horses, and innumerable other difficulties in transport-



FARM HOME OF JOHN CHERRY, ON THE SOUTH LOUP

There was no other way in those days. A message required a messenger. They could neither talk across the farm nor the county.

Now the wires run everywhere. Rural lines connect almost every farm not only with the business houses of the towns and villages, but also with every other farm house in the county. A great part of business is to-day transacted over the telephone lines. Neighbors visit, call the doctor, order from the stores, advertise meetings, hunt stray stock, sell their produce, and get weather reports over the telephone. All this has been the development of two score years.

ing freight from a railroad terminal to Custer county. It meant, too, a scarcity of supplies. It meant that only the bare necessities could be procured, and that no luxuries could be considered, but with the coming of the railroad all this has changed. The people of Custer are as well served by modern transportation as any part of the middle west. They have access to the markets of the world. They sell their grain at home, and buy their merchandise within thirty minutes' ride of their homes, no matter where they are located. Their live-stock rides out of the county in flat-sided Pullmans. There are no more long

drives, with heavy shrinkage, in getting stock to market. The pioneers have lived their day, have weathered their storms, and have given to the present Custerites a heritage rich in convenience and almost voluptuous with luxuries and comforts.

CUSTER COUNTY RESOURCES

In round numbers, Custer county has 1,658,880 acres of land. That comprises the sum total of her area. If it all belonged to one man he would have its intrinsic value carefully figured. He would know how much it was worth in dollars and cents. Every acre has a commercial value. It is worth more as a community holding than it would be as an individual holding. Therefore, it is proper to figure out its land value, for in no other way can the full resources or combined wealth of the county be ascertained. Figure one-third of Custer county land at twenty dollars an acre, which would make a valuation of \$11,059,200; then figure another third at thirty dollars an acre, and that will add \$16,588,800; the last third will comprise all the choice land of the county—land that ranges in price all the way from fifty to 150 dollars per acre. It will, therefore, be very conservative to value this portion of the county at sixty dollars an acre, which amounts to \$33,177,600, making a grand total of \$38,919,040, which amount would stand out in fine comparison with the valuation that might have been placed upon the county land forty years ago.

Next comes the question of town lots. A part of Custer county's land is divided into small city lots. In the towns and villages of Custer county there are 10,204 which have an average value of \$100 per lot, over and above the acreage value referred to above, which adds another \$1,020,400 to the grand total of land values.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

The last available records for 1917 accredit Custer county with 115.58 miles of railroads, valued at \$1,485,340. In addition to this the terminal properties of the Burlington and Union Pacific Railroads amount to \$419,430. Before the live stock is listed, let it be noted

that Custer county has 680 shares of mining and oil stock, and other industrial enterprises, that the owners are willing to acknowledge. They have 1,381 pianos, 757 organs, and 1,400 victrolas. Under the head of steamboats and other water craft in a state report, Custer county comes in for two. There are 321 gasoline or steam tractors, 154 threshing machines, 2,093 cream separators, and agricultural tools and implements to the value of \$175,220. Next come seven typesetting machines, valued at \$28,000; seventy-three cash-registers, valued at \$10,950; and 260 stands of bees, every stand filled with a fine grade of alfalfa honey. It might just as well be observed here as anywhere else that Custer is credited with 1,266 dogs, which an expert values at thirty cents. Whether the expert means to value the dogs at thirty cents each or the whole bunch at thirty cents, is not clear.

LIVE STOCK AND CROPS OF THE PRESENT YEAR

In 1917 Custer county had 32,710 head of horses and 2,903 mules; total valuation of horses and mules, \$2,228,880. It had 103,613 head of cattle, worth \$5,180,650; 59,722 head of hogs, worth \$1,194,440; and 2,884 sheep, worth \$43,260.

Forty-five hundred acres of spring wheat that will average fifteen bushels per acre, making a total valuation of \$135,000, starts off the crop valuation. Next comes the winter-wheat crop, which will add \$1,800,000, or approximately \$2,000,000 to Custer county wealth. This is followed with 5,000,000 bushels of corn, which, valued at one dollar a bushel, makes bushels and dollars even figures. Now add 600,000 bushels of oats, 10,000 bushels of barley, 140,000 bushels of rye, 100,000 tons of alfalfa, 60,000 tons of prairie hay, 10,000 tons of millet and sorghum hay, 200,000 bushels of potatoes, 13,561 dozen chickens, 500,000 pounds of butter, 300,000 gallons of cream—and one begins to get some idea of the almost fabulous wealth and mammoth resources of Custer county.

THE AUTOMOBILES HONK

One of the assets of Custer county is a

parade of automobiles. Statistics show that in proportion to population Nebraska has more automobiles than any other state in the Union, and Custer county stands well at the head of Nebraska counties in the possession of motor cars. There is operated in the county one car for every eight persons. The county treasurer's books show in round numbers that 4,000 automobiles are owned and operated in the county. This includes motor trucks as well as motor cars. Counting the population at 32,000, it makes one car for every eight persons. If these cars should all turn out some day and form a procession on a good Custer county road, allowing 100 feet for each car, which is as close as they could run in safety, cars would cover seventy-six miles of road, or make a procession seventy-six miles long. Running at fifteen miles an hour, it would take five hours for the procession to pass a given point.

Of the four thousand cars for which state licenses have been granted, 2,376 are Fords, 197 are Dodges, 145 are Overlands, 219 are Maxwells, 138 are Buicks, 122 are Chevrolets, 62 are Studebakers, 47 are Oaklands. The remaining 604 range to big cars of expensive models, such as Hudsons, Chalmers, Willys-Knights, Moline-Knights, and Cadillacs. Many expensive Sedan tops are in the list.

BANKS AND BANKING

Forty years ago Custer county had no banks, no credit, and no money. To-day, located and doing business in the county, there are a full two dozen financial institutions, all chartered as state banks and all financially sound.

The following is a report of the financial condition and total resources of the Custer county banks, as per call report, under date of May 10, 1918, for which this volume is indebted to J. J. Tooley, secretary of the state banking board:

Anselmo State Bank, Anselmo...	\$ 264,681.11
Peoples State Bank, Anselmo...	153,861.96
Farmers State Bank, Ansley....	210,877.15
Security State Bank, Ansley....	244,606.02
State Bank, Ansley.....	566,958.99
Arnold State Bank, Arnold.....	624,748.67

Security State Bank, Arnold...	127,575.34
Broken Bow State Bank, Broken Bow	668,334.69
Security State Bank, Broken Bow	415,562.97
Custer State Bank, Broken Bow	451,507.39
Nebraska State Bank, Broken Bow	152,446.55
Berwyn State Bank, Berwyn....	290,407.29
Farmers State Bank, Callaway..	553,636.92
Seven Valleys State, Callaway..	416,839.84
Farmers Bank of Merna, Merna	201,840.51
Bank of Merna, Merna.....	337,302.62
Farmers and Merchants Bank, Comstock	301,942.47
Citizens State Bank, Comstock..	304,946.45
Oconto State Bank, Oconto....	240,393.14
The Farmers Bank, Oconto....	217,397.26
Sargent State Bank, Sargent...	302,477.54
Farmers State Bank, Sargent...	361,978.76
Farmers State Bank, Mason City	129,104.26
The Mason City Banking Co., Mason City.....	313,591.51

Grand total in Custer county...\$7,853,019.41

FIGURES IN RECAPITULATION

Perhaps it will be easier to understand the vast resources of this oversized and progressive county if some of the figures set forth in the foregoing paragraphs are here repeated and tabulated, so they can be more easily comprehended:

Present land value.....	\$38,919,040.00
Value of town lots.....	1,020,400.00
Value railroad lines.....	1,485,340.00
Value railroad terminals.....	419,430.00
Tractors and threshing machines	175,220.00
Typesetting machines.....	28,000.00
Horses and mules.....	2,228,880.00
Cattle	5,180,650.00
Hogs	1,194,440.00
Sheep	43,260.00
Spring wheat.....	135,000.00
Winter wheat.....	2,000,000.00
Corn	5,000,000.00
Rye, oats, barley.....	500,000.00
Alfalfa, prairie, and millet hay.	1,500,000.00
Bank deposits and securities...	7,853,019.00
Automobiles	2,000,000.00
Stocks of merchandise.....	1,200,000.00
Schools, churches, public buildings	2,000,000.00
Mills, light and water plants...	320,000.00
United States bonds and stamps	1,300,000.00

Grand total.....\$74,492,710.00

While the foregoing figures are very careful estimates, they are very conservative, and are given only to enable the reader to determine approximately something of the present-day wealth.

ANOTHER STATEMENT

To illustrate the resources of Custer county, it might be stated something like this. We have a record, nearly 4,000 years old, concerning the children of Israel, who found themselves swamped, down in Egypt, and planned to emigrate to another country. They picked up bag and baggage and struck out in the middle of the night. They took their children and live stock with them, but the record declares they had to walk; they had no money to pay railroad fares and freight bills.

If the people of Custer county should decide to hunt another location, unlike the Israelites, they would not have to walk. They have the money to pay both passage and freight. It would take, however, something like the following equipment to load them up and haul them out of the country.

They would probably go over the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, which has fifty-four miles of road in one line running diagonally through the county. So run the engines down to the county line east of Mason City and let the box cars extend west to where the road crosses the county on the north. Then we will begin to load. Now fill 2,524 cars with machinery and farming implements, 7,000 cars with furniture and household goods, including merchandise from the stores. Then load 1,781 cars with horses and mules, 5,181 cars with cattle, 1,000 cars with small grain, 10,000 cars with corn, 1,700 cars with hay, 300 cars with potatoes, 500 cars with poultry and dairy produce. It will take 1,000 cars to haul the automobiles.

When all these worldly possessions are loaded, it will make 35,417 car-loads, and, allowing fifty cars to an engine, it will take eight miles of engines to pull this freight. Switch them out on the main line and run them in trains of one-half mile length with only a half-mile between the sections, and it will require

694 miles of road to line them up ready for starting. When the head engine is ready to whistle for Litchfield, the last caboose would be seven miles beyond Billings.

Now the people themselves have money to buy tickets, and have small disposition to walk. They will ride in sleepers and all will want lower berths. So, using lower berths, by putting them two in a bed, it will require 1,000 Pullmans to accommodate our thirty-two thousand people. It will require 250 baggage-cars to accommodate the trunks, valises, and surplus baggage of the passengers.

Divide them into trains of twenty cars each, then the Custerites will ride in sixty-one special trains, which, running only a half-mile apart, will cover thirty miles of track, and, as lined up behind the freight, would extend the Custer county caravans thirty-seven miles beyond Billings. Open the line, give them right of way, and start them out at twenty miles an hour, and it will take them thirty-six hours to pass a given point, or after they have been traveling thirty-six hours the last passenger coach will just get down to where the first engine started, but when it reaches that point the first engine will be thirty-five miles east of Chicago.

This is as far as it is profitable to trace them, for they would probably roll over the different lines of the country and, not finding a better location would return and unload in Custer county, where they would start over again, under very different conditions than those under which they made their first start.

In the compilation of any circumscribed history — such as that of a city or county — it is evident that its chief feature of interest will be found to be of a personal, family, or community nature; and by the personal standard is the true value of all history to be judged. The highest critics of historical work have justly held that any production that lacks personal or human interest is of little lasting value. In the preparation of this history of Custer county the projectors and authors have kept this invaluable quality in mind, the while they have been alive also to the further necessity of carefully and strongly depicting the rela-

tions borne by this integral division of Nebraska to the state and nation. Both in the early times and the later periods it has been shown that general as well as specific causes have contributed to the local and county development.

While thus combining the general with the specific and personal, there has been an insistent care in avoiding the mistake of overburdening the narrative with extraneous matter. The general history serves as an effective background for the bringing out, or proper revelation, of strictly home or county matters, and the work thus proves a fitting complement to and adjunct of the volume in which is outlined the history of the state.

Thus it is that the following chapter, or division, needs no voucher for its consistency or its expediency. In the perpetuating of genealogical and personal records concerning those who have wrought well in connection with the development of the great county of Custer, this publication offers still further material of enduring and cumulative historical value, and it is believed that in every instance the individual recognition that is accorded is eminently due. Those who have suffered the vicissitudes and hardships of the pioneer days merit more than passing honor, and the same is accorded in the following pages. Those who have devoted themselves with equal loyalty and constructive energy to carrying forward the work initiated by the pioneers and founders, likewise deserve the recognition that is here

tendered, and it is believed that the final division of this history rounds out most effectively the more generic history which closes with these paragraphs.

The history of our country has ever been the history of the frontier. The spirit that has presided over our destinies since the day-dawn of freedom has ever been the spirit of the pioneer. The creative, formative forces that marked the nation's miraculous birth; the achievements of a century distancing those of a cycle of the nations of old; the spirit that has preserved our honor unscathed amid the shock of battle and the riot of war; the progress and prosperity which, unparalleled in the history of the race, have differentiated us from the people of all other climes—all had their inspiration, their birth, and their fruitage in the rugged lives of our pioneers, as they swung the ax in the primeval forest or turned the virgin glebe in the untamed valleys and prairies of the west. "To such "scouts of progress" Custer county must ever pay a tribute of highest honor, for within the confines of this county have been wrought works that measure up to the highest standard attained by the true American pioneer. Thus in a direct way, as well as by inference, the various personal sketches and family reviews that constitute the closing department of this publication shall offer much to those who "read between the lines," both at the present and in future years.



A. R. Humphrey.

CHAPTER XIX

FOUNDERS AND BUILDERS

PERSONAL MENTION OF MANY OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN EXPONENTS OF CIVIC AND MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS IN CUSTER COUNTY

AUGUSTIN R. HUMPHREY. — There is no man more widely known and no man who has been more closely concerned with public affairs and county developments than the man whose name is announced by this title line. In a wide circle of the county he is known to everybody as "Judge Humphrey," but in the near circle of closer friends the title is omitted, and the name abbreviated to "Gus." For the purpose of this review, however, we shall refer to him as Judge, a title honorably won and richly deserved.

Judge Humphrey was born in Madison, Indiana, in February, 1859, and is a son of Augustin R. Humphrey, Sr., and Hanna (Hicks) Humphrey. The father descended from a fine old Kentucky family, and the date of his birth is recorded as July 12, 1816. The mother was born in Wales, and in her veins coursed the blood of that staunch, patriotic people who have made always a valuable contribution to the world, and who have furnished some of the best citizens America has ever possessed. She came to this country with her parents when a mere child, and here received her training and lived her life. The Judge's parents were married in the county of his nativity, March 26, 1846, and both lived until the last week in August, 1904, at which time, by a striking and appropriate coincidence, both died in the same week.

The Judge ran the gamut of the common schools in Iowa, to which state his father's family emigrated when the Judge was but five years old. It was in the public schools that the Judge imbibed the principles of Ray's Third Part Arithmetic, and committed to memory McGuffey's Reader and Speller, together with most of the principles of Pinneo's Grammar. At the close of this public-school career he could repeat the contents of these schoolbooks verbatim, and in all probability he can come nearer repeating the contents of these volumes to-day than any other Custer

county man or woman in whose school curriculum they had place. He quit the common school at the age of fifteen, and entered the Normal College at Bloomfield, Iowa, in the fall of 1878. There he continued the studies until 1881. He taught school in the winter to get money to go to school the rest of the year. From this institution he was graduated in 1881, and he then went to the Iowa State University, where he took his law course, graduating from the law department in June, 1882. This makes up the educational equipment of this useful citizen, whose life record it is a pleasure to relate.

His domestic life began June 28, 1883, when he led to the altar Miss Nellie N. Nightingale, as the result of a college romance — owing to the fact that the bride was a member of the same class in college and graduated in the same class with her husband. In the fall of the same year the young couple turned their faces toward the west, following the star of empire until they reached Nebraska, where the Judge began by teaching school at Unadilla. There they remained almost one year. In the fall of 1884 they came to Broken Bow and selected this place for their future home; and as soon as possible established a residence which has been the Humphrey home ever since. Here he commenced the practice of law; here he won his first legal victories; here he shied for the first time his castor into the political ring, and received his first public recognition. Here he first won his successes, and here he has reached to-day the years of his retirement from the hard and strenuous duties of active practice.

Into the family circle, as the years went by, three sons were born, all of whom are grown to manhood, a credit to the father and mother and entered upon what will undoubtedly be successful careers. Paul N. is now living at Pawhuska, Oklahoma; Donald R. operates a farm owned by the Judge on the South Loup;

Fred A. is a medical student in the State University. The two former are married and have established homes of their own. In the home of Donald is to be found the only grandchild, a bright boy who occupies a large place in the grandsire's affections.

The shadow fell across the Humphrey household on May 30, 1914, when the wife and mother passed from life into that unknown and mysterious realm to which the great majority of mankind has journeyed. Her death occurred in the Bailey Sanitarium at Lincoln, to which place she had gone in the brave struggle to regain health. Mrs. Humphrey was an excellent, cultured lady, prominent in many lodges and social circles, loved and respected by friends and neighbors.

Concerning the political career of the Judge, and it has been an enviable one, it is to be recorded that in 1889 he attended the state convention as a delegate. The convention was looking for a man from the middle part of the state to fill an important post on the ticket, and accordingly the Judge was drafted. He says there was no reason—it was purely accidental that he should be nominated at that time for commissioner of public lands and buildings, but he received the nomination, was elected in the fall of 1890, and filled the office with credit. He was re-elected in the fall of 1892 and served until the end of that second term, at which time he returned to Broken Bow and resumed the practice of law. He was elected county attorney in the fall of 1902, and elected county judge in the fall of 1905, being re-elected in 1907. In the spring of 1916, over his earnest protest, the citizens of Broken Bow made him mayor, which position he filled one year, and then absolutely refused to be a candidate for re-election. The Judge has always taken a keen interest in educational affairs. The public school was a favorite realm for his activities. From the spring of 1890 until the end of the school year of 1914, he was a member of the board of education of his home city, and for the most of the time was chairman of the board. It can be truthfully said that he made more president addresses to graduating classes than any other man in Custer county, and it is quite likely that this is true of the entire state.

The Judge has ceased the active practice of law, and spends a great deal of his time at his country home, where he delights in the quiet hour and the healthful exercises of gardening and other productive recreation. No man in Custer county has responded more liberally to all calls of the public; no man has contributed more cheerfully to the promotion

of every public enterprise, or has lent a greater service to the development of Custer county.

These lines are written by a personal friend who has known him long and intimately, and who delights to pay the homage he feels is due to such a character as the judge has been.

W. L. GASTON.

MACK C. WARRINGTON.—When he located at Broken Bow, in May, 1916, to assume the duties of register of the United States Land Office, Mack C. Warrington left behind him at Mason City, this county, numerous business interests and a reputation for honorable dealing as a business man, integrity in public office, and probity in private life. In his new community and in his new official capacity, he has not only maintained the reputation noted, but has also extended and strengthened it, so that there are few men in public life in Custer county to-day who stand higher in public favor, esteem, and confidence.

Mr. Warrington was born at Guthrie Center, the county seat of Guthrie county, Iowa, October 29, 1864, and is a son of William and Julia (Cooper) Warrington. His father was born in England, in 1820, and was a young man when he came to the United States. He was a blacksmith by trade. In 1854 he located in Illinois, where he began to work at his trade, and shortly thereafter he met and married Julia Cooper, who was born in Ireland and who had come to the United States in 1848 and located in Illinois. Not long after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Warrington removed to Guthrie Center, Iowa, where, in 1856, the father founded a blacksmith shop that is still in existence and is being conducted by one of his sons. He became one of the highly esteemed men of his community, was an influential Democrat and a Mason, and died in 1905, aged eighty-five years, in the faith of the Baptist church, of which Mrs. Warrington, who died in 1901, also was a member. They became the parents of six children, of whom four are living—Mrs. J. F. Holster, a widow, residing at Guthrie Center, Iowa; Mack C., of this notice; Mrs. T. J. Campbell, the wife of a ranchman of Palisades, Colorado; and Bert, of Guthrie Center, who conducts the blacksmith business which was founded by his father sixty-two years ago.

After attending the public schools of Guthrie Center, Iowa, Mack C. Warrington completed a course at Cornell College, Mount Vernon, that state, and began his career as a printer, a vocation which he learned in his home community. He was variously employed until August, 1886, when he came to Nebraska,

and, locating at Mason City, secured a position on the local newspaper, the *Transcript*, of which he became proprietor through purchase in the following year. During the thirty years that followed he continued to act as publisher and editor of this paper, which he developed into one of the strong and influential journals of the Democratic party in this part of the state, and which had a large following and a subscription list which extended over several counties adjoining Custer. In addition, he built up a large and profitable job-printing business and had interests in several other directions, being accounted one of the substantial men of Mason City.

For a number of years Mr. Warrington has been prominent and influential in Democratic politics in Custer county, both personally and through his newspaper ownership, and while a resident of Mason City he served in a number of capacities, including that of member of the school board, justice of the peace, and postmaster, of which last named office he was the incumbent for five years. In May, 1916, he received the appointment, from President Wilson, as register of the United States land office at Broken Bow, and moved to this city to take charge of his duties, which embrace the responsibilities for a district that covers twenty-four counties. He disposed of his newspaper interests in 1917 and has devoted his entire attention to his office, in which he has already established an excellent record for capable, expeditious, and conscientious service. Mr. Warrington was a charter member of Mason City Lodge, No. 170, Ancient, Free & Accepted Masons, of which he is a past master, and he still belongs to the Masons and to the Modern Woodmen of America.

In 1893 Mr. Warrington married Miss Mena Mengel, who was born in Illinois, a daughter of Frederick Mengel. Mrs. Warrington is a member of the Catholic church.

CHARLES H. HOLCOMB.—A resident of Custer county since 1883, when he came to this locality as a homesteader, Charles H. Holcomb has been engaged in the practice of law at Broken Bow for a period of thirty-two years, within which time he has risen to a position of eminence among the attorneys of central Nebraska. Judge Holcomb is a native of Gibson county, Indiana, born January 21, 1856, and is a son of John C. and Rebecca (Skelton) Holcomb.

The paternal grandfather of Judge Holcomb was a minister of the "Hard-Shell" Baptist

church, who came from the south at an early date and settled in Gibson county, where, in 1821, was born John C. Holcomb. The latter passed the greater part of his life in farming, although he was also prominent in Democratic politics and at various times held official positions, being for eight years deputy county auditor, and serving also as county auditor for a number of years. His death occurred in 1879, and his first wife, also a native of Gibson county, passed away in 1856. They were members of the Baptist church and were the parents of three children, of whom two are living: J. B., who is a ranchman of Broken Bow; and Charles H. After the death of his first wife, Mr. Holcomb married her sister, Lucinda Skelton, and they became the parents of seven children, of whom three are living: S. A., of Lincoln, is at present a member of the board of control, he being a former governor of Nebraska and former member of the supreme court of the state; S. H. is engaged in farming in Gibson county, Indiana; and Estella is the wife of L. E. Kirkpatrick, of Seattle, Washington, a former attorney of Broken Bow.

The early education of Charles H. Holcomb was secured in the public school at Fort Branch, Indiana, and, having decided upon a professional career, he started the study of law in the office of an attorney at that place. He practiced in Indiana until 1881, when he came to Nebraska and first settled in Hamilton county, which was his place of residence for two years. In 1883 he changed his center of activity to Custer county, locating on a homestead, but after three years he moved to Broken Bow, which has since been his home. Here he established himself in practice, subsequently becoming associated with the law firm of Kirkpatrick & Holcomb, an alliance which lasted until 1891. In that year he formed a partnership with his younger brother, W. W. Holcomb, and the firm of Holcomb—until the death of the younger member. He then continued alone until 1909, when he was elected judge of the county. Holcomb Brothers continued in existence for eight years, and he remained on the bench for five years, during which time he established a record for dignity, for judicial bearing, and for the wisdom and fairness of decisions that won him uniform commendation. When he retired from the bench, Judge Holcomb formed a partnership with Judge Humphrey, and this now forms one of the strongest law firms in central Nebraska. Judge Holcomb is one of the men who have risen from the ranks, and

his entire career has been one of steady and constant advancement, marked by the utmost integrity, sincerity, and fidelity to duty.

Judge Holcomb was married in 1879, in Gibson county, Indiana, to Miss Alice Finch, who was born in that county, and to this union there have been born five children: A. Wilbur, engaged in the automobile business at Hastings, Nebraska; Vessa, the wife of C. O. O'Banion, a cigar manufacturer of Aurora, Nebraska; Mabel, formerly her father's deputy and always his assistant in his office work, now the wife of William Darnell, a contractor of Broken Bow; Edna, the wife of S. S. Parkison, a railroad man; and Roy, a member of the United States Coast Artillery, is in service in France at the time of this writing. Mrs. Holcomb is a member of the Christian church. The Judge is a Democrat in his political allegiance, and is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which fraternity he has passed all the official chairs.

HARVARD LOMAX. — Two occupations, ranching and banking, have attracted the interests and energies of Harvard Lomax, and in both fields of endeavor he has won standing and prosperity, being at this time the owner of much valuable land in Custer county and president of the Custer State Bank, of Broken Bow. Also he has been a prominent figure in public life and in several positions of marked responsibility has demonstrated his worthiness for such honors and his capacity for discharging the duties of his high position.

Mr. Lomax was born at Stockport, England, September 15, 1859, a son of James and Mary (Hobson) Lomax, natives of England, who passed their entire lives there, the father dying in 1905, aged eighty-three years, and the mother in 1900, aged seventy-eight. James Lomax was a wholesale paper merchant and was a successful business man. He and his wife were members respectively of the Church of England and the Wesleyan Methodist church. They were the parents of seven children, of whom five are living: Henry Hobson, in the British government service at West Kirby, England; Harvard, of this review; Mrs. Robert Hamilton, a widow who lives in England; Maude, of New Quay, Cornwall, England; and Sarah Lloyd, of the same place.

Harvard Lomax was given excellent educational advantages in his youth and completed his studies when he was graduated in Wesley College, Sheffield, England, in 1878. He then spent one year as a fruit farmer on the Isle of

Jersey, but in 1880 he immigrated to the United States and in March of that year located in Custer county. He pre-empted a tract in the South Loup valley and held it for three years, but subsequently he removed to Wood river, where he homesteaded and in addition bought railroad land. For a time he was associated with his brother, Henry H., but the latter went back to England. Mr. Lomax eventually became one of the well-to-do men of his locality and won general public confidence by his straightforward handling of business matters. He interested himself in public matters and in 1890 was elected to the state legislature, in which body he served one term, making a good record for constructive work. For several years thereafter he served as county supervisor, and in 1895 he was elected county treasurer, an office which he retained four years. In 1901 Mr. Lomax assisted in the organization of the Custer National Bank, of which institution he was the first cashier, remaining as such until 1917, when he was made president. This institution, now the Custer State Bank, is sound and conservative, with an excellent reputation in banking circles, and it has a capital of \$35,000, with surplus and undivided profits of \$5,000, and average deposits of \$415,000. Mr. Lomax still retains his holdings in farm property and gives some attention to the operation of the same, but the major portion of his time is taken up with banking affairs. In politics Mr. Lomax is a Democrat, with independent inclinations. He is a Mason in high standing, a Knight Templar and a member of the Mystic Shrine and has served his Blue Lodge as master. He is a member also of the Woodmen and the Highlanders. With his family, he belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church.

In February, 1884, Mr. Lomax was united in marriage to Miss Laura White, who was born at Clifton, Illinois, a daughter of Thomas and Mary White, early settlers of that state. The parents of Mrs. Lomax came to Nebraska in 1882, and Mr. White purchased a section of land near Lexington, where he followed farming until his death. Mr. and Mrs. Lomax are the parents of six children: Edith is the wife of H. A. Stephenson, M. D., a graduate in medicine at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland, where Miss Lomax was a trained nurse, and Dr. Stephenson is now in the United States service as a surgeon at Fort Riley; James is cashier of the Custer State Bank at Broken Bow; Clifford, the manager of a cattle ranch in Cherry county, is a soldier in France at the time of this writing; Marian

is a graduate of the Broken Bow high school, class of 1918; and Leslie and Frances are attending school.

JOHN M. KIMBERLING.—Among the prominent citizens of Broken Bow, one who affords an encouraging example of success gained through the proper use of every-day abilities and opportunities, is John M. Kimberling, president of the Broken Bow State Bank. His life work has been a response both to his early teaching and the needs of his environment, and he has laboriously climbed every round in the financial ladder, having risen to the presidency from the humble position of bookkeeper. He was born in Marion county, Iowa, March 25, 1859, and is a son of Rev. Lawrence and Elizabeth (Reynolds) Kimberling.

The paternal grandfather of Mr. Kimberling was Elijah Kimberling, a native of West Virginia, who spent his entire career in that state, which was also the birthplace of the maternal grandfather, John Reynolds, who moved to Iowa in 1852 and passed the rest of his life there, engaged in farming. Rev. Lawrence Kimberling was born in West Virginia, and as a young man moved to Marion county, Iowa, in 1852, being there married to Miss Reynolds, who also was born in West Virginia. They settled down to an agricultural life in their new community and there spent the remainder of their days. Mr. Kimberling was an ordained minister of the Baptist church and for many years labored faithfully in the service of his Master, filling numerous pulpits in the country surrounding his home. He was a self-made man in all that the term implies, and was greatly esteemed in his community. His political belief made him a Republican. There were five children in the family, of whom four are living: Frank, who is proprietor of a meat market at Franklin, Nebraska; John M., who is the subject of this review; C. V., who is engaged in the laundry business at Des Moines, Iowa; and Minnie, who is the wife of J. Dickey, a printer at Franklin.

The district schools of Marion county, Iowa, furnished John M. Kimberling with his early education, and this he supplemented with a course in a commercial college at Des Moines. His first vocation was farming, but this did not prove congenial, and for a time he was occupied in teaching school. Two years as an instructor convinced him that such an occupation was not his forte, and in 1887 he came to Broken Bow, Nebraska, where he

entered upon his real career, obtaining a position as bookkeeper in the Broken Bow State Bank. His advance with this institution was steady and continuous, for he rose consecutively to cashier and then to vice-president, and in 1917 was made president of this institution, which is accounted one of the strong and stable banking houses of the county, with a capital of \$30,000, surplus and profits of \$10,900, and average deposits of \$600,000. Mr. Kimberling is known as a man of rare sagacity and judgment, keen foresight, and inherent ability as a banker, with a proper blend of progressiveness and conservatism. He is held in the greatest confidence not only by his associates but also by the general public, and his fellow citizens have demonstrated their faith in him by making him city treasurer for nineteen years and a member of the city council for a like period. He is a Republican. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the blue lodge and chapter of York Rite Masonry and was formerly secretary of the lodge, and he and Mrs. Kimberling are members of the Baptist church.

In 1890 Mr. Kimberling married Miss Cora Reyner, who was born in Iowa, and who died in 1894, leaving one child: Florence, who is now the wife of Edward Scott, a farmer near Broken Bow. In 1898 Mr. Kimberling was again married, being united with Miss Rosa Hemphill, also a native of Iowa, and to this union there have been born two children: Thelma and Rodgers, both attending the Broken Bow public schools.

WILLIAM A. HOUSEL, D. M. D.—As in medicine and surgery, the science of dentistry is constantly developing new phases of usefulness, and in order to insure success, the dentist of to-day must keep fully abreast of the achievements of his profession. He must add skill to thorough research and combine close application to his task with the ability gained through experience. Such a practitioner is William A. Housel, D. M. D., who has been engaged in the practice of his profession at Ansley since 1905, with constantly increasing success.

Doctor Housel was born at Stockham, Hamilton county, Nebraska, July 15, 1875, a son of Gardner and Jennie (Cook) Housel. His father, who was born in New Jersey, in 1848, was four years of age when he was taken by his parents to Madison, Wisconsin, where he grew to manhood and was educated in the public schools. In Wisconsin he was engaged in farming for a short time, but in

1870 he came to Nebraska and settled on a homestead in the vicinity of Stockham, Hamilton county, and in that community he married Miss Jennie Cook, who was born in New York city, in 1854, and who was brought to Nebraska as a child. They continued to live in that community until 1879, when they settled on a tree claim in Custer county. This claim Mr. Housel duly developed and improved, and to the same he has since added, by various purchases, until he now has 800 acres of valuable land. A man of splendid energy and business ability, he has been very prosperous in his undertaking, and is now justly accounted one of the well-to-do, as well as prominent, men of his locality. He is a Democrat in politics, a leader in civic movements and enterprises and a consistent member of the Christian church, to which Mrs. Housel also belongs. They are the parents of four children, as follows: Frank, engaged in farming near Ansley; Dr. William A., of this notice; Dr. C. L., a specialist in diseases of the eye, ear, nose, and throat, and now in the service of the United States Army, at Austin, Texas; and Margaret, the wife of Ben Sheldon, who is carrying on agricultural operations on his father's farm.

Dr. William A. Housel attended the public schools of Ansley, and after his graduation in the high school he spent three years at Cotner University, in Lincoln. He then pursued his professional studies at the Lincoln Dental school, from which he was duly graduated with the class of 1905, and he at once began practice at Ansley, where he has maintained his office ever since. A courteous and genial manner, splendid skill in his vocation, and a natural love for his calling, have combined to attract to Doctor Housel a large and representative practice, and as the holder of the largest clientele in this part of the county he has been compelled to employ an assistant. He devotes his entire time to his professional business and has had little leisure for outside matters, but he is a stanch Democrat and gives his support to good civic movements.

In 1900 Dr. Housel married Miss Florence L. Ford, who was born at Blue Hill, Nebraska, and who is a daughter of Fred Ford, a successful carpenter contractor at Bethany, Nebraska. Of this union have been born five children, namely: Alice, Robert, Dorothy, Lucille, and Raymond F. Dr. and Mrs. Housel are members of the Christian church.

JAMES K. HEWETT.—The proprietor and editor of a newspaper occupies a vantage ground from which he may make or mar a

reputation, or build up or tear down a cause worthy of public support. Not only the city of Broken Bow but Custer county at large has reason for congratulation that the *Custer County Republican* is in such safe, sagacious and thoroughly clean hands. It is considered one of the best general newspapers published in the county, as well as an outspoken, fair-play exponent of the best element of the Republican party; in fact it is in all respects well worthy of the care and sound judgment displayed in its columns, and reflects credit on both the editor and publisher, James K. Hewett.

Mr. Hewett was born at Bloomington, Franklin county, Nebraska, January 9, 1890, a son of James H. H. Hewett and Maude (Kelly) Hewett. His paternal grandfather, Obediah B. Hewett, a prominent and leading attorney, came to Nebraska in 1857 and assisted in laying out the city of Beatrice. In 1859 he married Miss Mary Turner. He fought as captain of Company M, Second Nebraska Cavalry, during the Civil war. At the close of the war he settled in Brownville, where he remained until 1876, when he moved on to a farm near that city. In 1880 he went to Hastings, and he practiced law there until 1892, when he went to California and practiced law at Riverside, California, later moving to Chino, California, where he died in 1898. The maternal grandfather, of Mr. Hewett was James E. Kelly, who was born at Latrobe, Pennsylvania. At the age of nineteen years he enlisted in the Thirty-fourth Regiment of Indiana Volunteers and rose to the rank of captain. Returning to Indiana, he was married, December 31, 1863, to Margaret J. Lawrence, who accompanied him to Texas, where he saw six months' service on the border, during the days immediately following the struggle between the north and south. When honorably discharged he and his wife went to Roanoke, Indiana, where Mr. Kelly engaged in the mercantile business. Later they moved to South Carolina, engaging in cotton raising. They then moved to Fond du Lac, where again Mr. Kelly engaged in the mercantile business. In 1879 he came to Nebraska as a pioneer, taking a homestead in Harlan county. In 1880 he moved to Bloomington, engaging in the mercantile business until appointed receiver of the United States land office at Bloomington, under President Harrison.

James H. H. Hewett was born in Brownville, Nebraska, and received excellent educational advantages, being graduated from the Peru State Normal, class of 1883, and having the distinction of being the first graduate of

Hastings College, class of 1885. He studied law with his father and, after being admitted to the bar, entered the land office at Bloomington, Nebraska, and later at McCook, Nebraska. He was married to Miss Maude L. Kelly, in 1888, at Bloomington, Nebraska. They then moved to Box Butte county, Nebraska, where Mr. Hewett engaged in the practice of law, at Hemingford and Alliance, for a number of years.

Mr. Hewett has always been prominent in Republican politics and for two terms was county judge of Box Butte county. He is now connected with the United States land office at Alliance, Nebraska. Mr. Hewett is prominent in Masonic circles, having been master of the Alliance blue lodge for seven years and eminent commander of the Knights Templars. Mr. and Mrs. Hewett have been the parents of three children, two of whom are living—James K. Hewett and Helen Bernice Hewett, who is a senior at the University of Nebraska.

James K. Hewett was graduated from the Alliance high school in 1908, following which he entered the Nebraska State University, and, after pursuing an extended course in electrical engineering, was graduated with his degree of Bachelor of Science, in 1913. Going to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, he took a special course of two years with the Westinghouse Company, and in 1914 returned to Nebraska. As a young man he had learned the trade of printing, more as a recreation than with the thought of using it as a business. However, there is the saying that once a man's blood be tainted with printer's ink he is never able to disassociate himself from it. This may have been true in Mr. Hewett's case, for when he came back to Nebraska in 1914 he joined the force of the *Alliance Times*. Two years of experience there bound him firmly to newspaper work, and in 1916 he came to Broken Bow and purchased the *Custer County Republican*, of which he has since been the editor and publisher. At the present time he has a circulation extending through Custer county and is producing a well printed, well edited sheet, with clean, live, authentic news, timely editorials and interesting locals. His efforts to give the people a good, readable newspaper have evidently been appreciated, and he is well supported in an advertising way by the merchants and professional men of Broken Bow. In connection with his newspaper, Mr. Hewett has a well equipped job department, and turns out all manner of high-class job printing.

Mr. Hewett was married at Lincoln, on November 20, 1916, to Miss Anna Margaret Veith, who was born at Lincoln, Nebraska, September 8, 1890. Mrs. Hewett is the young-

est daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Veith, of Lincoln, Nebraska. Mr. Veith was born at Ober-Ramstadt, Germany, in 1846. His father, Conrad Veith, was librarian of the court documents at Schloss Lichtenberg while preparing himself for office in the probate courts of that city. Henry Veith left Germany when a young man, going first to London, where he lived a year before coming to the United States. In the '60s he decided to make Lincoln, Nebraska, his home and soon after took out his naturalization papers. He was married to Catherine Goetz, of Darmstadt, Germany, on February 24, 1872, at Lincoln, Nebraska. During all these years he has been successfully engaged in the mercantile business.

Mrs. Hewett graduated from the Lincoln high school in 1909. In 1913 she received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the Arts and Science College of the University of Nebraska, and her diploma from the Teacher's College of that institution. She taught in the Grand Island high school for three years, spending the summers taking post-graduate work at the Universities of Wisconsin and Nebraska. She is now engaged as the social editor of the *Custer County Republican*. She is a member of the Woman's Public Service Club, The Woman's Club, and the Browning Club. Mrs. Hewett is a member of the Presbyterian church of Broken Bow.

Mr. Hewett is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Public Service Club, of Broken Bow.

Mr. and Mrs. Hewett are the parents of one daughter, Helen Easley, born December 28, 1917.

REV. JAMES H. HERMES, the esteemed pastor of the Broken Bow Catholic church, is filling his second pastorate, having come to this city from Douglas, Wyoming, in 1917. While he is thus, more or less comparatively, a newcomer, he has already found a place in the affection and confidence of the people here, into whose lives and daily activities he has brought a moral influence that is contributing to their spiritual and material welfare. Father Hermes was born at Louisville, Kentucky, April 14, 1887, and is a son of Frederick August and Regina (Lubbers) Hermes.

The parents of Father Hermes, natives of the dukedom of Oldenburg, immigrated to the United States in 1882 and were married at Louisville, Kentucky, where they still reside and where the father is engaged successfully in the grocery business and in farming. There were thirteen children in the family, of whom

nine are still living, but Father James H. Hermes is the only one located in the west.

Rev. James H. Hermes received his early education in the parochial schools of Louisville, and completed a collegiate course at St. Francis College, Trenton, New Jersey. He then went to Rome, Italy, to pursue his theological studies and he was ordained September 19, 1909, immediately following which he returned to the United States. His first charge was at Douglas, Wyoming, where he remained from 1910 until 1916, and in October, 1917, he came to Broken Bow, where he now has thirty-eight families in his congregation. Both in a material and spiritual sense the work of Father Hermes has been very successful. Since he commenced his ministerial labors at Broken Bow he has done much to improve the church and add to the welfare of the parish. He is a genial and warm-hearted man and not only commands the respect and confidence of his own parishioners but also enjoys the cordial esteem of a large circle of Protestant friends. He extends hearty hospitality to all guests who visit his church or home, and greets all with a pleasant word and a cheery smile. He invariably exerts his great influence on the side of right, and lends liberal aid to all movements tending to promote the public welfare. All who listen to his pulpit utterances are impressed by his strong intellectual resources and the energy which characterizes his work. The life of Father Hermes has been a beneficent one, and its results have been abundantly manifest wherever he has labored.

Father Hermes joined Casper Council, Knights of Columbus, at Casper, Wyoming, and has now reached the fourth degree in that well known fraternal order, having the distinction of being the only man in the state who has taken the four degrees within the period of as many months.

MILO F. YOUNG, pioneer, frontiersman, miner, scout, Indian fighter, freighter and early settler, is probably the oldest man now living within the confines of Custer county, having passed his ninety-second year. His career has been one in which he has had varied and interesting experiences, from hunting buffalo on the western plains to the civilized existence of modern days, and few men, even of twenty less years, bear so few of the scars of life. Mr. Young was born June 18, 1826, at St. Johnsbury, Caledonia county, Vermont, a son of Benjamin and Mary (Jackson) Young. His paternal grandfather, Rev. Winthrop Young, was a minister of the Baptist church, and his maternal grandfather, Samuel Jackson, was a

Revolutionary soldier who fought in the battle of Bunker Hill. Benjamin Young, who was born in New Hampshire, moved in young manhood to Vermont, where he passed the rest of his life in farming. He and his wife had thirteen children, of whom Milo F. is the only survivor, the others being: Deborah, Loren, Obediah, Elijah and Abigail (twins), Mary, Benjamin, Harrison, Winthrop, Jackson, John and Maria.

Milo F. Young was educated in the public schools and as a youth worked for his father, his first twenty-five cents being earned by spreading hay for a neighbor, Captain Miles. He remained at home until his marriage, at the age of twenty-five years, and then purchased his father's farm, which he conducted for one year. The quiet pursuits of agriculture, however, did not appeal to Mr. Young's nature, and he accordingly went to the city of Calais, Maine, where for four years he was engaged in the butcher business and for three years conducted a livery. Selling his interests in New England, he went to St. Anthony, Minnesota, where he farmed for three years, and then, after a visit to his old home, he came to St. Louis, Missouri, and up the Missouri river, arriving at Omaha in 1858. At that time he took a claim twenty-four miles northwest of Omaha, in Washington county, but after three years he sold out and went to Pike's Peak, where he was engaged in mining one year. Mr. Young next became a freighter from Omaha to Cherry Creek and Denver, the latter then known as Aurora, and from Denver he carried the first printing press, for John Gibson, forty miles northwest to Blackhawk, better known as Central City. About twenty-four days were required to make his trips in the winter months, when, at night, he would scrape the snow off the ground under his wagon in order to make his bed. His family at this time were living at Central City, but in 1860 they went out to join Mr. Young, with whom they remained two years, then going to Elkhorn City, in Douglas county. During this period Mr. Young frequently killed buffalo and freighted the meat and robes to Omaha, where he found a ready market. His experiences with the Indians were numerous, and when the red men went out on the Platte river to hunt, he would pass through their villages. One of the incidents of his life at this time, which is illustrative of the early days, had to do with the desire of Colonel Bent, government agent and Indian trader, to trade with a large party of Sioux, Cheyennes and Arapahoes. The Colonel had seven large loads of Indian goods and sent out a call for the Indians to come and trade, but the latter encountered a band of

wild horses and forgot all about the errand upon which they were despatched. Mr. Young was camping on the river, when he was approached by one of the big chiefs of the Sioux, who rode up on a fat little Indian pony with its tail dragging the ground and motioned Mr. Young and his three companions, Henry Benjamin, Rube Hyatt and George Benjamin, to come to the Indian camp, where there were about 2,000 redskins. The plainsmen were informed by the chief: "Much buzz-buzz," evidently meaning that where they were camped were too many mosquitoes. Producing a long-stemmed pipe and some killikinick from a mink-skin pouch, the chief lined the men up on a wagon-tongue, lighted the pipe, took a few whiffs, and then passed it to the others, who followed suit, the chief then finishing the ceremony by gravely puffing once or twice. He then said: "White man safe, no steal here," and true to his word the chief would not allow his tribesmen to disturb them.

Not so peaceable were Mr. Young's later experiences with the Indians. When the Second Nebraska Cavalry was called out, in 1862, to put down the uprising at New Ulm, Minnesota, and Spirit Lake, Iowa, Mr. Young served eleven months, helping to chase the Indians up to Sioux City, under General Sully and Colonel R. Furnis. At Sioux City the soldiers were joined by the Sixth Iowa Cavalry, and at White Stone Hill the command surprised a large party of the hostiles, gave them battle, routed them completely, and burned their tepees. In 1873 Mr. Young loaded twenty-two hogs, which he took to Denver for Christmas and sold at a good profit. Leaving, with his four magnificent horses, on the day before New Year's, the coldest day on record in the United States, he traveled back to Elkhorn City, bringing with him a family, and he himself walked the entire distance, to keep from freezing.

In 1876 Mr. Young came to Custer county and located at the mouth of Spring creek, and the property, on which his son, Frank H. Young, carried on operations for many years, is still known as the Young ranch. Mr. Young built the old log house depicted on another page of this work, and the same is of much historical interest, as it was used as the first court house of Custer county. The Young ranch is still operated by the heirs of Benjamin Young, to whom it was sold. There, for several years, Milo F. Young served in the capacity of postmaster of Custer, and later he acted as deputy under his son, Frank H., who was county clerk. He is a Republican, and a member of the Masons. That his intellect is still unclouded, even at his ad-

vanced age, is shown in the fact that he personally, supplied the material for the foregoing sketch, in addition to relating numerous other interesting incidents of early life in this region. When he left the ranch, with a well earned competency, Mr. Young removed to his home at Broken Bow, where he is now residing, surrounded by every comfort and enjoying the affection and warm regard of a wide circle of friends.

In March, 1851, at St. Johnsbury, Vermont, Mr. Young married Mary Ann Woods, a daughter of Eben Woods, and they became the parents of four children, all of whom are deceased.

ELBERT P. GAINES, cashier of the Security State Bank of Ansley, is one of Custer county's young and progressive citizens who have created a favorable impression in banking circles and established themselves in positions formerly held by men many years their seniors. He is essentially a product of Custer county, as he was brought here in infancy, was educated in this community's public schools and has received his business training in its institutions, while his career thus far has reflected credit upon the county's influences and upon his own ability and character.

Mr. Gaines was born at Cambridge, the county seat of Henry county, Illinois, February 21, 1886, and is a son of E. H. and Fannie B. (Page) Gaines, the former a native of Illinois and the latter of Iowa. E. H. Gaines was reared and educated in his native state, and for a number of years was identified with the wholesale lumber trade, a field in which he met with marked success. In 1886 he came to Custer county and established himself in the hardware and implement business, in which he continued until his death. He was a man of excellent business ability, strict integrity, personal probity and sound citizenship, and he well merited his success and the respect in which he was uniformly held. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity, was a Republican in politics, and, with his family, belonged to the Christian church. Mrs. Gaines, who survives her husband, resides at Bethany, Nebraska. They were married at Menlo, Iowa, and became the parents of three children: Elbert P., to whom this sketch is dedicated; Fred B., who is identified with the automobile business at Chicago, Illinois; and Loine, who resides with her mother and is engaged in teaching school at Bethany.

Elbert P. Gaines attended the public schools of Ansley, and after his graduation in the high school he entered the hardware

and implement business with his father, under whose able preceptorship he gained his initial commercial training. He remained in the store until he was appointed postmaster of Ansley, during the administration of President Taft, when he gave up other interests to attend to the duties of that office. When his term of four years expired, he identified himself with the Security State Bank, in the capacity of assistant cashier. This institution had been organized February 5, 1915, by local capitalists, who recognized Mr. Gaines' devotion, fidelity, and general ability, by advancing him, in 1918, to the post of cashier, which he holds at this time. The bank is capitalized at \$20,000, and at this time has surplus and undivided profits of \$3,000, while its deposits approximate \$215,000. It is accounted a strong institution, bearing an excellent reputation in the banking circles of the state, and, guided by a conservative policy, has made constant advancement since its organization. Mr. Gaines has made many friends for the bank as well as for himself, among the patrons and depositors, and has done much to inspire public confidence.

On June 18, 1907, Mr. Gaines married Miss Clara Varney, who was born at Westerville, Nebraska, a daughter of Edgar Varney, one of the early settlers and merchants of Westerville, and later a representative merchant at Ansley. Mr. and Mrs. Gaines have two children: Edgar V., born December 10, 1909; and Helen L., born May 25, 1911. Mr. and Mrs. Gaines are attendants of the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Gaines is a staunch Republican. He is prominent in fraternal circles, being a thirty-second degree Mason and a Shriner, and being at present worshipful master of his Masonic lodge. He is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is past chancellor commander of the Knights of Pythias.

PLIN L. METCALF.—To the old and distinguished state of New York the county of Custer is in no small degree indebted for some of its most prominent citizens, eminent professional men, successful farmers and capable and well-to-do merchants—and in the van of the last mentioned class, although he is at present retired, is Plin Metcalf, a resident of Sargent and a member of the town council. Mr. Metcalf was born in Wyoming county, New York, September 3, 1863, and is a son of Augustus and Lucia (Crittenden) Metcalf.

Milo Metcalf, the paternal grandfather of Plin Metcalf, was born in Vermont, and as a youth was taken by his parents to Wyoming

county, New York, where he followed farming throughout the rest of his life. In that county were born his children, of whom three sons, Judson, George and Plin, served in the Union army during the Civil war, the last named meeting a soldier's death on the field of battle. Augustus Metcalf was reared on the home farm in New York and for a time followed the pursuits of the soil as a vocation. He was married in New York state, his wife also being a native thereof, but in 1872 he went to Putnam county, Ohio, and engaged in the mercantile business at Belmore, where he was also postmaster for several years, and where he carried on a successful business until his death. He was a member of the Presbyterian church and was a Republican in his political views. After his demise Mrs. Metcalf carried on the business for several years, and also acted for four years as postmistress, but in 1883 she disposed of her holdings and came to Custer county, Nebraska, where, like her sons, she settled on a homestead. After coming to Nebraska she joined the Methodist Episcopal church. She is the mother of four sons: Walter, who still lives on his original homestead in Custer county; Plin, whose name initiates this review; Perry, who also is on his original homestead here; and Clarence, who is engaged in the implement business at Sargent.

After attending the district schools of Putnam county, Ohio, Plin Metcalf took a course at the Ohio State Normal School at Ada, and then commenced his career in the role of a school teacher. His experience as an educator, however, lasted only one year, for in 1883, when he was twenty years of age, he came to Custer county and took up a homestead, as did also his mother and three brothers, all of the farms adjoining. He continued to follow farming and stock-raising with a full measure of success until 1899, when he turned his attention to mercantile lines, investing in a business at West Union, where he was located as a merchant until 1909. His ten years of experience there had been beneficial, and when he came to Sargent he was better equipped in knowledge of merchandising, so that his success here was immediate. He was in partnership with James Haggerty in a general store for a time, but he eventually bought his partner's interest, and he continued as the sole proprietor of the business until January 1, 1918, since which time he has lived in retirement. During the active years of his career Mr. Metcalf displayed excellent judgment, fine business capacity and shrewd knowledge of affairs, so that his operations were prosperous, and he is to-day considered

one of his community's well-to-do men. He has a good farm in Dawson county and holds other interests, all accumulated in an honorable and legitimate manner. Mr. Metcalf is a Republican and for some time has been actively interested in public affairs. For several years he was a member of the board of school directors, and he is now serving efficiently as a member of the town council of Sargent. His fraternal affiliations are with the Masons and Odd Fellows, in which latter order he has passed the official chairs. He and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church.

In 1882 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Metcalf to Miss Emma Slentz, who was born in Ohio, and to this union have come two children: Clyde, who is employed in the implement business with his uncle, Clarence Metcalf, and Grace, the wife of William Bruce, who at the time of this writing is serving in the United States Navy, his preliminary training having been received at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station, Illinois, and at Hampton Roads, Virginia.

J. HARRY BRYAN. — One of the young farmers who is a native of Custer county, who was here reared and educated, and who here began farming and has already achieved an immense success is J. Harry Bryan, who resides in the vicinity of Huxley postoffice.

J. Harry Bryan was born July 5, 1883, and is a son of Joseph and Mary E. (Baker) Bryan. Joseph Bryan was born in Missouri, in 1844, and his wife, who was born in southern Illinois, September 25, 1844, is still living. The parents were married in southern Illinois, and came to Custer county in the early '70s. As sterling pioneers they located a homestead nine miles northeast of Mason City, and upon this place Mr. Bryan lived until the time of his death, in 1892. His widow, now venerable in years, still lives on the old homestead. In their immediate family were eight children, seven of whom are still living. W. B. is a farmer in southeastern Kansas; Mrs. John T. Wood resides at Mason City; Mrs. G. L. Stevens lives in Custer county; Mrs. L. F. Wilcox has her home on a farm at Glendive, Montana; F. G. lives at Burwell, Nebraska, where he is in the employ of the railroad company; J. Harry, the subject of this sketch, was the sixth born; and Robert L. lives on the old homestead. The family belong to the Christian church. The father was a Republican in politics, and in his early life he entered the service of his country, from southern Illinois. While thus serving in defense of the

Union in the Civil war he contracted consumption. He was in Sherman's historic march to the sea, and his father, W. J. Bryan, was killed at the battle of Pittsburg Landing.

The fair education which J. Harry Bryan enjoys, was gleaned from the public schools of his native county. He took up farming at an early age, and he now owns 120 acres of land, well improved, with a nice residence and all required outbuildings; and the farm equipment, which is to be rated as first class, meets the requirements of all the operations that can be conducted upon a place of its size.

In March, 1905, was recorded the marriage of Mr. Bryan to Mrs. Eva (Corey) Mitchell, who was born in Clay county, Nebraska, a daughter of William Corey, who was a pioneer of that county. The first husband of Mrs. Bryan was G. Mitchell. Mr. and Mrs. Bryan have three children — Guy, Leona, and Mildred — all bright and happy children, pursuing the foundation course of their education and contributing joy and satisfaction to their parents.

Mr. Bryan is a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he takes a prominent and active part. He affiliates with the Republican party, and is rated as one of the leaders and dependable spirits in all partisan affairs. He is a progressive farmer, a good judge of live stock, and a citizen whose home and premises denote thrift and enterprise.

CHARLES W. BOWMAN. — For a number of years the name of Charles W. Bowman has been inseparably connected with the agricultural and real-estate interests of Custer county, where he has been located since 1885. His career here has been one of constant advancement since his arrival, and both as a farmer and realty operator he has won success and maintained a high reputation for ability and integrity.

Mr. Bowman was born December 27, 1863, at Plattsmouth, Cass county, Nebraska, a son of Albert G. and Mary Ann (Covalt) Bowman, natives of Ohio and West Virginia respectively, and is a grandson of Abraham Covalt. The family has been identified with the Christian church for many generations and its members have always been supporters of progressive movements along moral, educational and religious lines. Albert G. Bowman was a cabinetmaker by trade, a vocation which he followed first in Ohio and later at Plattsmouth, Nebraska, but eventually he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits in the western part of Cass county, where he rounded out

a long, useful and honorable career. He and his wife were the parents of the following children: Sarah A. and Samuel H. died in infancy. Elizabeth, by her first marriage, had two children, Charles and Albert Wachter, who are farmers in Custer county. In her second marriage she became the wife of William H. Russell, a farmer, they leaving two children when they died, — John H. and Anna D. Abraham D. married Ella M. Bethel, and both are deceased. They had one son, — Carl E., who is a member of the firm of Bowman & Bowman, Broken Bow. Mary A., who married John Keefer, a farmer near Anselmo, Custer county, is deceased. Ida D., who died in 1890, married James M. Russell, and her son is farming with his father in Custer county. Rhoda H. is the wife of Joseph V. Carnes, a retired farmer of Lincoln, this state, and they have seven children, — Nellie, Myrtle, Lillie, Mary, Rhoda, Lulla and Ollie. Charles W., of this review, was the next in order of birth. Jennie V., who makes her home with her brother Charles W., at Broken Bow, is the widow of the late Jacob L. Phillips, banker and broker, who died in 1890.

Charles W. Bowman was given his education in the public schools of Cass county, and when still a youth he showed his industry and capacity for hard work by assuming the responsibility of contributing materially to his own support. When he was a lad it was his custom to arise at daylight, gather several gallons of strawberries, and carry them on foot to Greenwood, Nebraska, a distance of three and one-quarter miles, where he would peddle them to the villagers. In addition, he at times herded cattle for the neighbors, and in this way managed to secure enough money to keep himself in clothes. When he was but seventeen years of age he had saved money enough to buy a team of ponies, which he traded for an acre of land at Greenwood, but this he sold after coming to Custer county. Mr. Bowman continued his thrifty habits and about the time he reached his majority he had accumulated enough farm machinery to carry on operations, a team, a wagon and harness, and decided to try his fortune further to the west. Accordingly, March 20, 1885, he loaded his worldly possessions on his wagon and made preparations to bid his parents goodbye. Just as he was leaving, his father inquired as to the state of his finances. When he was informed that the young man had just \$3 cash capital, he brought forth a \$20 gold piece, and, with tears streaming down his sunburned cheeks, presented it to his son, saying: "Son, you are going into a wild, unsettled country; take this and may God bless you." Charles

W. Bowman arrived in Custer county about ten days later and proceeded to take a homestead and a timber claim about four miles north of New Helena. The first few years were hard ones for the ambitious young man, and, with the other pioneers who were rapidly settling the country, he experienced many hardships and was called upon to use numerous expedients in order that he might carry himself over the bad years. Among other things he spent many weary hours in digging up cedar stumps in the cedar canyons, from which the cedar trees had been cut and hauled to Grand Island and other points at an earlier day. These stumps were dug up and split into fence posts and then hauled 100 miles to Grand Island and sold, or exchanged for the necessities of life. By 1902 Mr. Bowman found himself well on the road to prosperity and the possessor of a good property which had been developed solely through his own efforts. But while his agricultural operations had proved very successful, he had become attracted to the real-estate business, and finally, in 1902, he disposed of his ranch and farm and applied himself to realty and loans. His business ability, his expert knowledge of land values, and his general qualifications have enabled him to become a leading factor in his line of work. His former farm, situated on what is known throughout Custer county as the Bowman Table, is to-day worth \$100 per acre.

Mr. Bowman was married November 20, 1897, near Anselmo, Nebraska, to Ida D. Dare, a daughter of James and Mary J. (Jackson) Dare, and four children have been born to this union: Lloyd D., Mary N., Maude E. and Deerce H. The family belongs to the Christian church. Mr. Bowman is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and in the Masonic fraternity he has received the thirty-second degree of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite. Both he and his wife are members of the Order of the Eastern Star, in which Mrs. Bowman has filled all the official chairs of her chapter.

MARTIN F. BLANKENSHIP, a substantial farmer now living in comfortable retirement at Broken Bow, came first to Custer county in 1882, and with the exception of three years he has lived here ever since, the while he is well and favorably known all through this section. Mr. Blankenship was born at Indianola, Vermilion county, Illinois, September 7, 1856. His parents were Martin C. and Geraldine (Scott) Blankenship, the former of whom was born in Kentucky but

reared in Indiana, and the latter of whom was born and died in Vermilion county, Illinois. His grandparents were well known people in their day, their names being William and Mary (Whitesett) Blankenship and William and Elizabeth (Goliday) Scott. The parents of Mr. Blankenship both died when he was an infant less than a year old, and of their seven children he and a sister, Mrs. Martha S. Nutterfield, who lives in Illinois, are the only survivors. The father was a preacher in the Missionary Baptist church.

Left an orphan when so young, Martin T. Blankenship necessarily was reared by strangers, and John T. Phillips and wife, farming people in Vermilion county, Illinois, became good foster-parents, teaching him habits of industry and giving him an opportunity to go to school in the winter time. In those days money was not very plentiful and boys had few chances to earn pocket-money. For that reason the first dime Mr. Blankenship ever earned and the use he made of it remain in his memory as the basis of an amusing story. He was about twelve years old when a neighbor paid him the ten cents for planting a field of corn, covering with a hoe, and the coin was treasured until he added ten cents more, about Christmas time, by turning a grindstone for a man. He gained permission to go to Danville and there he invested his capital in a bunch of fire-crackers, with which he anticipated making considerable of a celebration on Christmas day. He remembers remaining awake almost the entire night, until four o'clock on Christmas morning, and then of mischievously crawling on his hands and knees to the big old fireplace, where he inserted a fire-cracker in the smouldering embers. The explosion probably created enough excitement to satisfy a boy's love of adventure, but probably he was forgiven when his foster-mother found out that the noise was not occasioned by the breaking of her cream jar from the frost, as she had feared. It was just an innocent boyish prank, and since that time Mr. Blankenship has often stated that he had never subsequently gained as much fun out of a like expenditure. When he was eighteen years old his foster-father died and his foster-mother went to Indiana, but he had been earning his own living after he was fourteen years of age.

Mr. Blankenship married, September 18, 1879, at Potomac, Illinois, Miss Delilah E. Peterson, who died December 26, 1910. Her parents were Cornelius and Mary (Roderick) Peterson. In 1882 Mr. Blankenship brought his family to Nebraska and located in Custer county, five miles northwest of Broken Bow,

and he remained on that place until 1886, when he returned to Illinois, where he remained three years. Farming and stock-raising have always engaged his attention, and he has been very successful. To his first marriage four children were born, namely: William D., Rosa B., Zona V. and Edward A., the last named being deceased. The first three were reared and schooled in Custer county. William D., who is a farmer near Kingfisher, Oklahoma, married Matie Hussey, a daughter of Charles Hussey, and they have one child, Flossy E. Rosa B. is the wife of Frank DeMoss, who is a resident of Danville, Illinois, a Democrat, a member of the order of Woodmen and of the Free Methodist church. Mr. and Mrs. DeMoss have four children, Hallie A., Floyd, Annis, and Gerald. Zona V. is the wife of John Downing, who was a farmer near Oakwood, and who is in the national army at the time of this writing; he and his wife belong to the Free Methodist church and they have no children. Politically Mr. Downing is a Democrat. Mr. Blankenship's second marriage took place at Alliance, Nebraska, August 2, 1913, when he wedded Mrs. Susanah Canter, a daughter of Hiram and Lydia (Smith) Donohue, who were members of the Baptist church. Mr. Blankenship has been for years a very prominent man in the United Brethren church and the church record shows that he has been an earnest worker. Politically he is identified with the Democratic party.

CHARLES F. ELLERSICK.—The milling interests of the community of Comstock and the surrounding country have a capable representative in the person of Charles F. Ellersick, who has been the proprietor of a flour mill in this locality for a period of twenty-three years, and who for the last eleven years of that time has been located at Comstock. He has developed an excellent business through good management and natural ability, and at the same time has been able to serve his community efficiently in official capacities.

Mr. Ellersick was born in Hanover, Germany, September 1, 1857, and came to the United States at the age of twenty-four years. A millwright by trade, he was employed by a Milwaukee, Wisconsin, concern, for which he worked for about twelve years, during which time he had charge of the installing of the machinery for the Broken Bow flour mill, erected by his house. Mr. Ellersick was not employed at his trade from 1888 to 1895, but in the latter year he bought a flour mill from Mrs. Jenkins

and Mr. Mickle, located at Wescott. He operated that mill until the railroad, passing on the east side of the river, brought into prominence the town of Comstock and practically eliminated the town of Wescott, so Mr. Ellersick wisely changed the location of his mill, in 1907, to Comstock, where it has since flourished, with a constantly increasing business. This mill has a daily capacity of sixty-five barrels, and the demand for its product at present is such that it is operating practically all the time.

Mr. Ellersick is a business man of no mean ability, and one who is thoroughly familiar with every angle of his particular line, the while he is well known to the milling trade, with an excellent reputation for integrity and fidelity in business engagements. As a citizen he has contributed generously of time, means and energy to movements for the betterment of Comstock and its people, and for several years past he has rendered valuable service as a member of the town board, his business judgment and general acumen being held in high regard by his associates. Mr. Ellersick is a Democrat in his political allegiance, and fraternally he is affiliated with the local organizations of the Masonic order and the Modern Woodmen of America, in both of which he has many friends, as he has also in business life.

At Grand Island, Nebraska, in 1885, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Ellersick to Miss Lena Stoeppelman, and they are the parents of five children, namely: Katie, the wife of George Young, engaged in agricultural pursuits near the city of Sargent; Lena, the wife of Henry Hein, the owner and operator of a farm near Westerville; Miss Emma, residing at home but engaged in teaching in the public schools at Scottsbluff; Charles, a flour miller associated with his father in business at Comstock, the maiden name of his wife having been Bernice Fretz; and Flora, who remains with her parents. Mr. and Mrs. Ellersick and their children are consistent members of the Lutheran church, which they attend at Comstock, and they liberally support all religious movements.

HAMILTON B. GLAZIER. — Nearly forty years have passed since the late Isaac Glazier drove into Custer county in true pioneer style and settled on a homestead amidst a veritable wilderness where habitations were few and where civilization was still in its primitive form. For twenty years he lived and labored, slowly and arduously developing a farm and establishing a home for his family,

and watching and assisting in the advancement and progress which were making the countryside to flourish and thrive. This honored pioneer has passed from earthly scenes, but the reputation for industry and integrity which he established is being perpetuated by his children, among whom Hamilton B. Glazier and his sister are the owners of the old homestead which they operate, near Comstock.

Hamilton B. Glazier was born in Winona county, Minnesota, November 9, 1862, and is a son of Isaac and Emily (Bolen) Glazier, natives of New York state. The parents grew to maturity in the Empire state, and they were married in Illinois. Shortly after that event they moved to Winona county, Minnesota, where they settled on a new farm and carried on operations for a number of years. Not satisfied with their surroundings, and desiring a home on the newly opened frontier of Nebraska, in 1879 they drove overland in a wagon to Custer county and located in the vicinity of the site of the present village of Comstock. Like all new settlers, they were forced to meet and to overcome many obstacles and to endure numerous hardships, but they were persons of hardihood and courage and cheerfully faced all difficulties. Mrs. Glazier passed to her final rest in 1886, but her husband survived until 1898, by which time he had become the owner of a valuable property, on which were improvements of a splendid character. During his residence here Mr. Glazier set out about thirty acres of timber, one-half of which is now owned by his son. Mr. Glazier was a Republican in politics, but was active therein only as a voter, never caring for public office. He and his wife were the parents of five children, of whom three are living: Miss Lois, who makes her home with her brothers, for whom she keeps house; Hamilton B., who is the subject of this notice; and Albert, also a bachelor, who is associated with his brother in his agricultural enterprises.

Hamilton B. Glazier received his education in the common schools of Minnesota, where he was reared as are most farmers' sons, and he was about seventeen years of age when he accompanied his parents in their overland journey to Custer county. He assisted in the early and later development of the homestead, in section 4, and since the death of his father he has added a number of improvements, including buildings, machinery, equipment and stock. He carries on general farming and stock-raising and has been uniformly successful in his ventures, so that he is accounted one of the substantial men of his community. While a good citizen and a supporter of worthwhile and progressive movements, he has been

content to remain a farmer and has sought no positions of public import. Mr. Glazier has never married.

JOSEPH BRYAN.—The subject of this memoir was formerly a prominent farmer of Custer county and was specially well known for the part he took in the advancement of education, religion and material progress in the part of the county in which he was located. The people in the vicinity of Ansley owe to him a debt of gratitude that will be hard to pay.

Mr. Bryan was born in Missouri, March 29, 1846, and was the first-born son of William and Caroline (Brim) Bryan, who were the parents of six children. William Bryan was of English descent and served in the Civil war until he met his death, on the battle-field of Shiloh. His wife, who also was of English descent, died in Illinois. The parents of Joseph Bryan moved to Clay county, Illinois, when he was a small boy, and there, when seventeen years of age, he enlisted in Company K, Forty-eighth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He served three years as a valiant young soldier of the Union, and after the close of the war he returned to Illinois and engaged in farming.

On September 16, 1869, Mr. Bryan was united in marriage, at Taylorville, Illinois, to Miss Mary E. Baker, who was born in Richmond county, that state, and who is a daughter of William and Caroline (Uterback) Baker, prominent and honored citizens of this community. Mr. Baker died in Illinois and his widow was a resident of Custer county, Nebraska, at the time of her death.

Mr. and Mrs. Bryan became the parents of seven children: William B. resides in Kansas; Isabel is the wife of J. T. Wood, of Mason City, Custer county; Nettie is the wife of Grant Stevens and they live in Kansas; Alice is the wife of Luther Wilcox, and they are now living in Montana; Frank G. resides in the city of Lincoln; J. Harry, who lives on the home farm, is individually mentioned on other pages of this volume; and Robert L., who is living with his mother on the old place, and who is the owner of three shares of the home farm, having bought shares from two of the other heirs, was born July 19, 1887.

Joseph Bryan organized school district number 132 and served as a member of the school board for a number of years. He and his wife were largely instrumental in the organization of the first Sunday school in the county. Since the death of Mr. Bryan his widow has continued to reside on the old homestead and

she has devoted much of her time to the improvement of the place, the development of the farm and the paying off of the mortgage, as well as caring for the members of the family who are at home. She and her son Robert have been frequent exhibitors at the county fair. In 1911 they secured twelve first and six second premiums on exhibitions of fruits, vegetables, jellies and honey. These premiums included one sweepstake.

Mr. and Mrs. Bryan came to Custer county in 1879 and lived through the hard and strenuous days marked by pioneer privations. Their first home was a dugout, and this was later supplanted by a sod house, which seemed a palace compared with the former abode. They commenced with nothing and at one time were completely destitute of anything to eat. They succeeded in borrowing ten dollars from a more favored neighbor and made the trip to Grand Island for foodstuffs. All had the measles at the same time and many other hardships fell to their lot. They had to go to Lincoln to secure household goods, but all these difficulties were eventually overcome and they pressed forward to the goal of independence and prosperity. This is a fine family and the living children to-day are a credit to the parents who reared them, besides being a valuable asset to the community in which they have their homes. Mr. Bryan died in 1892, and his good wife still survives, the while she is an honor to the motherhood of Custer county.

The son Robert, whose farming operations on the home place are mentioned above, is a very excellent young man, is a splendid farmer and has performed an admirable service for his mother. He received his early education in the district school and in all respects is qualified for excellent citizenship and for the useful service he is rendering in his home community. Upon him falls the responsibility of maintaining the old homestead.

LEWIS R. DOWSE.—Though he has not advanced far beyond the psalmist's span of three score years and ten and still possesses a full amount of physical and mental vigor, Mr. Dowse has the enviable distinction of being the first permanent settler of Custer county, arriving here in August, 1873. It can thus be realized that the memory of this honored pioneer compasses the entire gamut that has been run in the development of this section of Nebraska from a prairie wilderness to a populous and opulent district of a great commonwealth, and it is gratifying to him that he has been able to play a part in the civic and

industrial progress and upbuilding of Custer county.

Lewis R. Dowse is descended from staunch New England ancestors and is a native of Middlesex county, Massachusetts, where he was born in the town of Sherborn, October 20, 1845. His parents, William and Caroline (Ware) Dowse, were natives of the same town, the father born September 3, 1815, and the date of the mother's birth having been September 3, 1820. William Dowse learned the trade of whip-making under the direction of his father, who conducted an establishment for the manufacture of whips, where a large number of people were employed. After the death of his father William Dowse turned his attention to agricultural pursuits and he was thus occupied the remainder of his life. He died in September, 1901, at the age of eighty-six years, having long survived his wife, who passed away December 27, 1847. William Dowse was a Republican in politics and he and his wife were members of the Congregational church.

Edmond Dowse, a brother of William, held the office of chaplain of the Massachusetts state senate for twenty years and was re-elected at the age of ninety, but refused to serve any longer. He spent his entire life in his native town, passing away at the age of ninety-two, and for sixty years he held the pastorate of the local church.

The subject of this record spent his boyhood days in his native village, acquiring his early education in the public schools and also attending an academy at Sherborn. As a young man he secured employment in a factory where cards were made to be used in the manufacture of cotton and woolen cloth, his intention being to learn the business. The Civil war being in progress, his patriotic spirit was aroused and he offered his services to his country. Failing to pass the physical examination the first time, he again sought to enlist when, in 1864, the last call came, and this time he was successful. He faithfully served four months—until the conflict was brought to a close. Returning to his home he began learning the trade of shoe manufacturing, following that occupation until the spring of 1868, when he decided to follow the advice of Horace Greeley, and "go west." Arriving in Iowa in the month of March, 1868, he took up the occupation of farming, and he resided in Iowa until June, 1873, when he decided to go farther west and started for Nebraska. His arrival in Custer county was in the month of August, 1873, and it has been conceded by those who have interested themselves in his

torical records that he thus became the first permanent settler of the county. In 1903 the Old Settlers Association awarded Mr. and Mrs. Dowse each a medal as the first settlers. Their daughter, Mrs. Alice Sims, also was given a medal, as being the first white child born in the county.

At Montezuma, Poweshiek county, Iowa, December 21, 1869, was solemnized the marriage of Lewis R. Dowse to Miss Sarah Wagner, a native of Auglaize county, Ohio, where she was born February 23, 1854, a daughter of Samuel and Caroline (Kats) Wagner, natives of Ohio and New Jersey respectively. The parents of Mrs. Dowse accompanied their daughter and their husband to Nebraska, as far as Loup City, where they remained until the spring of 1874, when they took up their abode in Custer county.

From the standpoint of material possessions, Mr. and Mrs. Dowse were in very moderate circumstances. They had several head of cattle, a limited supply of household goods and farming implements, no money, but an abundance of energy and a determination to succeed and establish a home. Those early years were fraught with innumerable hardships and privations. The first years their crops were destroyed by grasshoppers, and only those who had the experience can realize what the grasshopper scourge amounted to.

Mr. Dowse held squatter sovereignty until he pre-empted the piece of land which has been his home to the present time. From a humble beginning this pioneer couple have labored unceasingly, and that their efforts have been crowned with success is attested by the fact that to-day Mr. Dowse holds title to 400 acres of land, well improved and under a good state of cultivation.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Dowse has been blessed with the birth of eight children and the presence of an adopted daughter: William married Florence Murphy and is a farmer near the old home; Eliza is a graduate nurse; Alice, who was the first white child born in Custer county, is the wife of Charles Sims, residing at Newkirk, Oklahoma; Lewis S. married Marie Pickel and resides in the state of Washington; Lawrence married Mabel Miner and lives near Comstock; Elmer married Elsie Day and resides on the home place; Ethel is the wife of Frank Steeple, residing at Comstock; Nellie is deceased and Faye, unmarried, is a stenographer at Seattle, Washington.

A recital of some of the experiences and incidents that have come to this pioneer couple may help the readers of this volume to realize that forty-five years have come and gone since



Levia. R. Stone

Sarah. M. Stone.

they took up their abode here. This was unorganized territory at that time and taxes were paid to Valley county, this being considered a loan, and the money being refunded after the organization of the new county. This was known as Kountz county at first, named after a firm of pioneer bankers in Omaha. Later it was called Garber county, after Governor Garber. The present name was adopted in honor of that gallant Indian fighter, General Custer. At the time of the Custer massacre the settlers in this neighborhood became much alarmed and some of them left here and went to Fort Kearney. Those who remained built a fort of sod and oak and cedar logs, and petitioned the government to equip the "Organized Rangers" with guns to protect the fort. But as they were never molested by the Indians the fort, which had been erected in section 15 of this township, never had to be used. The Indians caused the greatest alarm to the early settlers. Mrs. Dowse recalls that about the time of the Indian troubles in Montana, four Pawnees walked up to the house one evening while her husband was away. They claimed four ponies had been stolen by another tribe and they were in search of them. These four stayed all night at the home of a neighbor and the next morning the Indians asked for a writing of some kind to prove to other settlers that they were friendly. The neighbor gave them this note, "These are friendly Indians; grease them and let them slide." The spot where Mr. Dowse established his homestead had been the camping ground of Indians, and here numerous relics have been found. They have also discovered many holes in the ground in the shape of jugs, probably used by the Indians in curing meat.

But times have changed and what was a wild, rolling prairie is now dotted with innumerable farms, with here and there thriving villages; schools and churches have been built and Custer county is a much better place in which to live than when Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Dowse came here more than forty-five years ago, while in the work of transformation they have contributed their full share. They are members of the Congregational church and Mr. Dowse is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, thus maintaining pleasant relations with the few remaining veterans of the Civil war. In politics he has always given allegiance to the Republican party—the party which stood for a united country and has always been the party for progress and reform. When the history of Custer county is completed and the life record of its people written, no record will be found more

worthy of a place in its pages, and none will be of greater inspiration to future generations, than that of the first family who made permanent location in Custer county.

LILBURN F. OXFORD, local manager of the business of the Dierks Lumber & Coal Company at Comstock, has the distinction of having been the second male white child born within the borders of Custer county, where he was reared to manhood, so that it is evident few citizens of the county at the present time have more fully witnessed the transitions, the splendid development and progress, in this now favored and opulent section of the state of Nebraska. As a child and youth he gained his share of experience in connection with the hardships and other unpropitious conditions marking the pioneer epoch in the history of Custer county, and he has kept pace with the march of progress in his native county, where he has been actively and successfully identified with both agricultural and commercial enterprise. As manager for the Dierks Lumber & Coal Company's business at Comstock, he is essentially one of the representative and influential business men of this thriving village.

Mr. Oxford was born in Douglas Grove, Custer county, on the 22d of July, 1876, and is a son of James L. and Laura B. (Henderson) Oxford, the former a native of the state of New York and the latter of Eagleville, Harrison county, Missouri. In the spring of 1874 James L. Oxford came from Missouri to Custer county, where he took up a pre-emption claim immediately west of the present side of the village of Comstock. In the autumn of the same year he returned to his old home in Missouri, and in the following spring he came with his family to Custer county, where he took a homestead near Walworth. He improved this property and there continued his farming and ranching operations until 1883, when he established his residence at Broken Bow and engaged in the livery business. There his wife died, in the spring of 1884, and he then returned to his farm, upon which he continued to reside until 1895, when he divided his Custer county landed interests among his children. He then removed to Oregon, where he purchased 640 acres of land and where he engaged in the raising of Angora goats and a good grade of cattle and where he still maintains his home. A Republican in politics, Mr. Oxford has taken a lively interest in public affairs, and while he has never had any ambition for public office he served two years as county commissioner of Custer

county, an office to which he was elected in the late '70s. His religious faith is that of the Baptist church.

James L. and Laura B. (Henderson) Oxford became the parents of seven children, all of whom are living except one: Myrtle is the wife of Leonard R. Hersh, a farmer near Broken Bow; Mary E. is the wife of Albert Blessing, a farmer near Walworth, this county; Daisy met an accidental and tragic death by the overturning of a container of scalding water, about 1879, when she was a child; Lilburn F., of this review, was the next in order of birth; Charles, who is still a bachelor, is a farmer and sheep-raiser in South Dakota; Fred is married and is a prosperous ranchman in that state; and Albert N., who married May Waters, is likewise an exponent of agricultural and live-stock enterprise in South Dakota.

For his second wife James L. Oxford married Ella R. Ballinger, and they became the parents of five children, all of who are living: Clay is proprietor of a meat market at Brownsville, Oregon; Edward and Earl are farmers in that locality; Sylvia remains at the parental home; and Flossie is the wife of an Oregon ranchman.

After having duly profited by the advantages of the public schools of Custer county, Lilburn F. Oxford was for one year a student in the Broken Bow Business College. It is interesting to record that the first school which he attended was that of district No. 13, and the little sod schoolhouse, constructed in 1883, was located on land belonging to his father, the first teacher in this school having been Mrs. Thomas Lampman. The first school-teacher in that vicinity, however, was Mr. A. N. Peale, who conducted a select school in fall of 1880. In 1889 the log schoolhouse mentioned was replaced by a frame structure, and this latter building was destroyed by a cyclone, in 1898, while school was in session. One pupil, Eva Fowler, was blown through a door of the building and against the school flag-pole, the injury causing her death. Other pupils were severely injured but this one was the only fatality.

After completing his youthful education Mr. Oxford was engaged in farming during one year, but at this time the inception of the Spanish-American war led him to subordinate all personal interests to the call of patriotism, and he enlisted for service in that conflict. He became a member of the First Nebraska Volunteer Infantry, with which he served eighteen months. In an engagement in Marilao he received a flesh wound, and he proved a loyal and efficient soldier. After having been granted his honorable discharge from military

service Mr. Oxford returned to the farm, where he continued operations for the ensuing two years. He then accepted the position of manager of the business of the Dierks Lumber & Coal Company at Berwyn, and he has since continued his association with this representative concern, with which he has made an admirable record, his transfer to the management of the company's business at Comstock having occurred in 1915. He has done much to further the success of the company's business and is known as one of the reliable, energetic and progressive business men of his native county, as well as a loyal and public-spirited citizen. He gives his political allegiance to the Republican party but has never manifested any office-seeking proclivities.

June 25, 1903, recorded the marriage of Mr. Oxford to Miss Madge Hersh, at St. Joseph Missouri. Mrs. Oxford is a daughter of George and Minnie (McWilliams) Hersh, who came to Custer county in 1886 and purchased land four miles east of Broken Bow. Mr. and Mrs. Oxford have two children—Iola, born August 19, 1908, and Lilburn N., born April 14, 1912.

ROBERT E. WATERS, who retired from the office of county clerk of Custer county in January, 1919, was, until his election to this office, a successful farmer and stock-raiser in the vicinity of Broken Bow. He still retains his holdings, but after assuming his official duties he gave more attention to the latter than to his agricultural work, the while he showed just as marked capability as an executive as he did as a tiller of the soil. Mr. Waters was born in Clark county, Missouri, March 12, 1878, a son of George O. and Elvira (Story) Waters, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Missouri.

Isom Waters, the paternal grandfather of Mr. Waters, was born in Kentucky and at an early day became a pioneer of Missouri, later moving to Custer county, Nebraska, where he passed his last years. The maternal grandfather, Greenberry Story, also was a Kentuckian and an early settler of Missouri, where he passed away after a career passed in farming. George O. Waters was born and educated in Ohio, where he was reared as a farmer, and as a young man he went to Missouri, where he married. In May, 1879, he came to Nebraska and homesteaded land in Custer county, continuing to be engaged in agricultural pursuits until his retirement, when he was the owner of a half-section of land, all of which had been self-gained through in-

dustrious labor and good business methods and judgment. He took a somewhat prominent part in public affairs, having served as deputy clerk of the district court for four and one-half years, as well as town assessor and supervisor, and having established a good record. He was known as a leader in the local ranks of the Republican party, while fraternally he became affiliated with the Knights of Pythias. He and his wife are now residents of Bakersfield, California, and they are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. They became the parents of nine children, of whom six survive: W. W., who is an agricultural implement dealer at Broken Bow; C. F., who is engaged in dealing in stock-food at Des Moines, Iowa; Robert E., subject of this review; G. H., a farmer of Bakersfield, California; C. S., assistant chief of police at Bakersfield; and Elvira Mae, the wife of Albert Oxford, a stockman and farmer of Oxford, South Dakota.

A child when brought to Custer county, Robert E. Waters secured his education in the public schools of Broken Bow, and when ready to enter upon his independent career he chose farming and stock-raising as the medium for his success in the business of life. He was thus engaged when the Spanish-American war broke out, and he enlisted in Company M, First Nebraska Volunteer Infantry, which command was sent to the Philippine Islands, where he took part in three battles. Upon his return to this country he received an honorable discharge and resumed his labors as a farmer and stockman, continuing to be so engaged until 1915, the year of his first election to the office of clerk of Custer county. His first term was decidedly satisfactory to the voters of this county, who gave him the re-election in 1917, and he continued to be known as one of his county's most capable and popular officials until normal political exigencies compassed his defeat for re-election in the autumn of 1918.

In March, 1905, Mr. Waters married Miss Clara Daniel, who was born in Custer county, South Dakota, a daughter of J. M. and Belle (White) Daniel, the latter now deceased, and the former a retired resident of Riverton, Wyoming. Mr. and Mrs. Waters have six children—George, Mildred, Lena, Elvira, Mary, and Riley. The first four children are attending school.

Mr. Waters is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America, in the former of which he has passed the various official chairs. He is a Democrat in politics, in which he has always taken an active part, and his influence is

counted upon, and not in vain, during elections. He continues to cultivate his land near Broken Bow, but rather in an advisory than in an active way, his official duties having received his chief attention.

CLAY HARRY, manager of the Broken Bow branch of the Nebraska Telephone Company, became identified with this line of business in 1917, after several years of journalistic labor. During his college days he had shown a talent for matters pertaining to the newspaper field, and when he entered upon his career it was in this line of endeavor; but business life in another direction claimed him eventually, and he is making a decided success of his present activities. Mr. Harry is a Nebraskan by nativity, having been born on a farm in Hayes county, February 28, 1888, a son of Thomas Milton and Flora (Wright) Harry.

Thomas Milton Harry was born in Illinois, a son of Thomas Smith Harry, who passed the larger part of his life in that state. As a young man Thomas M. Harry went to Shenandoah, Iowa, where he married Miss Wright, a native of Ohio and daughter of Thomas Wright of Fairbury, Illinois. In 1885 Mr. and Mrs. Harry came to Nebraska and settled in Hayes county, Mr. Harry homesteading and eventually perfecting title to a claim near Palisade. He continued to be engaged in farming until 1893, in which year he was elected clerk of Hayes county, an office which he retained for four years, and after the expiration of his term he was engaged in the grain and elevator business for a number of years, in the meantime serving four years as assessor of Hitchcock county, Nebraska. He next moved to Texas, but after a short stay in the Lone Star state he disposed of his interests there and purchased a small farm in the neighborhood of Springfield, Missouri, where he and Mrs. Harry now make their home. They are the parents of four children—Zelma, the wife of Harris Fuller, a farmer of near Springfield; Clay, subject of this sketch; Phebe, the wife of Jesse L. Barlow, a farmer and stockman near Red Cloud, Nebraska; and Wayne R., residing with his parents. Mr. and Mrs. Harry are members of the Christian Science church. He is a Republican in politics and a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he has passed the various official chairs.

The early education of Clay Harry was obtained in the public schools of Hayes Center and Palisade, and he was graduated from the high school with honors. Following this, he

entered Doane Academy, where he was graduated with the highest honors of the class of 1907. Becoming a student of Doane College, at Crete, Nebraska, he took a four years' course, his college career being a brilliant one, in which he gained numerous honors, being editor of the college paper for two terms and getting out the annual college publication in the year 1911. In his senior year he engaged in the newspaper business, as one of the owners of the *Vidette-Herald*, with which he was identified for two years. He then went to Central City, Nebraska, where he purchased the *Central City Nonpareil*. He was the owner and editor of this publication for twenty-one months, and he then returned to Crete, where he spent a short time in a job-printing office. Following this, he went to Holdrege, Nebraska, where he took charge of the *Holdrege Citizen* and remained one year. In 1917 Mr. Harry deserted the newspaper business to enter the service of the Nebraska Telephone Company, and in December of that year he came to Broken Bow, where he was made manager. He has since devoted his undivided attention to the duties of this post, and has succeeded not only in giving the people of the community prompt and accurate service, but also in advancing the company's interests materially.

April 9, 1915, Mr. Harry married Miss Esther Hollenbeck, who was born in Kearney county, Nebraska, daughter of John H. and Ida M. (Eastwood) Hollenbeck, early settlers of that county. Mr. Hollenbeck, who is now a traveling salesman, is a son of a veteran of the Civil war. To Mr. and Mrs. Harry there has come one daughter: Rosamond Ida. They are members of the Congregational church at Crete, where Mr. Harry belongs to the Masonic blue lodge. At Broken Bow he is an active member of the Public Service Club, and his military record includes membership from 1908 to 1911 in Company H, First Regiment, Nebraska National Guard. His political tendencies make him a Democrat.

BURRITT W. KIMBALL, a well known general farmer and stock-raiser near Broken Bow, has been a resident of Custer county for nineteen years and during this time has devoted himself continuously to agricultural pursuits, his industry, thorough methods and good judgment bringing about very substantial results. Mr. Kimball was born in Benton county, Iowa, April 11, 1875. His parents, both now deceased, were Hollis S. and Mary (Dorsey) Kimball.

The paternal grandfather, George Kimball,

who was born in Vermont, removed with his family to Iowa during the boyhood of his son Hollis S., and spent the remainder of his life in that state. The maternal grandfather was Beal Dorsey, who died in Iowa, in early manhood. Hollis S. Kimball accompanied his parents from Vermont to Iowa, but a number of years later he came to Knox county, Nebraska, where he secured a homestead claim. He eventually proved up on this claim, and he continued to live on that homestead for twenty-five years. During the Civil war he served three years as a member of the Third Iowa Cavalry. In later life he moved to California, and his death took place in the city of Los Angeles. In his early political life he was a Republican but later identified himself with the Populist party. To his marriage with Mary Dorsey, who was born in Iowa, five children were born, and three of them survive — Nina, who is the wife of Frank Deitz, a farmer in Knox county; Burritt W., who is the subject of this sketch; and Willis, who is a farmer near Sioux City, Iowa.

Burritt W. Kimball attended school in Knox county and completed his school course at Niobrara. He has always been interested along agricultural lines and was already an experienced farmer when he came to Custer county, his first purchase of land being 280 acres, since then increasing to 440 acres. He has improved his property and has commodious and substantial buildings. May 26, 1897, recorded the marriage of Mr. Kimball to Miss Florence B. Johnson, who was born at Fulton, Illinois, and is a daughter of Dwight Johnson, a manufacturer of stock and hog food, at Omaha. Mr. and Mrs. Kimball have four children: Delisle, Thelma, and Margaret and Ione (twins.) Mrs. Kimball is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as are also all of the children. In politics Mr. Kimball is a Republican and fraternally he is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America.

ALBERT R. CHRISMAN, a man of large estate and high personal standing in Custer county, retired from his farm to Broken Bow in 1915 but still carries on his farm industries and continues the raising of horses and mules on a large scale. He is one of the county's substantial business men.

Albert R. Chrisman was born in Lafayette county, Missouri, September 28, 1858, and is a son of Joseph M. and Lucy B. (Richardson) Chrisman, the former of whom was born in Virginia, in 1833, and the latter in 1840. They were married in Virginia, lived many years

in Missouri, and both died in Nebraska, the mother in 1890 and the father in 1913.

The paternal grandfather, Joseph Chrisman, was a pioneer from Virginia to Missouri, making his prospecting trip on horseback, and about 1837 conveying his family across the country by wagon. He was a farmer and stockman and died in Missouri. His son, Joseph M., accompanied him to Missouri in 1837 but subsequently returned to Virginia, where he was married to Lucy B. Richardson, a daughter of Marcus Richardson, who spent his life on his Virginia plantation. To this marriage the following children were born: Lizzie, who is the wife of R. B. Sargent, of Custer county; Albert R.; M. J., a retired farmer of Broken Bow; Lucy, who is the wife of Geo. Sweeney, of Scheduling, Nebraska; H. E., of Broken Bow; Hattie, who is the wife of Sam Tooley, of Broken Bow; Samuel, who is deceased; and Jennie Ruth, who is a trained nurse. In 1883 the family came to Nebraska and homesteaded in Custer county. The parents were members of the Presbyterian church.

Albert R. Chrisman had school privileges in Missouri. He gave his father assistance on the farm and when the family came to Nebraska he helped to bring, with other stock, 150 head of cows, and for many years he continued to be largely interested in stock. He owns large bodies of land in the state, including a section in Blaine county and 480 acres in Custer county, north of Broken Bow.

November 20, 1889, recorded the marriage of Mr. Chrisman to Emma D. Tooley, a daughter of William W. and Lucy A. Tooley, who came to Nebraska in 1884, from Indiana, and who reside at Broken Bow. Mr. and Mrs. Chrisman have five children—Ray, who resides on the home farm; Chester A., who is, at the time of this writing, a soldier in the national army; and Lucy, Mary and Joseph. Mrs. Chrisman belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Chrisman is a member of the Woodmen and is independent in politics.

ROBERT R. DUNCAN, president of the Bank of Merna, is one of the leading business men and financiers of Custer county.

Mr. Duncan is a native of the Empire state, born at Buffalo, New York, February 17, 1857. His parents, James and Christine (Ross) Duncan, were natives of Scotland, coming to America when young people, and were married in New York, where they made their home until 1857, when they became residents of Iroquois county, Illinois, where James Duncan became a successful farmer. The remainder of their

lives was spent in Iroquois county, where the mother died in 1885 and the father in 1908. They were the parents of six sons and six daughters, and they lived to see their children all grow to maturity and become useful members of society.

Robert R. Duncan was the youngest of the boys of the family and the last to leave the parental roof. He was reared on a farm and attended the public schools in the acquirement of his early education, later attending the Indiana Normal School at Valparaiso. For five years he taught school in Iroquois county, Illinois, and in 1888 he came to Custer county, Nebraska, where he engaged in the hardware business with R. J. Kelly and T. F. Kelly, at Merna. This was eighteen months after the railroad had come, and he was one of the pioneer merchants of the town, continuing in the hardware business successfully until 1903. In 1905 he helped organize the Home Bank of Merna and became cashier of the institution, remaining in that position until 1916, when the Home Bank and the Bank of Merna consolidated and Mr. Duncan became president, thus having been the active chief executive of the institution for the past thirteen years. This is one of the strong financial institutions of Custer county, its stockholders and directors being numbered among the substantial men of Nebraska.

At Ashkum, Illinois, on May 5, 1890, was celebrated the marriage of Robert R. Duncan and Miss Agnes McDonald, a native of Chicago, Illinois, and a daughter of Alex and Catherine McDonald, natives of Scotland, who became early settlers of Iroquois county, Illinois, where both passed away.

Mr. and Mrs. Duncan are members of the United Brethren church. Mr. Duncan is a member of Merna Lodge No. 171, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons and has received the thirty-second degree in Scottish Rite Masonry, besides being affiliated with Tangier Temple, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Omaha. He also holds membership in the Merna organizations of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Royal Highlanders.

Mr. Duncan has been a resident and business man of Merna for more than thirty years, arriving here when it was a village of 200 population, and he has taken a commendable interest in those things which have had to do with the growth and upbuilding of the community. Having faith in the future of Custer county as an agricultural district, he has invested in and is the owner of 1,120 acres of Custer county land. While making a success of his own enterprises, he has not been remiss in

duties of citizenship and is held in high esteem and respect by all who know him.

ROBERT J. KELLY, a pioneer settler of Custer county, was born in La Salle county, Illinois, October 29, 1856. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Kelly, had emigrated from Ireland and had likewise made a pioneer home in the Prairie state when Illinois was in that stage of its history.

Mr. Kelly's boyhood days were spent on a farm in Iroquois county, Illinois. He married Elizabeth Carey, also of Iroquois county. In 1885 Mr. and Mrs. Kelly came to Custer county and took a homestead in Dale valley. For several years Mr. Kelly was engaged in the mercantile business and later managed a grain business in Merna. Since 1900 he has been engaged in the real-estate business at Merna, and in the years of his residence in the county he has taken commendable interest in those projects which have had to do with the development and progress of the county. He is the owner of a ranch of 800 acres and he has been successful in his business ventures.

Mr. and Mrs. Kelly are the parents of five children—three sons and two daughters—and all have grown to maturity in Custer county.

ALBERT J. VAN ANTWERP.—During the past ten years the office of surveyor of Custer county has been occupied by Albert Jason Van Antwerp, whose services have been of such efficiency as to preclude any idea of a successor being named in his stead. He is also a well known farmer and stock-raiser of his native county. He was born on his father's homestead in Custer county, July 4, 1882, and is a son of Francis Edward and Esther Alice (Lathrop) Van Antwerp.

The Van Antwerp family is of Holland Dutch origin, and for several generations lived in New York state. Francis Edward Van Antwerp was born at St. Charles, Illinois, the third one of five brothers. There he grew to manhood, and there his marriage occurred, his wife being a native of Roscoe, that state. In 1880, with their first-born son, L. J. Van Antwerp, they journeyed to Nebraska in pioneer style, with a covered wagon, and took up a homestead in Custer county. Upon the pioneer farm the father passed the remainder of his life, and he was successful in the accumulation and cultivation of a tract of 320 acres. He died January 29, 1917. Mr. Van Antwerp was one of the well known men of his community, and for a number of years, off and

on, forward from 1884, he occupied the office of county surveyor, or deputy, in addition to which, in 1890 and 1900, he took the census of Wood River township. He was a Republican in his political views, and fraternally was affiliated with the Odd Fellows, the Camp of the Modern Woodmen, and the Knights of Pythias. Mr. and Mrs. Van Antwerp were the parents of five sons—Louis J., who is operating a farm in the vicinity of Lodi, Nebraska; Albert J., who is the subject of this sketch; Charles Edward Arthur, who resides with his mother on the old homestead; Major Ernest A., who farms near Lodi; and Merle S., who is identified with milling interests in Calloway.

After attending the public schools of Custer county, Albert J. Van Antwerp adopted the profession of educator, and for two terms he was engaged in instructing the young in the country districts. He then entered the normal school at Fremont, from which he was graduated in 1904, and in that same year he became a student at the University of Nebraska, which he attended through 1904 and 1905. When his education was completed, he came to Broken Bow and became deputy county surveyor under his father, a position which he retained about five years. In 1909 he succeeded his father in office, and each two years since that time he has been re-elected. His record in office is an exceptionally good one, a statement which is hardly necessary, in view of the fact of his repeated elections. A Republican in politics he is accounted one of the strong and influential members of his party in the county. While the duties of office have absorbed a large share of his attention, Mr. Van Antwerp has still found time to devote to business matters, in which he has achieved somewhat more than ordinary success. The owner of a splendid ranch of 400 acres, he is extensively engaged in raising live stock, and has recently started to concentrate his energies in this direction in breeding full-blooded Hereford cattle.

In 1905 Mr. Van Antwerp married Miss Marie Eneboe, who was born at Canton, South Dakota, a daughter of Paul J. Eneboe. Mr. Eneboe, who was one of the early homesteaders of South Dakota, experienced many of the hardships of frontier life, and during his earlier years was compelled to transport his grain seventy miles in order to find a market, at Sioux City, Iowa, his means of conveyance being an ox-team. Mr. and Mrs. Van Antwerp are the parents of two daughters—Iris Olivet and Avis, both attending public school. The family belongs to the Presbyterian church, and Mr. Van Antwerp is affiliated fraternally

with the Masons and Odd Fellows, in the latter of which he has passed all the official chairs of the local lodge.

CHARLES PENN. — The experiences of Charles Penn, now a member of the retired colony of Broken Bow, have ranged through the pursuits of war and peace, and have included mining in Colorado and Mexico, blacksmithing and machinist work in Nebraska, and large sheep operations in which he occupied a leading and prominent place among the ranchers of his section. His career has been a long, useful, and eminently successful one, and, in his declining years, he may look back with a measure of pardonable pride over his accomplishments.

Mr. Penn was born in Morgan county, Ohio, November 22, 1846, a son of Caleb P. and Margaret (Newhouse) Penn, natives of Pennsylvania. Caleb P. Penn was a son of Reason Penn, who took his family to Morgan county, Ohio, at an early day, and there the father of Charles Penn was educated, grew to manhood, and was married. In 1850 Caleb Penn removed to Linn county, Iowa, where he settled down to agricultural pursuits, but in the evening of life he retired from active affairs and took up his residence at Broken Bow, with his son, at whose home both he and Mrs. Penn passed away. They were the parents of four children, of whom two survive — Charles and George, the latter a traveling salesman, with headquarters at Kansas City. Mr. Penn was reared a Quaker, while his wife was a member of the Christian church. He was a Whig originally in his political views, but with the birth of the Republican party he became an adherent of its principles.

The education of Charles Penn was acquired with some difficulty, as it was necessary that he walk three miles to and from the Iowa district school of his community, but in the meantime he also was able to learn much of the blacksmith and machinist's trades. The Civil war came on to interrupt his career, and, although he was little more than a lad, he enlisted, in 1862, in Company H, Twenty-fourth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, with which he served nearly three years. He fought with a command which took part in some of the bloodiest and hardest-fought battles of the great struggle between the north and the south, but his recollection of the hottest fight of them all was that of Champion Hill, where his regiment lost 676 during the time, out of the 1,018 men never returning. On his return from the war, the brave young soldier resumed

his trades of machinist and blacksmith, both of which he fully mastered, and finally he settled at York, Nebraska, where he opened a shop for the pursuance of his vocations. He was successful in his efforts, and in 1882 he came to Broken Bow, gave up his regular trades, and turned his attention exclusively to the buying and selling of sheep, a field in which he had acquired some previous experience. This was something entirely different from his mining experiences in Colorado and old Mexico, his working at his trades, or his wearing of his country's uniform, but just as he had been successful in the other avenues of endeavor, so did he become prosperous in his operations along this line, and by 1883 he had 24,000 sheep and a large and valuable ranch. He continued to be actively interested in this field and to have large holdings in other enterprises and industries until 1907, when he retired from active affairs and transferred business burdens to younger shoulders.

Mr. Penn was married December 25, 1865, to Miss Emily Swecker, who was born in Wisconsin, a daughter of an early Iowa settler. Mrs. Penn died October 12, 1888, having been the mother of ten children, of whom seven are living: W. H., a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work; Effie Stephenson, of Edgemont, South Dakota; Nellie Brown, of Leaf City, South Dakota; Melvin, of Butte city, Montana; Ellsworth, also of that place; Clara Shocker, of Stanton, Nebraska; and Ed, engaged in carpentry at Broken Bow. Mr. Penn was again married January 1, 1890, when he was united with Miss Laura Wood, a native of England, and they have two children: Warren, of Los Angeles, California, a general salesman for the Hudson Automobile Company; and Edith, in the employ of the Burlington Railroad Company, at Lincoln. Mrs. Penn is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Penn is affiliated with the blue lodge and chapter of the Masonic fraternity. He is a Republican in politics, and on several occasions has held public office, having been city marshal while a resident of York, and sheriff of Custer county from 1885 to 1890, during which time he established a splendid record for efficiency, conscientious performance of duty, and unwavering courage.

HENRY B. LANDIS, M. D. — The professional labors of Dr. Henry B. Landis, at Broken Bow, have covered a period of seven years, during which time he has firmly established himself as a thorough, skilled, and learned practitioner. This honored member of

the Custer county medical profession was born near Burlington, Iowa, April 13, 1874, a son of Peter E. and Elizabeth (Fetrow) Landis.

The paternal grandfather of Doctor Landis was Henry Landis, a native of Virginia, who migrated to Iowa and died in the latter state, while on the maternal side, the Doctor is descended from a Holland Dutch ancestor. Peter E. Landis was born in Virginia, June 1, 1848, and was a child when taken to Iowa. There he grew to manhood, and when the Civil war came on he was one of the youths who swelled the Hawkeye state's fighting ranks. As a member of Company A, Nineteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, he fought gallantly for two years and nine months. He then resumed the duties of peace, in a regular, honorable, and industrious manner, which eventuated in his securing compensating awards. He remained as a resident of Iowa until 1884, when he purchased a farm near St. Joseph, Missouri, where he still resides, as one of his community's most highly esteemed residents. Mr. Landis is a Republican, and belongs to the Christian church, which represents also the religious faith of his wife. Mrs. Landis was born at Burlington, Iowa, November 9, 1853, and their union, at Wapello, Iowa, has been blessed by the birth of eight children, of whom five are living: Henry B.; Mary Kathryn, the wife of C. F. Remus, a merchant of Maryville, Missouri; Lowrie F., who resides at the home place; Alice Cary, the wife of Lawrence Brunn, a farmer near St. Joseph; and Fern, residing with her parents.

The public schools of St. Joseph furnished Henry B. Landis with his preliminary educational training, and following his graduation from the high school there he entered the Central Medical College. His diploma and degree of Doctor of Medicine were granted him in 1896, and in that year he commenced practice at St. Joseph. Two years of interne work at Chicago and a post-graduate course in a polytechnic school gave Doctor Landis further preparation and added to the professional equipment which he brought to Broken Bow in 1911. His reputation, gained at St. Joseph, and at King City, Missouri, where he was located prior to coming to the county seat of Custer county, has been strengthened and solidified by his professional achievements at Broken Bow. He has the confidence of a large clientele, and a high standing among his brethren of the profession. His professional labors are of a general character, as he is equally at home in any branch of his calling. As one who keeps fully abreast of the advancements and progress made in medicine and surgery, Doctor Landis is a close student,

and in this connection he is interested in the work of the American Medical Association, the Nebraska State Medical Society, and the Custer County Medical Society. He is a Republican in politics, and is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, in which he is a Knight Templar. His religious faith is that of the Christian church.

In 1900 Doctor Landis married Miss Julia Elizabeth Jackley, who died, without issue, in 1907. He was again married in 1909, when he was united with Miss Lennis May Tanner, a native of Missouri. They have one daughter, Helen Elizabeth, who is attending school.

ALFRED C. SLOGGETT.—Prominent among the retired agriculturists of Broken Bow is Alfred C. Sloggett, who came to Custer county in 1886 and whose career in this state has been marked by advancement from a humble position to one of independence. Alfred Cole Sloggett was born in the village of Granby, Canada, March 13, 1853, a son of William and Bathania (Horner) Sloggett, the former a native of England and the latter of New York state.

William Sloggett was a cabinetmaker and wagonmaker by trade, and also conducted a store in Canada, which he did also after removing to Illinois, in 1856. Mrs. Sloggett died at Forreston, that state, about the close of the Civil war, having been the mother of twelve children, of whom four survive—William, a farmer of Ogle county, Illinois; Alfred C., of this sketch; John, a farmer of Whiteside county, Illinois; and James, formerly a farmer and merchant, and for the past twelve years engaged in the restaurant business at Broken Bow. William Sloggett was married a second time, at Forreston, Illinois, and four children were born of this union: Vivian, a clerk in a store at Fremont, Nebraska; Mourteaville, a North Dakota farmer; Mrs. Anna Kerlin, a widow, of Fremont; and Mrs. Pegden, whose husband is a farmer in the vicinity of that city.

Alfred C. Sloggett was but three years of age when brought by his parents to the United States, and his early boyhood was passed at Forreston, Illinois. His mother died when he was but eleven years of age and after that conditions at home were not pleasant for the lad, who ran away when he was fifteen, and who, for about a year and one-half, worked for John Kaline, at Woosung, Illinois, thirty-five miles from home. He saved his money and outfitted himself with clothes, made his way to Clinton, Iowa, and secured a position in a sawmill, but this did not prove congenial

and after six months he resigned and found employment with a farmer named Church, with whom he remained four years, at twenty-five dollars a month—about ten dollars a month more than common wages at that time. In the meantime he attended the country school during the winter months. A longing to see some of his kinsfolk whom he had left behind, led him back to Illinois, where he had been given up for dead, but after a short visit he returned to Iowa, where he worked a year at gardening. Once more going to Illinois, he began working for his brother, Willian Sloggett, with whom he remained three years, following which he went to the home of Ed Bricknell, where he boarded, and during that year he farmed about forty acres of corn, on his own account. While he had been working for his brother Mr. Sloggett had become acquainted with Miss Emma Miller, a daughter of Manuel Miller, of Ogle county, and they were married September 15, 1877, at West Grove. They resided in Illinois about seven years, when, inspired by the stories heard of the west, Mr. Sloggett came to Custer county, Nebraska, where, about seven miles north of Broken Bow, he contested a farm of 160 acres. He returned to Illinois, where he remained about one year, and then came back and filed on the homestead. In 1886, with his wife and four children, Perry, Bessie, Charlie, and George, he came to make a home and accumulate a competency. At this time his possessions consisted chiefly of a few horses, which died the same year, and it was necessary that he find employment, in order to support his family while getting a start. Accordingly he assisted in putting in the railroad switches, and he also freighted oats about 100 miles up the line to where they were building the railroad. Mr. Sloggett has numerous reminiscences of these days. He tells of fording the river and of shooting prairie chickens and once in a while a deer. The next year he took up farming, and everything went well until the dry year of 1894, which brought about hard times. The family home was a sod house, as were the schoolhouses, and Mr. Sloggett assisted in the building of two of the latter. On this pioneer homestead the remaining children of the family were born: Edith, Hattie, Harvey, Annie, Orville, and Everett, of whom Annie and Orville are deceased. Perry, who farms his father's homestead, seven miles west of Broken Bow, in the Union valley, married a daughter of Charles Jenkins; Bessie A. is the wife of Joseph Loyd, an implement salesman of Broken Bow; Mrs. Edith Rosler is the wife of a very prosperous farmer eight miles east of Broken Bow; Hattie is the

wife of Clyde Bates, a farmer nine miles northwest of Broken Bow; George A., a farmer three miles south and one mile west of Anselmo, married a Miss Rotton; Charles is single and a farmer; Harvey M. was taken into the United States service during the first draft, being first with Company D, 355th Regiment, at Camp Funsten, later going to Virginia and being assigned to Company F, Fourth Infantry, and finally being sent as a member of our heroic forces in France; and Everett is in the eleventh grade of the Broken Bow public school.

In 1902 Mr. Sloggett and his family moved to the Skelton place, about ten miles northeast of Broken Bow, where they lived more than two years, and in the spring of 1905 they moved again, this time to the Adams school section, four miles east of town. During the eight years that they resided there numerous fine crops were raised and Mr. Sloggett got a good start, but finally he tired of farming hill country, and this caused another change, the family moving to the old Rogers ranch, about one and one-half miles east of Broken Bow. After six years Mr. Sloggett retired from active pursuits and took up his residence in his modern and commodious home at Broken Bow, where he has every convenience. He is still the owner of 368 acres of valuable land and his other wise investments have made him one of his community's substantial men. Mr. Sloggett is a Republican, and served as road overseer for three years. He has been connected with the Modern Woodmen of America for twenty-five years. Mrs. Sloggett and all the children belong to the Methodist Episcopal church.

L. EMMETT COLE. — One of the old established and highly reputable undertaking establishments of Custer county is that conducted by L. Emmett Cole, who, during a period of twenty-three years at Broken Bow, has placed himself firmly in the confidence of the people. He was born at Carlinville, Macoupin county, Illinois, October 8, 1857, and is a son of William D. and Aramanda (Bailey) Cole.

William D. Cole was born in 1829, in Kentucky, was there reared and educated, and there he married Miss Bailey, the daughter of a Kentucky farmer. They moved from their native state to Illinois not long after their marriage, Mr. Cole being engaged in farming there for a number of years, but after their retirement from the active pursuits of life they went to Boise, Idaho, where they passed away, their deaths being but three weeks apart. They

were faithful members of the Methodist church, and Mr. Cole was a Mason and a Republican. Of their children, five are living: L. Emmett; Libbie, who is the wife of John Neal, a real-estate broker of San Francisco, California; Susie, the wife of Ed House, a real-estate and insurance broker of Broken Bow; William D., a druggist of Portland, Oregon, who married Madge Womsley, of West Union, Custer county; and Fred B., who has charge of the North Wind Lumber Company, of Carson, Washington.

When L. Emmett Cole was still a lad his parents moved to Champaign county, Illinois, and there, in the public schools of Champaign, he received his education. He was an industrious youth, and his first money was earned in working on a broom-corn ranch, but subsequently he learned the painter's trade, to which he devoted a number of years of his life. He remained in Illinois until the year 1887, when he came to Broken Bow, and while still carrying on his business as a painter he learned the undertaking and embalming business. In 1895 he went to work for W. J. Woods, of Broken Bow, and this association continued for ten years, when Mr. Cole engaged in the undertaking business in an independent way. He has since carried on the business alone. Mr. Cole has conducted his business in a manner that has won to him the respect and confidence of the people of his community, and for this reason he is widely called upon for his services during times of death, his duties having taken him as far west on the Burlington Railroad as Ashby, and as far east as Mason City. He has an up-to-date establishment in every particular, with every convenience and all equipment for the proper care of the dead in a reverent manner, and features of his business are his chapel and his automobile service, including automobile hearse. Mr. Cole is a Modern Woodman, an Odd Fellow, and an Elk.

In 1886, at Champaign, Illinois, just before coming to Nebraska, Mr. Cole married Miss Emma Price, her father being a successful contractor and builder. To this union there were born four children: Mabel, who is the wife of Homer Desrocher, a stone contractor in Detroit, Michigan; Roy, unmarried, a sergeant in the engineering corps, United States Army in France; Grace, who is single and engaged in the millinery business at Detroit; and Harry, who is still attending school at Broken Bow.

H. K. ATKISSON. — The subject of this review is the efficient manager of the Milburn & Custer Telephone Company and has been a

resident of Custer county for thirty-one years.

H. K. Atkisson was born in Wayne county, Iowa, January 25, 1858. His father, I. N. Atkisson, who was a native of Kentucky, was a lawyer by profession and came to Nebraska in an early day, residing first at Ashland, later at Lincoln. In 1887 he came to Custer county, where he made his home until his death, in 1891, at Broken Bow. The mother of our subject is Mrs. Minerva (Clark) Atkisson, who is a native of Pennsylvania, and who is now making her home in California.

H. K. Atkisson, one of a family of four children, accompanied his parents to Nebraska and came to Custer county with them in 1887. He was engaged in mercantile business at Merna for several years and for several years past he has been manager of the Milburn & Custer Telephone Company. He has been a notary public for eighteen years and also deals in real estate. When a young man he acquired considerable knowledge of law and legal procedure, while working with his father, and this knowledge he finds valuable in examining abstracts and investigating titles to property.

In Webster county, Nebraska, Mr. Atkisson married Miss B. L. Wells, a native of Michigan. Mrs. Atkisson has acquired a splendid education, is possessed of considerable literary talent and is serving at the present time as librarian for the public library of Merna. Mr. and Mrs. Atkisson have three children: Roy N., who is sales manager for Deere & Company of Omaha; Blanche, who is the wife of J. R. Judge, of Lushton, Nebraska; and Veva, who is the wife of F. E. Peterson, of Lincoln, Nebraska.

The family are members of the United Brethren church and Mr. Atkisson is a Republican in politics. Fraternally he is connected with the Merna organizations of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Modern Woodmen of America, and Ancient Order of United Workmen, and he is one of the progressive citizens of Custer county.

SAMUEL M. LUCE, who is now living retired in Merna, after many years of activity as an agriculturist in Custer county, was among the very early settlers of this county and has witnessed the changes that have been brought about, while in the work of development he has aided in many ways.

Mr. Luce was born near Bangor, Maine, March 24, 1850, and is a descendant from Puritan stock, his ancestors having been numbered among the first settlers of the Pine Tree state. His father, William S. Luce, was a

native of Maine and followed the life of a sailor until he received injuries that compelled him to abandon this vocation. In 1854 he came west, and after remaining a short time in Chicago he established his residence in Stark county, Illinois, where he continued to be engaged in farming enterprise until after the close of the Civil war. In 1866 he became one of the pioneers of Clarke county, Iowa, where he passed the remainder of his life, his death having occurred in 1871. His wife, whose death there occurred in the preceding year, was a native of Massachusetts and her maiden name was Hulda Rogers. Four of their sons were soldiers in the Civil war, all serving from Illinois, but in different regiments — William S. in the Ninth Cavalry; Alonzo in the Nineteenth Infantry; Richard in the Ninety-third Infantry; and Isaac in the One Hundred and Twelfth Infantry.

Samuel M. Luce was a little lad of four years when he accompanied his parents to Chicago and he was with them when the home was established in Clarke county, Iowa, in 1866. There he completed his education and there he eventually engaged in farming on his own account.

February 28, 1872, at the home of the bride's parents, near Lacelle, Clarke county, Iowa, was solemnized the marriage of Samuel M. Luce to Miss Mary V. Perry, who was born in Illinois, a daughter of Zachariah and Sarah (Keedy) Perry, natives respectively of Kentucky and Illinois. In 1882 the parents of Mrs. Luce became pioneer settlers of Custer county, and here they passed the remainder of their lives, the death of the mother having occurred in 1892 and that of the father in 1893.

Mr. and Mrs. Luce continued to reside in Iowa until 1882, when they came to Nebraska. They lived one year in Nuckolls county and in 1883 became residents of Custer county, although Mr. Luce had come to the county the year before and located and filed on his homestead of 160 acres, in section 6, township 17, range 21. Here he erected a sod house, which was the home of the family for twelve years. They were among the very early settlers in this part of Custer county. There was no town of Merna then, not a frame house in Broken Bow and only nine families in Dale valley. Mr. Luce helped organize the school district, helped erect the little sod schoolhouse and was identified with all movements for the upbuilding and development of the community. He made a success of his ventures in agriculture, brought his land to a high state of cultivation and was actively engaged in farming until 1906, when he retired to Merna, where

he has resided since in a comfortable home erected at that time.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Luce has been blessed with seven children: Sarah is the wife of B. C. Browning, residing at Merna; Elijah is a resident of Merna; Nancy is the wife of Dell Jones, of Merna; LeRoy is living at Stratton, Nebraska; John is a resident of Fort Collins, Colorado; Charles W., likewise is a resident of Colorado; and Bessie is the wife of Orville Burton, of Grover, Colorado.

Mr. and Mrs. Luce are members of the United Brethren church and in politics Mr. Luce casts an independent ballot. He affiliates with several fraternal orders, being active in the Modern Woodmen of America, Modern Brotherhood, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Daughters of Rebekah.

Samuel M. Luce is one of the venerable pioneers of Custer county, where he has been an interested witness of the changes that have made the county one of the leading agricultural and stock-raising districts of Nebraska, and in every relation of life he has measured up to the full standard of manhood and loyal citizenship.

HARMER E. MYERS. — Although variously identified with affairs in Custer county since his arrival here more than a quarter of a century ago, it is probably as a moral and religious teacher that Harmer E. Myers will be longest and most gratefully remembered. More and more is it demonstrated that a cultivated mind and fine instincts reach their highest development oftentimes amid agricultural surroundings, diffusing around them that refinement and peace which are the hall-marks of the born gentleman toiler. To such a class belongs Mr. Myers, who is now one of the large land-owners of Custer county, but who for years was one of the most successful and most affectionately appreciated laborers in the United Brethren church, the numerous churches which he founded standing as monuments to his zeal and ministerial capacity.

Harmer E. Myers was born in Clarke county, Iowa, March 24, 1865, a son of Lambert P. and Rebecca (Rilea) Myers. His paternal grandfather, Jonathan Myers, was a native of Virginia, and moved to the Western Reserve of Ohio at an early day. In that historic part of the Buckeye state he passed the remainder of his life in agricultural pursuits, and there he reared a family of ten children. William Rilea, the maternal grandfather of Mr. Myers, was a native of Ohio and eventually moved to Iowa. In the early days he was a freighter

on the Mississippi river, taking flatboats down to New Orleans, and was also widely known as a famous hunter and trapper of his day.

Lambert Packer Myers was born in Mahoning county, Ohio, in 1834, and as a young man learned the cabinetmaker's trade, which he followed in his home state. He was there educated and subsequently went to Indiana. In the '50s he removed to Iowa, where he secured employment in a mill. Through industrious work and careful saving he accumulated enough capital with which to purchase a farm in the neighborhood of Hopeville, where he rounded out his career and where he died in 1896. He was a Republican in politics and he served on school boards in several communities. He belonged to the United Brethren in Christ. Mr. Myers was married at Funk's Mills, Iowa, to Miss Rebecca Rilea, who was born in Brown county, Ohio, and who survives her husband, she being a resident of Bedford, Iowa. They became the parents of nine children, of whom eight are living: Leonard V., a furniture dealer, undertaker and embalmer at Red Oak, Iowa, is very prominent in his business in his state and was formerly vice-president of the National Undertakers Association; Marion U. is a carpenter at Beaconsfield, Iowa; Harmer E. is the immediate subject of this review; Anna is the wife of H. T. Chew, a farmer of Grand River, Iowa; Mrs. Elizabeth Besco, a widow, resides at Bedford, Iowa, where she has been successfully engaged in business as a dry-goods merchant for the past sixteen years; Armanella, prominent in the affairs of the Methodist Episcopal church, is the wife of Frank Allen, who was formerly a leading churchman and merchant of Bedford, Iowa, but is now a prominent real-estate man of Greeley, Colorado; Adna E. is a contractor and builder at Los Angeles, California; and Almond Ray, a graduate of the Gem City Business College, Quincy, Illinois, was in the banking business for a number of years at McAlester, Oklahoma, but later was a resident of Rosalia, Washington, and he is now engaged in farm enterprise near Colville, that state.

The country schools of Iowa furnished Harmer E. Myers his early educational training, and after he had taught school for one year he entered the Western Normal College at Shenandoah, Iowa, where he was graduated in 1888, with the degree of Bachelor of Didactics. Thereafter he taught for one year in Fremont county, Iowa, and one year in Gage county, Nebraska. For two years he was principal of schools at Crab Orchard, Nebraska and for a like period at Unadilla, Otoe county. He then taught one term of country school

and one term in his home school in Nebraska. Prior to this time he had begun his labors as a minister of the faith of the United Brethren in Christ. He joined the annual conference, at Shelby, Nebraska, in March, 1892, although he had preached one year prior to this, having been granted a conference license. Assigned to Unadilla, he held some splendid protracted meetings and made a success of his first church. He then went to Seward, where he was pastor for three year, during which he more than doubled the membership there, taking in 121 new members. Subsequently he was pastor of the First United Brethren church at Lincoln, where he was instrumental in transferring the church from the suburbs into the city proper, and after eighteen months in that pastorate he went to Pawnee City, Nebraska, and remained as pastor of a country church for two years. In the meanwhile he had been formally ordained to the ministry, the ceremony of ordination having been performed at Blue Springs, Gage county, by Bishop Castle. In 1900 he came to Broken Bow, where he was minister for two and one-half years, at that time resigning from the regular ministry, his last sermon being delivered in a sod church at Custer Center, Iowa. However, from time to time he continued to preach, accepting different country appointments, and he still fills a pulpit occasionally, in addition to doing some work in the lecture field. During his long experience in the work of the church, Mr. Myers met varying conditions. During one period, for three years, he preached three times each Sunday. One of his biggest successes was a revival held at the O. K. schoolhouse, where he organized a large class. For one year he accomplished some gratifying work at the Ortello church, to reach which he had to travel forty miles from Broken Bow, it being his custom to leave this city at three o'clock Saturday afternoon, sleep in a hay-mow that night, and eat luncheon in his buggy, at Merna.

As an agriculturist Mr. Myers has made an excellent success. He purchased his first quarter-section in 1900, at five dollars on acre, and in 1902 he secured a like amount at the same price, but in 1903 was forced to pay six dollars and twenty-five cents an acre for a quarter-section, and later, when he bought a half-section, the price had again advanced. He has sold some of his land, but still owns 600 acres of valuable farming property, in two farms—one, his home place, consisting of 480 acres, while the other, eighteen miles from Broken Bow, comprises 120 acres. Mr. Myers does much in the way of stock-raising and dairying, a field of enterprise in which he

educated himself, and he has a splendid herd of Durhams. He has milked as high as forty-seven cows, although the average is twenty-five, and in 1917 he sold six hundred dollars' worth of cream, it having been his expectation in 1918 to advance that figure to over \$1,000. He usually sells and ships a car-load of cattle and a like amount of hogs each year, and he has made a success also in the raising of registered Percheron stallions.

In 1889 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Myers to Miss Ella I. Talley, who was born in Ringgold county, Iowa, a daughter of Isaac A. and Nancy (Keller) Talley, who were born in Ohio, and came to Iowa in 1856, being among the earliest pioneers of Ringgold county, Iowa. To Mr. and Mrs. Myers there have been born the following children: Evangeline B. is the wife of William Hein, a farmer near Westerville, Custer county; Joy U. is engaged in teaching at Hastings, Nebraska; Paul S. resides at home and assists his father; Vivian is the wife of Frank Thornton, a farmer near Westerville; Jessie is engaged in teaching; and Royal, Hallie, and Beulah remain at the parental home. Mr. Myers is independent in his political views, and his only public office was that of a member of the town council at Crab Orchard, Johnson county, Nebraska.

FRED J. BAHR. — A comparatively recent addition to the grain and coal merchants of Broken Bow, F. J. Bahr established his interests here in 1909, bringing with him a commendable ambition to succeed, and that his aims have been realized is shown in the fact that he is to-day numbered among the leading business citizens of his adopted community. Mr. Bahr was born August 16, 1868, at Fayette, Iowa, a son of John J. and Lucy (Timmerman) Bahr.

John J. Bahr was born April 1, 1830, in the province of Alsace-Lorraine, France, and was a young man when he came to the United States with his father, William Bahr, and located in New York. There he married and for a few years was engaged in farming, but about the year 1860 he came to the west and bought 400 acres of land in Fayette county, Iowa, where he spent the remainder of his life. He was a Republican in politics, was a blue lodge Mason for fifty-five years, and in religious faith was a Congregationalist, while Mrs. Bahr was a Methodist. They were the parents of the following children: Eva is the wife of J. M. Alexander, a farmer and real-estate broker of Gothenburg, Nebraska, he being an Odd Fellow and a Republican; Will-

iam A., a farmer of near Eagle, Nebraska, and a Republican, married Amy Roberts; Polly is the wife of William Sharp, for years a farmer at Eagle, and now at Trenton, a Republican and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church; Mary is the widow of J. D. Freeman, who died at Mercedes, California, in the spring of 1917, he having been a Democrat, a Modern Woodman, and a member of the Congregational church, to which Mrs. Freeman belongs; Fred J. is the subject of this review; Orson K., a Mason and Republican, and farmer in Montana, married Lucy Allen, a daughter of Charles Allen; and Thomas J., a Mason Republican and member of the Methodist Episcopal church, was formerly a farmer and is now a resident of the San Luis Valley of Colorado; he married Maude Jackson, daughter of John O. Jackson of Custer county. The maiden name of Mrs. Fred J. Bahr was Lucy Timmerman, and she was born in Jefferson county, New York, a daughter of Henry Timmerman, and a direct descendant of a hero of the Revolutionary war. Her father was born March 8, 1796, and on November 19, 1820, married Polly Conley, who was born May 27, 1801, and who died May 6, 1876, Mr. Timmerman dying October 6, 1883. Her grandfather, Henry Timmerman, was born in Montgomery county, New York, January 1, 1750, and in 1775 enlisted for service in the patriot army, for service in the war of the Revolution, under Captain Stutzel Yates. This command went on a campaign of eleven months into Canada, under General Montgomery, and its members were then discharged, at Quebec, Mr. Timmerman making his way back to his home, at Little Falls, on the Mohawk river. Drafted in 1776, he was sent to Ticonderoga and was out one month, and in the same year he was sent to assist in blockading Wood Creek; to Fort Stanwick, where there was a general engagement; and at the mouth of the Unadilla river, where he was stationed for about two weeks, under Major General Sylsen. In a campaign under Brigadier-General James Clinton, he fought against the western Indians and was then called into the militia service, which occupied about one-quarter of his time until the year 1780. He then enlisted in the batteau service, under Captain Samuel Gray, and remained therein for two seasons, during which time he was supposed to be out from six to seven months. His wife bore the maiden name of Polly Kellas.

Fred J. Bahr was educated in the schools of Iowa and Nebraska, was reared as a farmer, a vocation which he adopted upon attaining his majority. When he disposed of his interests



MRS. JOHN J. DOUGLASS



JOHN J. DOUGLASS

in his native state, he came to Nebraska and secured a ranch of 400 acres, six miles north of Broken Bow, where he is making a successful specialty of raising the large type of Chester-White hogs. In 1909 Mr. Bahr came to Broken Bow, where he established himself in the grain and coal business, and this line he has followed to the present time, his splendid business abilities having enabled him to build up a large and important industry.

Mr. Bahr married Miss Minnie Morris, and to this union there have been born three children: H. Morris, who is in the eleventh grade of the Broken Bow high school; Vivian M., a teacher in the high school at Broken Bow, Nebraska; and Frederick J., six years of age, who has just started to attend the Broken Bow public school.

DR. Q. HOWARD STEVENS.—While he is comparatively a newcomer in the city of Broken Bow, where he took up his residence and began practice in September, 1916, Dr. Q. Howard Stevens has succeeded in establishing himself firmly in a position of prominence in professional circles, as well as in the confidence of the public. He is a native of the state of Nebraska, having been born at Millard, Douglas county, February 11, 1870, a son of George F. and Mary C. Stevens.

George F. Stevens was born in Maine and was a young man when he moved to Nebraska, in 1856. Mrs. Stevens immigrating to the United States from Denmark in the year following and taking up her home in this state also. They were married at Omaha, being residents of that place when it was but a small village, with little promise of its coming greatness, but later they took up land at the present site of Millard, the town being located on their old pre-emption claim.

Quincy Howard Stevens passed his boyhood and youth in eastern Nebraska. He received his preliminary educational training in the public schools, and subsequently attended Fremont College, where he had a creditable career and graduated with the degrees of Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Arts, and Graduate in Pharmacy. On leaving college he found himself equipped for educational work, and thereafter he served as superintendent of public schools in several communities. While engaged in these labors he prepared himself as an optical refractionist. He attended the Needles Institute of Optometry, in Kansas City, from which institution he was graduated with the degree of Doctor of Optometry, and following this he was for a time engaged in practice at Omaha, in the meantime teaching

in the Omaha Optical School. He located at Broken Bow September 1, 1916, and has since had a successful practice. He possesses a natural love for his profession and an earnest desire to assist his ailing fellow humans. His slogan: "See Stevens and See Better" is expressive and characteristic. His office is located in the Bow, where he has a complete optical equipment for testing eyes and making and fitting glasses that give comfort and good vision.

Mrs. Stevens was formerly Miss Elvira Morris, and she was an instructor in the public schools of Columbus City prior to her marriage. There is one son, Howard B., aged ten years.

JOHN J. DOUGLASS, who is now one of the highly esteemed retired citizens of Callaway, has the distinction of being one of the three surviving organizers of Custer county. For forty-three years he has resided within the borders of this county, during which time he has seen the country grow and has assisted it in its development, his experiences having included the various conditions, incidents, and eras of life here from the rough and rugged happenings of the frontier days to the refinements and conveniences of modern civilized existence.

Mr. Douglass was born March 17, 1845, at Sabina, Ohio, and is a son of Thompson and Ann (Coulter) Douglass, the former a native of Columbiana county, Ohio, and the latter of Ireland. His paternal grandparents, James and Mary (Taylor) Douglass were born in Scotland and were early settlers in Ohio. There were three sons and three daughters in the family: Albert, Sarah J., John J., Flora A., George, and Arminda, of whom Sarah J. and Albert are deceased. The common schools, which he attended during the winter terms, furnished John J. Douglass with his educational training, and until he was sixteen years of age he remained under the parental roof and assisted his father. At that time, however, he became restless, and, desiring to do something on his own account, accepted a position as clerk in a dry-goods and grocery store. He started at a wage of eight dollars a month, and during the four years that he was thus employed he was gradually given advancement, but he finally decided that mercantile life was not his forte, and he returned to farming, in which he was engaged for two years. About this time—not long after the close of the Civil war—he contracted the western fever, and in 1868 he came to Ne-

braska, settling at Falls City, Richardson county, in the extreme southeast corner of the state. It is worthy of note that he made the entire journey of 1,100 miles, from Sabina to Falls City, on horseback—a big job for one horse and quite an undertaking for a young man who did not know the country. All northern Missouri at that early date was thinly settled, and hundreds of stone and brick chimneys, known as “Lincoln monuments” at that time, were all left to show what had been prosperous homes before the ravages of war devastated the country. Arriving at Falls City in 1868, he secured employment as clerk with the mercantile firm of Reavis & Cameron. It was his desire at this time to venture further out on the frontier, and his plans for such a move had been practically completed when an incident occurred that dissuaded him from his desire at that time to get into the big-game country. A party of United States surveyors went out on the Republican river to survey government land, and the entire party was ambushed by hostile Indians and massacred to a man. Mr. Douglass’ friends persuaded him to abandon his trip, and he eventually returned to Ohio, where he remained several years, until the Indians were quieted.

In January, 1875, Mr. Douglass again left his Ohio home to return to the country which had gained such a hold upon him during his first trip, and he arrived here on the 6th day of that month. From Missouri he drove in a bunch of cattle, which he held on the Platte river during the summer, and during that time came to Custer county and located a ranch for the Rankin Live Stock Company, about a mile west of the present site of Callaway. Subsequently he went down into the Indian Nation and brought this concern’s cattle, about 800 head, to the ranch, as well as about 150 head of his own, which he had been holding on the Platte river. He was hired as foreman for this company and worked for them in that capacity about two years, or from 1876 to 1878, following which he put in about five years riding the range as a cowboy. Eventually he secured a large bunch of cattle of his own, and as the years passed he secured larger and larger business interests, so that finally he became one of the leading business men of the community, as well as an influential factor in financial circles. At the present time he is retired from active business pursuits and lives in his handsome and comfortable modern house at Callaway.

Mr. Douglass was married January 19, 1892, to Miss May Taylor, who was born in Marion county, Iowa, a daughter of Edgar

and Sarah Margaret (Williams) Taylor. Mrs. Douglass’ maternal grandparents had been residents of Missouri, but when the Civil war came on they were sympathizers with the Union cause and were compelled to abandon their home and move to Iowa, where they lived until after the days of secession, of conflict, and of reconstruction. Mrs. Douglass received her education in the public schools of Iowa, attending the high school at Missouri Valley and later completing a normal course at the Woodbine Normal school, at Woodbine, that state. She taught several terms of school in Harrison and Monroe counties and then came, in July, 1888, to visit a friend at Broken Bow. As teachers were not plentiful, she was asked by Charles Randall, then county superintendent, to accept a school at Berwyn, a few miles east of Broken Bow. She accepted the school, and completed the term with much credit to herself as well as the district. About that time this school closed, and she was offered a position in the office of her future husband, who was clerk of the district court. She accepted this position and held the same for four years, or until the expiration of Mr. Douglass’ term of office, soon after which they were married and went to live on Mr. Douglass’ farm, just west of Callaway.

The country, however, was swept over by drouths, which left desolation in their wake, and great hardships were thus endured by those who could not turn to some other work than farming. Mrs. Douglass again took up school work, teaching for ten months the first year, with only a few days between terms, and she had begun on the third term when she received an appointment to a position in the state land commissioner’s office, at Lincoln, which she accepted and held until she resigned to come home and work in the post-office, her husband having been appointed postmaster during her absence. She held the position of assistant postmaster for seven years. In March, 1906, Mrs. Douglass took a post in the Seven Valleys Bank, which she held for over a year, when she again engaged in school work, and she has taught continuously since that time, with the sole exception of one year, during which she attended the Kearney State Normal School. She spent the summer of 1915 in the office of State Superintendent A. O. Thomas; thus her entire time has been devoted to some phase of school work for the last fifteen years. She has assisted several of the county superintendents of Custer county in giving teachers’ examinations, and in many other ways she has aided those interested in educational work.

During all the years in which Mrs. Douglass has taught in the rural schools of Nebraska, it has been her boast that she has never missed a day from school on account of the weather, although she has faced many a snow storm and even severe blizzards in making her trips to and from school. She has been blessed with exceptionally good health and possesses an energy that equals and exceeds that of almost any other woman in the state. By attending teachers' institutes and also the summer sessions of the State Normal School, she has kept pace with the times in the progress made in the various departments of school work. Besides her school work, Mrs. Douglass is an active member of several lodges, the church, with its various organization, and a number of clubs. She is one woman who is happy at having cast her lot in Nebraska and she often declares that she would not exchange her little cottage at Callaway for a mansion in the far east.

Mr. Douglass is one of the thirteen men who organized Custer county, and of the number only three are living in the summer of 1918 — A. L. Wise, Milo F. Young, and Mr. Douglass. He has always been prominent and active in the affairs of the county, having been elected clerk of the first district court of Custer county, in 1887, an office which he held for four years. His election came ten years after the organization of the county, the work in the meantime having been done by the county clerk. He also served as postmaster during a long period, besides holding various other offices, and his public record is an excellent one. While now living in retirement, he is still interested in county affairs, and his latch-string is always out to his many friends of the olden and later days. Mr. Douglass is fraternally identified with the Mystic Legion. He is a Republican, is an advocate of woman suffrage, and his religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church.

THOMAS H. BROWN has been identified with railroading ever since he entered upon his career as a lad of seventeen years, and his experiences therein have brought him into connection with the systems of both the United States and England. Mr. Brown, who is now cashier of the Burlington Route at Broken Bow, was born in Yorkshire, England, January 29, 1880, and is a son of Edward and Eleanor (Mudd) Brown.

The vocation now followed by Thomas H. Brown is one which has had the services of the family during a long period, for his

father was a depot agent in England, his native land, for more than forty years, and there he died when still in the service of one of the big railways. He was a well known man in his calling, as he was also in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of which he was a member for many years. Mrs. Brown, also a native of England, survives her husband and still resides in that country. There were two sons and four daughters in the family, and of the five children now living only two are in the United States: Elizabeth, the wife of George Thompson, a farmer near Edgemont, South Dakota; and Thomas H., the subject of this sketch. The family belongs to the Church of England.

Thomas H. Brown was given a public-school education in England, and when he was seventeen years old an opportunity presented itself for him to take up railroading. Having a natural inclination in that direction, he accepted his chance and thus gained much experience and won promotion before coming to the United States, January 31, 1911. Going direct to Edgemont, South Dakota, he secured employment in the office of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, where his work impressed the officials favorably, and in December, 1912, he was transferred to the office at Broken Bow and placed in the position of cashier. He has since retained this post and has concentrated all his energies in the discharge of his official duties. During his residence here, Mr. Brown has become widely acquainted, both with railroad men and others, and has succeeded in establishing a number of warm and sincere friendships.

In February, 1912, at Hot Springs, South Dakota, Mr. Brown married Miss Annie Veronica Stockdale, who was born in England, and to this union there has come one son, John Edward, who is now attending school. Mr. and Mrs. Brown are members of the Protestant Episcopal church. He is a Democrat in his political views, and is fraternally identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America.

CHARLES F. BRAMER. — Classed with the well-to-do and highly esteemed citizens of Custer county, Charles F. Bramer has won well merited success in the field of farming and stock-raising, and since his advent in this locality, in 1907, has steadily advanced in position and prominence. He is a native of Germany, born at Labes, Pomerania, in 1863, a son of Fred and Amelia (Aldrich) Bramer.

Fred Bramer, a farmer by vocation, immi-

grated to the United States with his family in 1885 and settled in Saline county, Nebraska, where he followed agricultural pursuits during the remainder of his life, achieved a moderate degree of success, and died at the age of seventy years. He and his wife were the parents of the following children: Albert, who is engaged in farming in the neighborhood of Stamford, Nebraska; Ricka, who still resides in Germany; Mrs. Amelia Myers, of Shickley, Nebraska; Mrs. Ida Schmidt, who is deceased; Mrs. Lena Bielke, whose husband is a farmer at St. Michel; Charles F., who is the subject of this notice; Fred, who is a ranchman of this state; and Herman, who is identified with a lumber company in the state of Washington.

Charles F. Bramer received his education in the public schools of Germany and had just passed into his majority when he left his native land and immigrated to the United States. He first located in Saline county, Nebraska, in 1884, but fourteen years later he removed to Buffalo county, where he continued agricultural pursuits until coming to Custer county, in 1907. His operations here have all been along the line of general farming and stock-raising, and in each field he has achieved an enviable success. At this time he is the owner of a well cultivated farm located in section 16, township 71, where he has good buildings and other improvements, and his standing in his community is that of a capable farmer, an honorable business man, and a citizen of integrity. Mr. Bramer belongs to the Royal Highlanders, and he and the members of his family are members of the Evangelical church.

Mr. Bramer was married in 1889 to Bertha Schroeder, and they have the following children: Clara Mitchell; Gertrude Boyd, of Ansley; Minnie Porath, of Wyoming; and Ben, Clarence, Edwin, John, Elsie, Bertha, and Mabel, all residing with their parents.

RHINEHART PORATH.—One of the fine farms of the southeastern part of Custer county is the property of Rhinehart Porath. It comprises 720 acres of rich and arable land, and the well tilled fields surround substantial buildings—a pleasant residence, commodious barns, and excellent outbuildings. Mr. Porath, the proprietor, has been a resident of Custer county since 1891, and during the period of his residence here he has advanced himself, through industry and careful and intelligent management, to a position among the leading agriculturists of the locality. He was born in Pommern, Germany, in 1860, and is a son of William and Fredericka Porath.

The parents of Mr. Porath, who passed their entire lives in Germany, were farming people in moderate circumstances, and devoted themselves to the making of a comfortable home. They were faithful members of the Lutheran Reformed church, and died in that faith, the father when sixty-four years of age, and the mother at the age of sixty-three years. They were the parents of the following children: Rhinehart, the only one in America, and Mrs. Amelia Kreoger, Gustav, Emma, and Heinrich, all of whom live on farms in Germany. Rhinehart Porath received his education in the schools of his native land and was variously employed, principally at farming, until he came to the United States, in 1883. First settling in Wisconsin, he spent one year there, and he then came to Nebraska, where for two years he was employed in Saline county. In 1886 he entered the employ of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, during the construction of that company's line from Mason City to Litchfield, and he worked also for several contractors. He has memories of the latter connection still, for there are still three weeks of unpaid wages due him by a contractor named Reynolds. He also worked at Miller during the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad, but finally returned to farming, when, in 1891, he bought a relinquishment in Custer county. To his original purchase he has added from time to time, as his finances have allowed, and at the present day he has 720 acres in his property. A large amount of this land is under cultivation and devoted to general farming, and Mr. Porath also has met with much success as a raiser of horses, cattle, and hogs. He is a man of sound business ability, and is one of the most practical and progressive agriculturists of the community. He uses the most improved machinery in the development and other operations of his farm, owning his own implements and doing his own repair work, and he finds an automobile of great value to him in the daily course of his business duties. He has been content to keep absorbed in his agricultural affairs and has not aspired to prominence in public life, but as a citizen has been strong in his support of constructive legislation.

In 1898 Mr. Porath was united in marriage to Amelia Miller, of Swanton, Nebraska, and they became the parents of the following children: Benjamin, who is married and resides on a homestead in Wyoming; Ludwig, who is married and resides on a claim in the same state; Margaret, who is married and lives in Buffalo county, Nebraska; Hilda, who is the wife of a Custer county farmer; and Paul, Lena, John, Eunice, Edmond, and Wilma, all

of whom remain at the parental home. Mr. and Mrs. Porath are members of the Evangelical church, and they attend the church of this denomination at Mason City. The pleasant Porath residence is located in section 27, township 71.

HARRY C. KIMBALL, one of the substantial business men of Broken Bow, has been engaged in the undertaking business here since 1904 and holds the oldest state license in Custer county. He was born January 29, 1878, at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, a son of Kendrick W. Kimball, and a grandson of Kendrick Kimball, a native of Ireland and an early settler of Wisconsin, where he was engaged in farming.

Kendrick W. Kimball was born in Wisconsin, and is one of the few old settlers of Custer county who still own their old homesteads. He came to this county in 1882, in the spring of which year he located in Clear Creek valley, east of Westerville, and for many years he actively followed farming industry. He is now in retirement and makes his home at Ansley, where he is surrounded by every comfort. He is a member of the Christian church, belongs to the Modern Woodmen, and is a Republican in his political view. In 1876, at Stockbridge, Wisconsin, he married Miss Myra Bourne, a daughter of Frank Bourne, of English descent, who was for twenty-eight years a sailor on whaling vessels and who visited many of the ports of the world. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Kimball: Harry C. is the subject of this review; Mary Alice, is the wife of Arthur Anderson, a farmer living eight miles northeast of Ansley, Nebraska; Jessie M. is the wife of John Hall, a farmer near Ansley; Bert F., a farmer living northeast of Berwyn, this county, and a Woodman and Odd Fellow, married Mabel House; Kendrick C. is an electrical engineer of Trident, Montana, and is a Mason and Woodman; Ruth is the wife of Uriah S. Lowden, a farmer on the old Kimball homestead, near Westerville; and Theo George, a high-school graduate and member of the Woodmen, is working as an electrical engineer, with his brother at Trident, Montana.

In the earning of his first dollar, Harry C. Kimball, showed himself a lad of resource and initiative. A circus was showing to the populace at Ansley, and notwithstanding the fact that the youth was unable to obtain from his father the price of admission, he attended the exhibition and soon had struck a bargain with the clown. Whereupon, in the parade,

young Kimball was found driving a little grey mule hitched to a cart, the lad sitting under a screen and holding aloft a monster papier-mache head on a pole. Not only did he see the circus, but when he returned to his home that night he was able to display his earnings, and was, perhaps, the proudest boy in Custer county. In 1897 he was graduated in the Ansley high school, and following this he began working on the farm during the summer months, while in the winter terms he taught school in the country, for six seasons. In 1904 he came to Broken Bow and entered the employ of S. P. Groat, in the furniture and hardware business, subsequently holding a clerkship with Rockwell & Armstrong and their successors. In 1906, however, he engaged in business on his own account, and since that time he has steadily advanced in fortune and reputation, being known as the proprietor of one of the leading undertaking and embalming establishments in Custer county. Mr. Kimball has installed every appurtenance known to the art of modern undertaking, and is prepared in every way for the reverent handling of the dead. Possessing tact of the rarest kind, he is a sincerely appreciated friend at the homes which the angel of death has visited, and the confidence which is reposed in him comes from the manliness and integrity which he has displayed upon all occasions.

Mr. Kimball was married June 17, 1908, at Lodi, Nebraska, to Miss Emma Ward, daughter of Martin and Mary Ward, farming people of English descent and members of the Evangelical church. One son has been born to this union: Hugh C. W., eight years of age and attending school. Mr. Kimball is a prominent Republican, and has served Broken Bow four years as a member of the city council. He is affiliated with the Odd Fellows, Woodmen, and Highlanders, and he and Mrs. Kimball belong to the Christian church.

ELISHA TAYLOR. — Prominent among the operators in real-estate, loans, and insurance in Custer county is Elisha Taylor, a resident of this locality for thirty-five years. Long a farmer and ranchman, he gave his attention strictly to those pursuits until 1900, when he established himself in business at Broken Bow, and since that time he has so ably directed his activities and operations that to-day he is listed among the leading business citizens of the county seat. Mr. Taylor was born in Green county, Wisconsin, December 20, 1851, a son of Miner and Anna (Norder) Taylor.

Miner Taylor was born in the old Empire state, in 1825, and was a son of Elisha Taylor, a New York miller who passed his last days in Michigan. Miner Taylor was just past his majority when he moved to Green county, Wisconsin, where for a time he followed his trade of cooper. Later he became a saw-mill owner and after operating a business of that kind for a number of years he eventually concentrated his energies in farming. He was engaged in the latter pursuit when the Civil war came on, and in January, 1863, he enlisted in Company K, Sixteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until the close of the war. He advanced to the rank of corporal, and in numerous hard-fought engagements, several of them during Sherman's "march to the sea," he displayed soldierly qualities that made his record an excellent one. In 1888 Mr. Taylor came to Custer county, Nebraska, and bought a farm near Merna, where he passed the rest of his life in farming. He was a Socialist in his political belief, but took no active part in political or public affairs. His death occurred in 1906. In Green county, Wisconsin, he married Miss Anna Norder, who was born in Switzerland, in 1830, and who died in 1854. They had two children: Louisa J., the wife of G. A. Wiggins, a farmer at Cooper, Iowa; and Elisha, of this review. For his second wife Mr. Taylor married Lenore Stearns, and they became the parents of nine children, of whom seven are living: Jerome, who owns a stock farm of 5,000 acres, in North Carolina; Jessie Dietz, who is the wife of a Custer county farmer; Allen, who is traveling in Missouri; Frank, who is a photographer of Broken Bow; Hetty, who is the wife of Florin Jacobs, a farmer and president of the Co-operative Company store of Broken Bow; Nellie, who is unmarried and a resident of Broken Bow; and Willis W., who is a farmer near this place.

Elisha Taylor attended the district schools of Green county and the normal school at Whitewater, Wisconsin, and for his first vocation adopted the educator's profession. After five terms of teaching, he resumed farming, and he continued to till the soil of Wisconsin until 1880, in which year he came to Nebraska and took up a homestead in Blaine county. He entered the stock business, which he followed there for four years, and in 1886 he disposed of his interests and came to Custer county, where he commenced to give practically his entire attention to the buying and shipping of live stock. In this field he made great strides and was known as one of the prominent and successful men in his line, but a broader field of opportunity opened before

him in 1900, when he embarked in the real-estate, loan, and insurance business. This enterprise has grown surprisingly and now is one of the most important of the city's business adjuncts. Mr. Taylor has a collection agency which handles a large amount of business annually; he owns land which he takes care of on his personal account, as well as doing a big commission business; and he represents a number of the leading insurance companies, in addition to handling farm and other loans. Straightforward in all his dealings, his reputation is beyond question or reproach.

In 1888 Mr. Taylor married Louise J., a daughter of Charles Heusinger, a machinist of Grand Island and Omaha. Mrs. Taylor, who was born at St. Louis, Missouri, had one child by a previous marriage: Kathryn, the wife of William Jenkins, manager of the shipping department of the wholesale grocery house of Coffin Brothers, Yakima, Washington. To Mr. and Mrs. Taylor there have been born five children: Charles E., who is associated with his father in the real-estate business; Fred L., who is county agricultural agent at Chadron, Nebraska; Louise A., who is the wife of Dr. Dale G. Houlette, now in France, where he is connected with the navy dental corps of the United States Navy; Clara H., who is residing at home and is stenographer for the Security State Bank; and Margaret A., who is attending school. Mrs. Taylor is a member of the Christian Scientist church. Her husband is a Socialist in politics, and has served as a member of the Broken Bow Council for several years.

LEVIER B. CRAMER, whose life in Custer county has covered a period of thirty-six years, is now one of the honored citizens of Broken Bow. He was born November 3, 1851, in Putnam county, Illinois, a son of Paul and Elizabeth (Basor) Cramer, the former a native of Urbana, Illinois, and the latter of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. There were four sons and six daughters in the family, and all were faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Paul Cramer, who was a mason and stone-cutter by trade, came to Custer county in 1882 and located one and three-quarter miles south of New Helena, on Victoria creek, where he purchased, for \$200, land which afterward sold for \$4,000.

During the boyhood of Levier Bitner Cramer there were several principles which were enforced upon the family, these being the ones of honesty and industry and the value of money. In the latter connection he still retains a vivid remembrance as to how this

was impressed upon him. He and a neighbor boy, living near-by, found a hub band from an old Pennsylvania wagon, took it to town and sold it to a blacksmith for four cents, which money they proceeded to spend for candy. The matter in some way reached the elder Cramer, and when young Levier reached home, his father got down a new blacksnake whip and without warning or explanation gave him an old-fashioned warming up. The lesson had the desired effect, for subsequently and throughout his career Mr. Cramer has respected the value of money and has profited by this attitude. Mr. Cramer was never given the benefits of a school education, but his mind is bright and active, he possesses the knack of gaining knowledge in a manner not learned in books, and being intelligent he has obtained a good practical education. He accompanied his father to Custer county in 1882 and remained with him as his assistant until the elder man's death, in 1890. Since that time he has been engaged in business on his own account, at Broken Bow. He is a stone mason and has always followed the mason's trade, besides giving his attention to the cement contracting business and to broom manufacturing. Mr. Cramer is a natural mechanic and an expert in his line of business. His good workmanship and his industry have combined to assist him in the development of a prosperous enterprise. He has never cared for political matters, and has few interests aside from those of his home and his business.

In 1877, in Putnam county, Illinois, Mr. Cramer married Miss Lucinda Hartman, daughter of William Hartman, a farmer of that locality. To this union there were born fifteen children, of whom eight are living at this time: Lee, who is a farmer near Merna, Custer county, has been for four years a member of the police force at that point; John M., a resident of Broken Bow and a farmer by vocation, married Grace Thistle, and they have two children; Henry, a farmer and stock-buyer of Broken Bow Rural Route No. 1, married Christina Simonson, and they have six children; Frank, a farmer and stock raiser and buyer, of Broken Bow, married Maple Ralph, and they have two children; Roy, a farmer of Broken Bow Rural Route, married Maplet Givens and has one daughter; Gilbert, single, is a farmer on the Broken Bow Rural Route; Sadie is the wife of John Clarks, proprietor of a laundry at Broken Bow, and they have three children; and Ella is the wife of William Rudy, a contractor of Florid, Putnam county, Illinois, and they have two sons.

Mr. and Mrs. Cramer and their children are members of the Methodist church.

HORACE F. KENNEDY was born at Brownville, Nemaha county, Nebraska, September 2, 1873, a son of Charles H. and Catherine (Randall) Kennedy. His paternal grandfather was Stephen H. Kennedy, a native of Virginia, who followed the westward tide of civilization to Missouri at an early date in the history of that state and later located in Nemaha county, Nebraska, where he died. Mr. Kennedy's maternal grandfather was John Randall, who came from Tennessee, and was one of the early settlers of Nemaha county, Nebraska.

Charles H. Kennedy was born in 1850, in Missouri, and as a young man moved with his parents to Nemaha county, Nebraska, where he married Catherine Randall, who was born in Tennessee, in 1848. Not long after his marriage, Mr. Kennedy engaged in the hotel business at Auburn and later was similarly engaged at Broken Bow, but after twenty years of successful operation of houses which were popular with the traveling public, he retired and he and Mrs. Kennedy still survive to enjoy the comforts which have come as rewards for industrious and honorable lives. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Of the four children in the family, three are living: Mrs. S. L. Muller, of Omaha, Nebraska; Horace F., of this review; and W. B., a farmer and ranchman of Wiggins Colorado.

The district schools of Broken Bow and Lincoln furnished Horace F. Kennedy with his early education, and his first occupation in life was found in employment on his father's homestead in Custer county. Later he was associated with his father in the hotel business at Broken Bow. H. F. Kennedy was sheriff of Custer county for four years, from 1909 to 1913, and is a Republican in politics. After his retirement from office, he engaged in the moving-picture business, and is now owner and manager of the Lyric, Broken Bow's beautiful theatre, one of the finest and best of its size in the state.

Mr. Kennedy was married December 25 1900, to Nannie R. Talbot, who was born about eight miles east of Broken Bow, a daughter of Dr. R. C. Talbot, one of the old-time medical practitioners of the county. They have two children, Ruth and Howard, both attending school. Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy are members of the Baptist church. He is a Scottish Rite Mason and Shriner and has

passed the official chairs in the blue lodge. Mr. Kennedy has an honorable military record, having served as a lieutenant in the Spanish-American war, as a member of Company M, First Nebraska Volunteer Regiment. For sixteen months he fought in the Philippines, and during the fighting with the enemy he received a bullet through his right lung, which sent him to the hospital for two months. Mr. Kennedy is one of Broken Bow's substantial business men whose success has been well merited.

WALTER M. BRITTAN, a young farmer and business man who lives in the city of Callaway, is a native of Adams county, Iowa. He was born August 2, 1881. Concerning his father, Clifford N. Brittan, and his family, adequate record is given on other pages of this volume. Walter claims that his first money was earned as a mail carrier, although he was not in the service of the government. His mail-carrying operations consisted of taking notes for his uncle to the uncle's sweetheart, but the emolument received for this service, and its subsequent investment, are not recorded. Likewise, the name of the uncle and also of the sweetheart are withheld. So, other than that this is where the subject of the narrative makes his debut into business life, this item has very little historical value.

During his boyhood years, Walter M. Brittan lived in a hotel and worked in a livery stable. When only eight years of age he drove a team for the surveyors who were laying out the lines of the present Callaway branch of the Union Pacific Railroad. On these occasions he was out with this surveying party for two or three weeks at a time.

Mr. Brittan was married January 10, 1916, at Grand Island, to Maude L. Manyon, who is a young woman of gracious personality, she being a native of Illinois and a daughter of Jesse Manyon. Her mother's maiden name was Lettie Reed. In the comfortable home of Mr. and Mrs. Brittan, at Callaway, there are every form of home comfort and everything to contribute to happy home life. They have one child, Fern R., who is the pet of the family, and every one in the home musters to her command. Mr. Brittan has a son by a former marriage, Walter L. Brittan, who is attending St. Mary's College at St. Mary's, Kansas.

The Brittans are owners of 400 acres of good land, which Mr. Brittan oversees and operates in intensive farming. In addition to this, he is the agent for the Dort Motor Company, and is doing a splendid business.

The family is connected with the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Brittan is a prominent member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

JOSEPH F. WILSON was the efficient and popular sheriff of Custer county from 1911 until January 1, 1919, when he retired from office as a result of political exigencies which compassed his defeat for re-election in November, 1918. During his tenure of office he established and maintained a record for loyalty, fidelity to duty, and courageous and diplomatic handling of the important work that was assigned to him, with the result that he gained a secure place in the confidence of the citizens of Custer county.

Mr. Wilson was born at Ottawa, Illinois, on the 17th of September, 1869, and is a son of John and Bridget (Fitzgerald) Wilson. John Wilson was born in Scotland, in 1829, and was a young man when he immigrated to the United States and made settlement in the vicinity of Ottawa, Illinois, where he found employment as a miner in the coal mines, this line of work having been his vocation in his native land. Finally he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, to which he continued to give his energies until his death, October 22, 1882. Vitally loyal to the land of his adoption, he tendered his aid in defense of the Union when the Civil war was precipitated, and he served three years and three months, as a member of Company D, Nineteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he took part in many engagements, including several of the important battles that marked the great conflict between the states of the north and the south. In politics he was a Republican, and both he and his wife were consistent communicants of the Catholic church. After the death of her husband Mrs. Wilson continued her residence in Illinois until 1885, when she accompanied her son Joseph F. to Broken Bow, Nebraska, where she subsequently became the wife of David Broam and where she passed the remainder of her life. She was born in Ireland and was forty-eight years of age at the time of her death, in 1887. Of her four children by her first marriage the subject of this review is the only survivor.

Joseph F. Wilson acquired his early education in the public schools of Streator, Illinois, and after his graduation in the high school he found employment in a roller-skating rink. He continued in this service eight months, and thereafter found more profitable employment in connection with railroad construction work.

After having given eighteen months to work in this connection, the romance of railway service pulled upon him, and he resumed the vocation of his earlier years, that of farming. He continued his association with agricultural enterprise in Illinois for one year and then, in 1885, he came to Adams county, Nebraska, where he was similarly engaged for one year. He then came to Custer county, where he continued to be actively engaged in farming until 1911, when he was elected county sheriff. He immediately impressed himself upon the community as a man of vigor, resourcefulness and executive power, and the estimate placed upon his service was best shown in his retention of office for a period of seven years, during which he gave an administration that shall always figure as one of the most admirable in the annals of the official history of the county. In politics Mr. Wilson is aligned as a stalwart in the ranks of the Democratic party, and he has been active and influential in its councils in Custer county. He still retains active association with farm industry and is the owner of a half-section of land in Custer county. As in the past, he here gives much attention to the raising of live stock upon a somewhat extensive scale, and he has been specially successful in the raising of cattle. Mr. Wilson is a royal-arch Mason and is affiliated also with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Knights of Pythias, in each of which his popularity is of unequivocal order.

March 3, 1892, recorded the marriage of Mr. Wilson to Miss Nellie M. Harris, the ceremony having been performed at Loup City, this state. Mrs. Wilson was born in Ohio and is a daughter of John Harris, who was one of the sterling pioneers of Custer county, where he obtained a homestead and where he became well and favorably known. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have six children: Hazel is the wife of Harry Holly, of Broken Bow; Gladys is the wife of Ora Swancutt, a farmer near Ansley, this county; Beulah was graduated in the Broken Bow high school as a member of the class of 1918; and Clarence, Doris, and Leland (called "Woodrow" by his companions) are attending the public schools. Mrs. Wilson is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and is actively interested in its work.

ANDREW PETERSON is a representative farmer and good citizen of Custer county, Nebraska, who has spent almost his entire life here. He was born near Copenhagen, Den-

mark, November 5, 1882, and is one of a family of eighteen children born to his parents, Milter and Mary (Peterson) Peterson, who are still living, hale and hearty, at Weissert, Custer county, to which village they retired from their homestead, in 1915. They came to the United States and to Callaway, Nebraska, July 4, 1888, and took up a homestead claim in Custer county, north of Oconto, where they continued their residence until they moved to Weissert, as previously mentioned. Of their large family the following survive: Peter, who is superintendent of a screw factory in the city of Hartford, Connecticut, married Hannah Gould; Pete, a bachelor, lives near Oconto; Mary, who is the widow of Nels Johnson, lives five miles south of Berwyn; Milter, who is a farmer and lives at Weissert, married Mabel Govier; Carrie, who is the wife of Christ Peterson, lives at Fremont, Nebraska; Lena is the wife of Henry Henderson, who is clerk in a furniture store in Council Bluffs, Iowa; Andrew is the subject of this sketch; James, who is a section boss on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, at Broken Bow, married Lucy Luther; Christ, who is fireman on a railroad and who lives at Grand Island, Nebraska, married Ruby Woods; and Pretrena is the wife of Daniel Lewis, a railroad section hand, at Oconto, Nebraska. The parents of the above family were members of the Lutheran church in Denmark, but since coming to the United States have been united with the Church of God. The father is a Republican in his political views.

Andrew Peterson was six years old when he accompanied his parents to the United States and his education was obtained in the public schools in Nebraska. He was reared on his father's farm and has followed agricultural pursuits ever since. He was married March 3, 1909, to Mrs. Effie (Barnes) McCaslin, a daughter of John and Emma (Lefler) Barnes. The father of Mrs. Peterson was born in Illinois and the mother in Ohio. They came to Custer county in the spring of 1885 and homesteaded in the neighborhood of Swiss valley, where they lived until 1910, when they removed to Superior, Wisconsin. There Mr. Barnes bought the farm which he continues to operate. Mr. and Mrs. Barnes had six children, namely: Effie, the wife of the subject of this review; Clarence, who is a carpenter by trade and who lives at Broken Bow, married Edna Evans; Orville, who is a railroad man living at State Line, Wisconsin, married Eva Spraker; William, Merle, and Osa, the younger daughter, remain with their parents at Superior, Wisconsin. By her first

marriage Mrs. Peterson had three children, the one survivor being Jesse McCaslin, who was born August 23, 1902, and who assists Mr. Peterson on the farm. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson have one son and two daughters: Elmer C., born February 2, 1910; Dorothy, born December 19, 1912; and Emma, born June 24, 1916. Mr. Peterson belongs to the Church of God. He is a Republican in his political views, like his father, but has never been a candidate for office.

CLIFFORD N. BRITTAN was born October 9, 1854, in Lafayette, Indiana. His parents, Francis and Louisa (Gates) Brittan, were natives of England and of their thirteen children only four are now living: Luther A., Mrs. Clara Beard, Mrs. Laura Dix, and Clifford N. The father came to the United States when twenty-one years of age. He landed in New York and at once entered into the silk mercantile business, in which he continued the rest of his life—or until ripe old age caused his retirement.

Mr. Brittan's first recollection of money earned was assorting the small nuggets of mineral that were removed from mines and thrown into the refuse dumps by the miners. His father moved from New York to Indiana, and from there to Dodgeville, Wisconsin. From the Badger state he moved to Burlington, Kansas, about the year 1855. Three years later, in 1858, he moved to Kansas City, but he decided that it was a very unsafe place for a man of Union proclivities. Accordingly, he started for Peoria, Illinois, to look for a situation, and expected his wife and seven small children to follow later by boat. Travel was by water, for the reason that railroads were very scarce and poorly operated in those early days. The steamboats made regular trips. Mrs. Brittan succeeded in getting her family aboard without accident, and the same evening the Confederate soldiers captured the boat, near Boonesville, and started down the river with their prize. Some time during the night they learned that General Lyons had defeated the Confederate army near Boonesville, and this caused them to abandon the boat. The next morning General Lyons took charge of the boat, which he held for three days. Mrs. Brittan sent word to the General concerning her situation and finally the boat's crew were allowed to proceed with the boat to St. Louis, where they landed the passengers. From here Mrs. Brittan and her family proceeded by boat to Peoria, Illinois, where they met the father.

Clifford N. Brittan became a harnessmaker

by trade and occupation. He was married on Christmas day, 1871, in Quincy, Iowa, to Alice B. Jones, who was born and reared at that place and who is a daughter of Luke R. Jones and Elizabeth (Parke) Jones, both natives of West Virginia. In the Clifford Brittan family are five children: Frederic C., Walter M., Charles E., Harry F., and Hazel B. Wright. Frederic C. lives on the old Holliway ranch near Arnold and has a water-power plant which furnishes electric power and lights for the village of Arnold. Walter M. is individually mentioned on other pages. Charles E. is located at Alliance, Nebraska, and at present is vice-president of the First State Bank of Alliance. He is also vice-president of the Antioch Bank, at Antioch, and is a potash dealer and operator. Harry is a farmer and ranchman living ten miles southwest of Callaway, where he conducts very successful and extensive ranch operations. Hazel B. is the wife of Carl Wright, of Callaway, who is the Callaway miller.

Clifford N. Brittan came to Custer county in 1889 and engaged in the hotel and livery business. During a period of ten years he gave his attention to farming and ranching, still living in Callaway. In 1917 he sold 1,440 acres of good land, but he still owns a full section—640 acres. In addition to this he has a fine town property and is counted a very successful man. Public-spirited, responsive to every appeal for community improvement, he is an excellent citizen. In politics he is independent, and religiously he is connected with the Methodist church.

CHARLES A. GRANGER, who is a well known and respected citizen of Comstock, Nebraska, is one of the substantial men of Custer county, farming and stock-raising being industries in which he is extensively engaged. Mr. Granger has been a resident of Nebraska for over forty years, but his birth took place in Macomb county, Michigan, June 24, 1843. His parents were Haskell and Eunice (Dibble) Granger, these being good old New England names, but his father was born in New York and his mother in Canada. They were the parents of seven children, three of whom are living, namely: Charles A.; Sallie, the wife of James Chrisman, a retired resident of Wahoo, Nebraska; and Evelyn, the wife of Edward Knod, their home being on their farm in Saunders county, Nebraska.

For a number of years, during which time the parents of Mr. Granger lived in Indiana, the father was engaged in business enter-

prises in different cities. During an early period he owned and operated a dray line in Michigan City, Indiana, and for three years he conducted a meat market at Crown Point, that state. He then bought a hotel in that village and conducted it two years. In March, 1877, he brought his family to Nebraska and settled in Saunders county. His death occurred in August of the same year. The mother survived him many years, having passed her eighty-ninth birthday when she passed away, in 1915. They were people of real worth and were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. The father was a Republican in politics and was a member of the Masonic fraternity.

Charles A. Granger attended the common schools in Indiana and assisted his father, who, with his other activities, was engaged in farming and stock-raising. Mr. Granger accompanied his parents to Nebraska and his father's death, so shortly afterward, placed added responsibilities on his shoulders. In the spring of 1893 Mr. Granger came to Custer county and bought land. He resided on that tract eleven years, making many improvements, and he then sold the property and moved into Comstock, where he has resided ever since. In the meanwhile he purchased another farm, west of the town. This place contains 110 acres, and he directs the farming and stock-raising industries without living on the farm, making it profitable because he has had abundant experience and still keeps abreast of the times along agricultural lines.

Mr. Granger was married April 25, 1869, at Hebron, Indiana, to Miss Marion Matheson, and they have seven children, as follows: Lydia is the wife of P. T. Walton, and they live at Plattsmouth, Nebraska; Zara, who is a farmer near Sargent, Custer county, married Nannie Seidel; Harry, who is in the well and windmill business at Comstock, married Inez Heller; Clarence, who is a farmer northwest of Comstock, married Maud Cleveland; Eva is the wife of Arnold Simpson, a farmer near Sargent; Florence is the wife of Mahlon Cleveland, a railroad man living at Aurora, Nebraska; and Edith is the wife of Charles Cleveland, a farmer north of Comstock. It is a great satisfaction to Mr. and Mrs. Granger that their children are all so well settled in life and that all, with the exception of two, live near the old home, making it possible for them to have the companionship of their thirty-three grandchildren and their three great-grandchildren. Since taking up his residence at Comstock Mr. Granger has taken an active interest in civic affairs, but not as a politician. His many years have given

him a wider experience than some of his fellow citizens and his ripened judgment is frequently consulted in matters of local importance. Mr. Granger is a veteran of the Civil war. He enlisted, at Valparaiso, Indiana, in January, 1862, as a member of Company B, One Hundred and Fifty-first Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and he served one year. He was then discharged on account of sickness. He took part in several minor skirmishes but in no important battles.

CHARLES L. MULLINS, M. D.—The medical profession of Custer county has no more skilled or distinguished member than Dr. Charles L. Mullins, who, both as a private practitioner and in numerous positions of public trust, has gained a state-wide reputation. He is a veteran of the Spanish-American war and in connection with the nation's participation in the great world war he has been an indefatigable worker in behalf of the government's interests. The high esteem in which he is held by his professional confreres is evidenced by his being chosen president of the Nebraska State Medical Society.

Dr. Charles L. Mullins was born at Winchester, Clark county, Missouri, January 27, 1867, a son of William B. and Anna M. (Kephart) Mullins. His paternal grandfather, Reuben Baker Mullins, was born in Virginia and at an early day went overland into Kentucky, as a contemporary of Daniel Boone. He was married in Virginia to Betsy Love before emigrating, and both passed the rest of their lives in the Blue Grass state. The maternal grandfather of Doctor Mullins was Henry Kephart, who was born in Pennsylvania, moved to Kentucky, married Sallie Teaters, and finally settled in the neighborhood of Blakesburg, Iowa, where he was engaged in farming until his death and where Mrs. Kephart also spent her last years. William B. Mullins was born in Pendleton county, Kentucky, in 1814, and as a young man adopted the profession of school teaching, a capacity in which he went to Blakesburg, Wapello county, Iowa, where he wedded Miss Anna M. Kephart, who was born in Kentucky, in 1833. Some time after their marriage they moved to Winchester, Clark county, Missouri, where they were residing at the outbreak of the Civil war, and Mr. Mullins enlisted in the Twenty-first Regiment of Missouri Volunteer Infantry. At the close of a gallant service, he returned to Missouri, resumed merchandising, and continued to be so occupied until his death, which occurred August 11, 1884. Mrs. Mullins survived him until 1917. They

were the parents of six children: William H., of Missouri; R. B., a dental practitioner of Broken Bow; Mary, the widow of C. W. Bollinger, formerly a retail and wholesale music dealer of Oskaloosa, Iowa; Sallie, the wife of S. W. Parr, of that place; Dr. Charles L.; and Luzenna, the wife of Fred Trico, of Oskaloosa, Iowa. William B. Mullins was a Mason and in politics was a Democrat.

Charles L. Mullins attended the public schools of Missouri, Iowa, and Nebraska, and as a youth took up the study of pharmacy, completing his education therein at Northwestern University, Chicago. He was registered and began the practice of pharmacy in Cass county, Nebraska, where he resided for several years, and while thus engaged he became interested in the study of medicine, to which he applied himself personally for some time before entering the Omaha Medical College. Graduated with his degree in the class of 1891, he began practice at Gretna, Nebraska. In 1892 he removed to Eagle; in 1894 he came to Ansley, Custer county; and in 1895 he centered his activities at Broken Bow, where he has since carried on a general practice. He is a close and careful student of his profession, and on several occasions has taken post graduate courses at Chicago.

Not long after his location at Broken Bow, the Spanish-American war came on, and Doctor Mullins enlisted as a medical officer, receiving the rank of captain with the First Nebraska Volunteers. He served in the Philippines and rendered valuable service to his country as a member of the first board of health at Manila after the American occupation. Much of his time recently, in fact since the entrance of the United States into the great war, has been devoted to war work of varied character, and he gave specially effective service as a member of the exemption board of Custer county. Several years ago Dr. Mullins served as coroner of Custer county, and at present he is county health officer, a post which he has held for a number of terms. He is also a member of the Nebraska state board of medical examiners. He belongs to the Custer County Medical Society, of which he has been secretary for a number of years, and of which he was formerly president; he was president of the Nebraska State Medical Society for the year 1918; and he is a member also of the Missouri Valley Medical Society and the American Medical Association. In politics he is a Democrat, and he is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, including the Scottish Rite.

By a former marriage Doctor Mullins has three children. The eldest, Tom P., is en-

gaged in the practice of dentistry at Valparaiso, Nebraska. Charles L., Jr., is a graduate of West Point Military Academy, 1917, and at the time of this writing he is a captain in the Twelfth Infantry, United States Army, stationed at Camp Fremont, California, awaiting orders to go to France. The only daughter, Mary, is the wife of H. Mashburn, a California ranchman. Dr. Mullins was married October 18, 1904, to Thankful Z. (Potts) Day, who was born in Kansas, but reared in California. She is a member of the Episcopal church.

ALBERT P. JOHNSON, now one of the leading members of the Custer county legal fraternity, did not initiate his active career as a professional man. It was not until he had for some years been engaged in pursuits of a commercial nature that he took up the study of law, but since his entrance upon this field of endeavor, in 1903, he has advanced steadily in prestige and to-day he is adjudged one of Broken Bow's leading attorneys. Mr. Johnson was born at Racine, Wisconsin, October 22, 1871, a son of Burt and Caroline (Swinson) Johnson.

Shortly after the close of the Civil war, Burt Johnson took up his residence at Racine, Wisconsin, where he was married and settled down to work as a skilled mechanic in the wagon shops of the Mitchell Lewis Company. Later he secured business interests of his own, and, becoming independent in means, in 1911 he retired from active affairs and removed to Kearney, Nebraska, where he and his wife now reside, in the enjoyment of the comforts that come to those who have lived industrious and honorable lives. While not connected with any particular religious denomination, they are Christian people who live the true faith and whose actions are guided by honorable motives. Mr. Johnson is a Prohibitionist in politics. They are the parents of four sons: J. W., who is a carpenter of Broken Bow; Albert P., whose name introduces this review; Edward J., who is engaged in farming in Lincoln county, Nebraska; and Benjamin S., who likewise is a successful farmer, with a property west of Merna, Custer county.

The public schools of Racine, Wisconsin, furnished Albert P. Johnson with his early education, following which he enrolled as a student at a school at Gibbon, Nebraska, this school later becoming York College, York, Nebraska. He was duly graduated after completing the prescribed course, in 1891. For several years he was variously employed, but

in August, 1895, came to Broken Bow, where he began clerking. He gradually drifted into the insurance business, and while thus employed came into contact with a number of problems that attracted his interest to the law. Deciding that he would follow a professional career, he began studying under Kirkpatrick Brothers, a well known law firm of the city at that time, and eventually he went to the State University of Oregon, where he completed a course and was graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Laws, in 1903. On his return to Broken Bow, he at once engaged in practice, and since that time has devoted himself unremittingly to his calling. For a time he was engaged alone, but eventually became, as now, a member of the firm of Sullivan, Squires & Johnson. This is considered one of the strong legal combinations of the county, and has been retained in numerous cases where important litigated interests have been opposed. Not long after his admittance to the bar, Mr. Johnson was elected county attorney of Custer county, and he acted in that capacity during 1904 and 1905, since which time he has not cared to have his name used in connection with public positions, preferring to give his large clientele his undivided attention and energies. He belongs to the county and state bar associations and to the Modern Woodmen of America, and in political faith he is a Democrat.

Mr. Johnson was married, March 4, 1894, to Miss Lola M. Hogg, who was born in Iowa, a daughter of John A. and Margaret (Hall) Hogg, pioneers of the Hawkeye state. To this union there have been born five children: Esther R., who is the wife of Merlin C. Vannice; Albert Paul, who is in the United States Army, as a member of Flying Squadron C, stationed in Georgia at the time of this writing; Thelma R., the wife of William Schultz; and Margaret and Carol, public-school students. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and their children belong to the United Brethren church.

JAMES D. HASKELL, one of Custer county's best known and most respected citizens, came here in the spring of 1876, before the county was organized. He is a man of interesting personality and the experiences he lived through form an absorbing page of the county's history and are told with the gift of the true story teller.

James D. Haskell was born June 2, 1853, in Butler county, Ohio. His father, Enoch Haskell, was a substantial farmer of Butler county and reared his son in that practical way that in large measure prepared him well for the

hardships, experiences and changed conditions that later entered his life. The district schools gave him an education that sufficed for ordinary social and business affairs in his early manhood, and later, in the school of experience, he has widened and broadened his knowledge. In the spring of 1876 many eager homeseekers turned their eyes toward Nebraska and, when they were able to choose, very many of them decided to settle in Custer county. Mr. Haskell entered the county with 100 head of yearling heifers, for which he had paid \$700 and which he had driven from Ellis, Kansas. He located a claim about eight miles west of Calloway.

When Mr. Haskell came to Custer county he was a man of family. In December, 1880, at Eaton, Ohio, he was united in marriage to Miss Cora L. Wilcher, a daughter of Joseph Wilcher, and seven children were born to them, namely: Kent, Essie, Arlie, Alta, Hazel, Iela, and Minnie.

Mr. Haskell is an honored pioneer who has had startling adventures and unique experiences in Custer county, and the reader is referred to the detailed account of the same given in another part of this history.

HARRY C. EVANS, proprietor of the Evans Hereford Ranch, located two miles west of Callaway, Custer county, has been for many years known to the citizens of this community, to which he came with his parents in the year 1887. He is now known as a prominent and successful breeder of registered Hereford cattle and registered Percheron horses—a line of business in which he has been engaged for five years, and in connection with which he is rapidly taking rank with the leading stockmen of the county.

Harry C. Evans, who was born at Mason, Effingham county, Illinois, February 12, 1877, is a son of Joshua H. and Samantha (Gibson) Evans, and a grandson of John Gibson. His father was a Republican in his political sympathies, was a blacksmith by trade and followed this vocation in Illinois for a number of years, both he and his wife having been faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church. They had two children: Launa, who is the wife of George H. La Fleur; and Harry C. When Harry C. Evans was four years of age his parents moved to What Cheer, Iowa, and he attended the public schools of that place and also at Perry and North Platte. He finished his schooling in Custer county, Nebraska. The only son of his parents, he early displayed industry and a predilection for his father's business, and when he was still so

small that he had to stand upon a box, he began earning money at his father's forge, where he placed himself in front of the anvil and did striking to make a weld. He thoroughly mastered his father's trade and with him moved to Callaway in 1887. Here father and son continued blacksmithing together until the elder man was elected postmaster, an office which he capably filled for a period of twelve years. In the meantime Harry C. Evans continued the blacksmith business until 1913, when he disposed of his interests to turn his attention in the direction of raising and breeding stock. For some time past he had been interested in the subject of Hereford cattle and Percheron horses, and when he bought the 720-acre tract, two miles west of Callaway, which is known as the Evans Hereford Ranch, he began with characteristic energy to breed registered animals in both these lines. He has met with surprising success during the five years that he has been engaged in this business, and the results that he has attained have made him known as somewhat of an authority on the subject. Mr. Evans occupies an established place in the confidence of his associates and the general public, and is a progressive citizen who supports beneficial and constructive movements in his community. He is a Republican, but not an office-seeker, and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Evans was married June 23, 1907, at Mason City, Iowa, to Miss Frankie M. Crossley, the only child of Amasa A. and Gertrude (Van Fleet) Crossley, the former a native of Pennsylvania, and the latter of Auburn, New York. Mr. and Mrs. Crossley were members of the Episcopal church, and the father belonged to the Odd Fellows' fraternity. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Evans: Gertrude June, attending the Callaway schools as a student of the third grade; and Robert C., Frankie M., and Harriet L., at home.

BRYAN LEONARD.—The art of healing is as old as man, and there have been and still are many and diverse systems. One of these that has become very generally accepted among well informed people, because of its remarkable efficacy when other systems have entirely failed, is known under the name of chiropractic. Its practitioners are of both sexes, as in other medical schools, and are graduates of institutions which thoroughly teach the underlying scientific principles of this admirable system.

Bryan Leonard, who is well known as a

chiropractor at Callaway, Nebraska, was born in Ireland, in 1882, a son of Hubert and Julia (Freeman) Leonard, who were likewise born in Ireland, and of whose large family of children eight are living—Mrs. Mary Tehon, John J., Michael M., James G., Patrick F., Hubert, Bryan, and Charles E. Dr. Bryan Leonard was four years old when his parents came to the United States and settled in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and in 1886 the family came to Custer county, Nebraska, and located in Eureka valley. There he grew to manhood, attending school and assisting his father in boyhood and afterward following farming and ranching on his own account. Prior to taking up chiropractic, Dr. Leonard taught in the schools of Custer county for eight years. It would be interesting to know what definitely turned Dr. Leonard's attention to the profession for which he is so eminently qualified, but statistics are at hand that show that in 1911 he became a student of chiropractic, at Davenport, Iowa, and he was graduated in the Chiropractic College in that city.

Dr. Leonard was married in 1905, in Custer county, to Miss Elizabeth J. Schmitz, who is a daughter of John B. and Ann (Wardrobe) Schmitz, and they have one son, Gale H. Mrs. Leonard also is a chiropractor, having likewise been educated at Davenport, Iowa, and having graduated in the same class with her husband. They both practiced at Farmington, Iowa, and at Milton, Iowa, prior to locating at Callaway, in 1914. Here they have been continuously engaged in practice with the exception of the time required for a post-graduate course, which they have both completed, and Mrs. Leonard has also completed a full course in Red Cross work. They have built up a fine practice here and have state licenses for both Nebraska and Kansas.

JAMES R. DEAN, associate justice of the supreme court of Nebraska, came for Chicago to Custer county in October, 1890, and has resided here ever since except when serving on the supreme bench, when, as the law provides, he resides at Lincoln. He is a native of St. Louis, Missouri, and is of Scotch-Irish ancestry. He is a son of Henry and Ellen Margaret Dean. His mother's family name was Armour. She was a native of South Carolina, but her parents were of Scotch-Irish descent. Judge Dean's father emigrated from County Antrim, Ireland, as a boy of seventeen, without means. He became a tanner and leather merchant at St. Louis, with interests in tanneries at Allegheny and other points in Pennsylvania. When he retired from business he



JAMES R. DEAN

engaged in farming. He died in 1889 and his widow passed away in 1901, their remains being interred in the family plot of ground in Woodland cemetery at Des Moines, Iowa.

Judge Dean acquired his preliminary education in his native city and at Decorah, Iowa. When he was ten years old he visited Europe with his father, and in later years he has visited nearly every state in the Union, as well as Mexico and Canada. After his eleventh year, except when in school, he worked on a farm until he entered upon his profession. In 1885 he was graduated from the law department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, besides taking other branches of study at the university and paying his own way through school. That year he located and entered practice in Chicago, where he remained until he came to Broken Bow. He was the fourth to hold the office of county attorney here, being first elected in 1894 and re-elected in 1896. He was city attorney of Broken Bow four years and a member of the board of education ten years, serving four years as president. In his first year as city attorney he compiled the ordinances of 1904.

In January, 1892, Judge Dean married Miss Jennie E. Sutton, daughter of Albert Y. and Abbie C. Sutton, of Broken Bow, and they have two children, Paul H. and Dorothy S. Dean.

On January 1, 1909, the subject of this review was appointed supreme judge, by Governor George L. Sheldon, when the constitutional amendment was adopted increasing the membership of the supreme court from three judges to seven. In 1911, on a party ticket, he failed of election to the supreme bench, by a narrow margin, but he led his party judicial ticket in the state by about 9,000 votes. He has membership in the American Bar Association; the Masonic Fraternity, including the Royal Arch Chapter, the Knights Templars, and the Shrine; and also the Odd Fellows. He is a Presbyterian, as were his forefathers. In 1906 he was commissioned from the presbytery to the General Assembly at Des Moines, Iowa. He is a Democrat—perhaps one of the best known of that party in Nebraska. In 1913 he was a Wilson presidential elector-at-large.

November 7, 1916, Judge Dean was elected judge of the supreme court for a term of six years. At that election there were six candidates for the supreme bench, three of whom were elected. They were not the candidates of any political party but appeared as individuals on a separate ballot, without party designation. The total vote for supreme judge in Custer county that year was 5,163, and of these

Judge Dean received 4,024 votes. His decisions and written opinions are said to have the merit of such brevity as is consistent with clearness. Those written by him during his appointive term are in volumes 83, 84, and 85 of the Nebraska Supreme Court Reports and volumes 120 to 124 of the Northwestern Reporter. His opinions for his present elective term begin in volume 100 of the Nebraska Reports, and the current Northwestern Reporters beginning with volume 161. Some of his opinions appear in "Lawyers Reports Annotated" and in other legal publications.

Northeast of Broken Bow Judge Dean has some land where he successfully grows alfalfa. In 1910 he became interested in this plant, and now he has almost 100 acres that yield from two to three crops yearly.

GEORGE I. SELLON, M. D., city physician of Broken Bow, has been one of the prominent members of his profession here since 1912, and his splendid acquirements have served to attract to him a large professional following, while his standing among his fellow practitioners has led to his being the recipient of various honors in the Custer County Medical Society. Doctor Sellon was born at Murray, Iowa, July 24, 1882, and is a son of Henry and Alice (Swickard) Sellon.

Henry Sellon was born in Illinois, the son of a Methodist Episcopal minister who came to the United States from England. For a time Henry Sellon was engaged in farming in his native state, but after his marriage to Miss Swickard, who was a native of Pennsylvania, he went to Iowa and purchased a farm in the vicinity of Murray, Clarke county. About 1895 the family home was changed to Wyoming, in which state the mother's death occurred, and Mr. Sellon subsequently went to Harding, Arkansas, where he is living on his own farm. There were four children in the family, of whom three are living: Stella, who is the wife of C. P. Budd, a stockman of Marbletown, Wyoming; Edward L., who served as a soldier during the Spanish-American war and died soon after the close of that struggle; George I., who is the subject of this sketch; and Mabel, the wife of Dr. C. D. Stafford, a practicing physician of Kemmerer, Wyoming. Mr. Sellon is affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal church and in politics is a Republican.

George I. Sellon attended the public schools of Murray, Iowa, and the high school at Evanston, Wyoming, following which he pursued a course in the Wyoming State Univer-

sity, at Laramie. There he was graduated in 1905, with the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Philosophy. After his graduation he engaged in educational work, and for three years he was superintendent of schools at Cumberland, Wyoming, but his preferred profession was that of medicine, and he accordingly entered the medical college of the Nebraska State University, being graduated in 1912, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. During his final year at college he worked as an interne in the Swedish Hospital at Omaha, and following his graduation, fully prepared, he came to Broken Bow and established himself in practice. He has been very successful in the building up of a large professional business and while his practice is of a general character, he has made somewhat of a specialty of diseases of the eye, ear, nose, and throat, of which he has made a particular and thorough study, and a field in which he has gained some reputation. Dr. Sellon is serving as city physician of Broken Bow. He belongs to the Custer County Medical Society, of which he was secretary in 1915 and president in 1917, and he holds membership also in the Nebraska State Medical Society and the American Medical Association. He enjoys an excellent reputation as a physician who closely observes the highest professional ethics. Politically he supports the Republican party. In Masonry he has risen to high rank, belonging to the Scottish Rite bodies and also the Mystic Shrine.

In 1912 Dr. Sellon married Miss Myrtle L. Leffler, who was born at Exeter, Nebraska, a daughter of F. J. Leffler, who served through the Civil war and was an early settler of Nebraska. To this union has been born one son: Dale I., now three years old. Mrs. Sellon is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

WILLIAM E. HEAPS, who is a fine example of the thrifty, enterprising farming class of Custer county, was born on his father's farm seven miles northeast of Broken Bow, March 8, 1888. His parents are Charles G. and Elzina (Wheeler) Heaps, both of whom were born in Indiana, from which state they came to Custer county, Nebraska; in its early days of permanent settlement. They are highly respected farming people and are members of the Baptist church. They have the following children: Oliver, Frank, William E., Charles, Rex, Ada, Margaret, and Leone. The father belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and in politics votes with the Populist party.

William E. Heaps obtained his education

by attending the public schools in the winter time, and he remained at home assisting his father until he was twenty years of age. The first money he earned for himself was fifty cents a day, paid him by Joseph Holcomb. He has been frugal and industrious and he owns what is known as the Peter Mohat place, situated six miles north of Broken Bow, and consisting of 600 acres of valuable Nebraska soil.

Mr. Heaps was married June 11, 1913, to Miss Velma Smith, who is a daughter of Charles and Rose (McGraw) Smith, and a granddaughter of James McGraw. Mr. and Mrs. Heaps have three children: Marie H., Clarence G., and Lois M. He belongs to the Baptist church.

LON DAVIS, a substantial retired farmer now residing in Custer county, owns a large amount of valuable property in the vicinity of Broken Bow—forty acres adjoining the city and 420 acres situated two miles to the east. He came first to Nebraska in the spring of 1882, and although farming and cattle-raising have been his main industries since then, there is one interval which he recalls with a great deal of interest, that being several years during which he rode the range as a cowboy. Mr. Davis was born in the village of McCarthy, Ohio, July 2, 1850. His parents were David A. and Louisa (Davis) Davis, his paternal grandparents coming from Wales and his maternal ancestors from England. By trade his father was a stonecutter. He belonged to the order of Odd Fellows and he and wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. They had seven children, namely: Lon, Charles, Ellsworth, William M., Benjamin F., Hannah, and Clara B. All of these children are living except Hannah.

Lon Davis lived at home in Jackson county, Ohio, until he was eight years old and after that made his home for some years with Hon. H. S. Bunday, then a member of congress, who was the father-in-law of Senator Foraker. In the spring of 1882 Mr. Davis came from Ohio to Dawson county, Nebraska, and for the two succeeding years he lived near Trapper's Grove, two miles east of Sumner, moving then to the vicinity of Georgetown, on the South Loup river. In the spring of 1886 he rode the range and trailed cattle down the South Loup river from the Streeter Woods ranch to Glendive, Montana. With his cowboy comrades he assisted in ferrying the cattle across the Yellowstone river and then drove the cattle 150 miles northwest, to the new ranch. During this trip they went through

Rapid City and the Black Hills and had serious times in their efforts to get water while passing through the 100-mile strip known as the Bad Lands, in South Dakota. Mr. Davis has many entertaining stories to relate concerning cowboy life as he experienced it while with the H-3 ranch on Running Water, and his description of the method of a roundup is very interesting. When a roundup is started different camps are located where water and feed are plentiful. A large territory is worked and the cattle are driven in and "night-herded" until many miles of territory have been included, when the bunches of cattle are all thrown together and each outfit cuts out its own brand and then works them back to their own range. The roundup was often the scene of much sport, and sometimes remarkable horsemanship was displayed in cutting out and branding the calves. Frequently also the "boys" engaged in riding contests after their business was completed, and their equestrian skill has long been the theme of verse and story, besides which, it may be added, it frequently has been a main feature in motion-picture work, in recent years.

Mr. Davis was married at Broken Bow, September 3, 1890, to Miss Emma Sanderson, who is a daughter of John and Hannah S. (Chapman) Sanderson, and a granddaughter of John and Hannah (Watson) Sanderson. Mr. and Mrs. Davis have five children: Mrs. Clara B. Taylor, Mrs. Ruth A. Copsey, Ina M., Alon E., and Elbert D. Miss Ina M. Davis is a popular teacher. The family belongs to the Presbyterian church. Mr. Davis is a good citizen but not a seeker for office. In politics he is a Republican.

W. H. PENN, who is now numbered among the substantial business men of Broken Bow, has been the architect of his own fortune, and, having based his life's structure on substantial foundations, has builded soundly and well. When he entered upon his career he was possessed of little save inherent ability and a determination to succeed, and these have been sufficient, through their development, to enable him to become a well-to-do merchant in a community that does not lack for able men.

Mr. Penn was born in Linn county, Iowa, December 18, 1866, a son of Charles and Emily (Swecker) Penn, a sketch of whose career will be found in the review of Charles Penn. elsewhere in this work. He attended the public schools of York, Nebraska, and was sixteen years of age when he accompanied his

parents to Broken Bow, where his first work was in the official capacity of deputy sheriff under his father, who was at that time sheriff of Custer county. His strict attention to duty in that position gained him public confidence, and he was subsequently made city marshal, an office which he held for one year, but eventually he turned his attention to mercantile pursuits, accepting a position as clerk in one of Broken Bow's stores. After twelve years of experience in this direction, he engaged in the clothing business on his own account, and subsequently he added dry goods, shoes and men's furnishing goods. The firm name is now Penn & Rodgers Company, and the establishment carries a large and up-to-date line of attractive goods, its trade having grown and developed from a small beginning to a point where four clerks are given regular employment and extra help is needed for Saturday night's business. Mr. Penn is accounted an energetic, thoroughly capable and strictly honorable man of business, and his standing and reputation are high in commercial circles and with the general public.

In 1895 Mr. Penn was united in marriage to Miss Maude Hurless, who was born in Iowa, a daughter of John and Mary E. Hurless. The Hurless family resided for a few years in Iowa, but in the '80s came to Nebraska, where Mr. Hurless and his wife passed away. For many years Mr. Hurless was a railroad man, principally employed in bridge construction work, as a foreman. To Mr. and Mrs. Penn there have been born five children: Charles, who is identified with the Bell Telephone Company, at Bridgeport, Nebraska; Louise, who resides with her parents; Harry, who is attending a school of wireless telegraphy at Minneapolis; and John and Winifred, also students, at home. Mrs. Penn is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Penn is fraternally identified with the blue lodge and chapter of the Masonic order. A Republican in politics, he is influential in his party, and has taken a keen interest and helpful part in civic affairs, being at this time a member of the Broken Bow city council. It has been his fortune to have attained many of his ideals and ambitions, and to have so directed his affairs in life that he has won success without the aid of outside influences—he is an excellent example of the self-made man.

GEORGE E. PENNINGTON, M. D.—Dr. Pennington, who is familiarly known in Broken Bow and throughout Custer county, was born March 28, 1875, in Stewartsville.

Missouri. His father, Robert T. Pennington, was a man of sterling worth and came of a fine line of Kentucky ancestors, he himself being a native of Kentucky. The Doctor's mother's maiden name was Martha M. Kerns. The immediate family circle of which Dr. Pennington is a representative, was a large one, —there were fourteen children, seven of whom are living at the present time. Recording their names we have the following: John, William R., George E., James L., Margaret E. Duncan, Eliza Sweitzer, and Emma Gauntt.

The Doctor's father served three years in the Home Guards of his native state. He has a record of having lived fifty-three years on his Missouri homestead, where he reared his children. When the Doctor was a small boy he worked on the farm, doing such work and chores as generally fall to the lot of a farmer boy. His first money was earned by dropping corn by hand in the cut-over stump land of Missouri. This was a hard job, and there is small doubt but that the boy earned the twenty-five cents per diem. After finishing the common schools he attended the Wesley University at Cameron, Missouri, from 1894 to 1896, inclusive. After this he entered Emsworth Medical School, at St. Joseph, Missouri, where he completed a four years' course, graduating in 1902. In addition to this medical preparation, the Doctor was a student at St. Louis for several months, rounding out and completing his medical course. In 1902 he was married, at Bolivar, Missouri, to Miss Julia E. Egbert, who since that time has been his companion and helpmeet, sharing with him all the vicissitudes of a rising young physician bent on establishing a lucrative practice in a western country. Mrs. Pennington, like her husband, is a native of Missouri, and is a daughter of Caldon G. Egbert, who was a native of Illinois. Her mother, whose maiden name was Sarah M. Gardner, was a native of Tennessee. In the Egbert family of which Mrs. Pennington was a member were five children — Emma Rollins, Julia E. Pennington, William T. Egbert, Charles L. Egbert, and John A. Egbert.

Dr. and Mrs. Pennington have three children. The oldest, Marie E., is in the high school; Pauline is finishing the eighth grade; and Georgia is in the fifth grade.

After his graduation and marriage, Dr. Pennington came to Custer county and located at Anselmo, where he engaged in the drug business, which he handled in connection with his medical practice. He remained at this place until 1908, when he moved to Broken Bow and commenced the building of the lucrative practice he now enjoys. This

city has been his home since that time. The Doctor is, well and favorably known, not only in Anselmo and Broken Bow, which have been his home towns, but throughout the entire county. In the early days of his practice, trips were long, and consequently he was called long distances into the country for consultation purposes and often met the people of other towns in the county. His official position has tended to widen his acquaintance. He has served the county as health officer for eight years, and for seven years prior to the abolition of the office of coroner he served as county coroner. In fraternal circles the Doctor has been an ambitious climber and is to-day one of the few thirty-second degree Masons in the county. He is also an Odd Fellow and ranks high in the councils of that fraternity. Politically, he affiliates with the Republican party. He and his family are connected with the Christian church, where they are faithful and constant attendants. Whenever the Doctor's professional duties will permit, he is found attending the church services held on the Sabbath day. Dr. and Mrs. Pennington are estimable people and held in high esteem by all their neighbors, fellow townsmen, and a wide circle of friends.

COMMODORE C. BIGGERSTAFF. — One of the members of the retired colony of Broken Bow, Mr. Biggerstaff, during a long and active career, has been successful in his operations as agriculturist and business man, and the extent and importance of his various holdings at this time serve to give him a position of prominence among his city's capitalists. He was born in Athens county, Ohio, October 27, 1852, a son of John J. and Nancy (Sickles) Biggerstaff, who passed their lives in Knox county, Illinois, having moved there from their Ohio home in the fall of 1853. There the senior Biggerstaff was a farmer and stock raiser. They were members of the United Brethren church, and the father was a Democrat and a member of the Masonic fraternity. Seven children were born to John J. and Nancy Biggerstaff: Commodore C. is the subject of this sketch; Alonzo died in infancy; Julia E. is the wife of Richard Williams, of Kansas City, Missouri; Josephine is the wife of Henry Wesner; Margaret, is deceased; Mary A., is the wife of James W. Ramp; John C., is a retired capitalist of Oakland, California.

Mr. Biggerstaff was given a public school education in Knox county, Illinois, and also spent the winter of 1875-6 at Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois, following which he re-

turned to the home farm. He and his family remained in Illinois until 1880.

Mr. Biggerstaff was married July 7, 1878, in Knox county, Illinois, to Miss Jennie Cook, a daughter of John W. and Elizabeth (Ramp) Cook, the ceremony taking place at the home of the bride's grandfather, Benjamin Ramp, a wealthy farmer and stock-raiser. To this union one son was born, Chauncey C., born July 26, 1904. John W. Cook came from York, Nebraska, to Broken Bow in 1890 and embarked in the grocery business, which he followed continually here until his death, February 7, 1908. He was a Republican, a substantial citizen, and a member of the Odd Fellows lodge. He and Mrs. Cook were the parents of four children: Laurretta L., who is the wife of Thomas L. Sharp; Jennie, who is the wife of Commodore C. Biggerstaff; Mary Elizabeth, who died in infancy; and Wilson Gaster, formerly a physician and minister of the Methodist church, a graduate of the osteopathic school at Kirksville, Missouri, who died in March, 1908.

In the spring of 1880 Mr. and Mrs. Biggerstaff came to Nebraska and located at York, where he was engaged in the mercantile and cattle business until May, 1884, when he moved to Broken Bow, Custer county. In that year he engaged in the lumber business, under the firm name of Biggerstaff & Hershey, and in this enterprise he continued about four years. In the meantime, in 1886, he took up land two miles northwest of Broken Bow, and during the next twenty-three years he was engaged in agricultural pursuits and stock-raising. He then retired and took up his residence at Broken Bow, where he is accounted one of the city's most substantial citizens, being the owner of large tracts of land as well as stock in valuable oil wells and paying coal mines. Mr. Biggerstaff is a Democrat, but is not in any sense a politician. He belongs to the Presbyterian church, of which Mrs. Biggerstaff is a prominent attendant, having been one of the seven charter members of the Broken Bow congregation, in 1885. She has always been prominent in church work, and was likewise instrumental in the formation of Broken Bow's library association.

SAMUEL VAN BUSKIRK, a resident of Custer county, since 1888, has been variously identified with the interests of this region since the time of his arrival and, principally as an agriculturist, has accumulated a competence that permits him to pass the evening of life in comfortable circumstances, in his

pleasant home at Merna. A native of the Keystone state, Mr. Van Buskirk was born in Monroe county, Pennsylvania, May 6, 1848. His father, Samuel Van Buskirk, also was a native of Pennsylvania, where he was born in 1808, and he died at Alta, Iowa, in 1891. He was a successful farmer and in 1856 he became a pioneer settler in Iowa, in which state he resided for different intervals in Delaware, Dubuque, and Buena Vista counties. The mother of our subject was in her maidenhood, Mary Ann McNeal. She was a native of Pennsylvania, in which state she married, and her last days were spent in Alta, Iowa. She and her husband were members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Samuel Van Buskirk was a lad of eight years when the family settled in Iowa and in that state he was reared on a farm. When he reached his majority he chose the occupation with which he was familiar, and in Buena Vista county, Iowa, he followed agricultural pursuits until 1888. He then became a resident of Custer county, Nebraska, where he pre-empted 120 acres, north of Broken Bow. His first home was a sod house, and pioneer conditions were still in evidence on every hand. Five years later he purchased land north of Merna, and there he conducted farming and stock-raising operations with good success for many years. While a resident of Iowa he learned the value and superior quality of the Aberdeen Angus cattle and he brought to Custer county a fine male of that breed. While he was engaged in diversified farming, his pastures were well stocked with that type of cattle, for which he found a ready demand on the market, such stock having a reputation for generally commanding top prices. Industry and good judgment have marked the career of this progressive exponent of the agricultural and livestock interests of his adopted county, and Mr. Van Buskirk has been able to retire with a competence, being the owner of 600 acres of land.

In Iowa Mr. Van Buskirk was united in marriage to Miss Ann Elizabeth Van Buskirk, a native of New Jersey, and she presides with grace and dignity over their beautiful new home in Merna. Four children came to bless the home: Bessie is an accomplished and popular teacher in the Merna schools; Jesse is a merchant at Merna; Lura is the wife of David Ward and they reside at Marcus, Nebraska; and Della is deceased.

The family are members of the United Brethren church and Mr. Van Buskirk is a Republican in politics. Fraternally he belongs to the Merna lodge of the Independent

Order of Odd Fellows and also the Masonic lodge of Merna. Though seventy years of age, Mr. Van Buskirk is a man who might pass for one twenty years younger, and he is still active in affairs, looking after his landed interests and being a director in the Bank of Merna. He is recognized as one of Custer county's public-spirited citizens and in every relation of life measures up the full standard of American citizenship.

ROBERT D. McCARTY is one of Custer county's pioneer citizens and is now living retired in a beautiful home in Merna. Robert D. McCarty is a native of New York state, and was born near Syracuse, March 9, 1840. His parents, Dennis and Hanora (Clifford) McCarty, were natives respectively of County Cork and County Tipperary, Ireland. They immigrated to the United States when young people and were married in New York. Dennis McCarty became a farmer, and about the close of the Civil war located on a farm in Webster county, Iowa, near Fort Dodge, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their days.

Robert D. McCarty was reared on a farm in New York and accompanied his parents to Iowa. About this time he engaged in railroad-construction work, which he followed for many years.

In the spring of 1880 he and his family, in company with the Downey and Corcoran families, came to Custer county, and he secured as a homestead the southwest quarter of section 14, township 18, range 22. He also took a tree claim of 160 acres, but as the trees did not make a very good growth he pre-empted this land, and this half-section was the scene of his activities until he retired. He has been successful as a farmer and to-day is the owner of 800 acres of land.

On September 10, 1870, at Fort Dodge, Iowa, was solemnized the marriage of Robert D. McCarty and Anna Downey, a native of Scranton, Luzern county, Pennsylvania, a daughter of John and Ellen (Sweeney) Downey, a record of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. The home of Mr. and Mrs. McCarty has been blessed with the birth of eleven children, all of whom have grown to maturity, and as the hand of death has not yet entered this household they have every reason to be thankful. The record of the children is as follows: James owns and operates a farm in Custer county; Lizzie is the wife of Ambrose Sweeney, of Merna; Ella became the wife of Edward Snell, residing in Seattle, Washington; John is a farmer on

East Table; Joseph is a merchant in Merna; Mike and Robert operate land belonging to their father; Frank is the owner of a farm near the old home place; Ambrose is a member of the national army; Raymond is engaged in farming and is still a bachelor; and Margaret is the wife of J. D. Christ, of Anselmo.

Mr. and Mrs. McCarty are among the very early settlers of the county and recount many interesting incidents pertaining to the early days and the hardships with which they had to contend. One of the greatest obstacles to overcome was the matter of securing water. When the McCarty family and those who accompanied them came to Nebraska they drove with teams. Just northwest of where Broken Bow now stands they stopped to inquire of some men where they might get water for their stock and for family use. J. D. Ream, who had located there that spring, pointed to a spot where he said was the well and said they could help themselves. On reaching the spot, they discovered a horse had fallen into the well and no water could be had. They continued their journey to the locality where they had filed on land, and the next day sent a hired man and one of the sons to get water on Victoria creek. They failed to find this stream and returned with water which they had scooped up out of a buffalo wallow, and which could be used only after a thorough process of boiling.

Not a sign of anyone ever having been here could be seen, not a wagon track in Dale valley, and their nearest neighbors on the north were in the Black Hills. Their first home, in which the family lived for several years, was constructed of sod, the bit of lumber used in it being hauled from Grand Island. For several years after coming here Mr. McCarty followed railroading, while the wife and children held down the claim. The winter of 1881 was one of the worst ever seen in this country. Starting on the 11th of December it snowed continuously until the 25th, and it looked strange to the family to see a blizzard raging and the sun shining. The snow was nine feet deep on the level. The prairies in those days were covered with fleas, which gave considerable annoyance to the settlers, who would put the legs of their bedsteads in cans of water to keep the fleas from getting into the beds. But with all the trials and hardships, they were happy in the thought that they had a home they could call their own, and a place where they could rear their children. The satisfaction that comes to them now, more than repays for all the hardships they endured.

The members of the family are communicants of the Catholic church, and in the work of development they have contributed their full share. To the courage and labors of such as the McCarty family the present generation is indebted for the comforts and blessings of present-day conditions, and a history of Custer county would be incomplete without mention of what they have accomplished.

OLIVER G. SMITH. — One of the prosperous exponents of the agriculture and stock-raising interests of Custer county is Oliver G. Smith, who has been a resident of the county since pioneer days.

Mr. Smith was born in West Virginia, February 7, 1868. His father, Cornelius D. Smith, was likewise a native of West Virginia, in which state he married and became a land-owner and farmer. He resided there until 1879, when he came to Nebraska and took a homestead in Kearney county, near Minden. After one year's residence there he sold out and came to Custer county, in 1880, where he homesteaded on section 3, township 18, range 21, casting in his lot with the very early settlers in this part of the county. The first home was a sod house with a dirt floor and dirt roof, and in this the family lived for several years. The mother of our subject bore the maiden name of Jane Pierpont and was a native of West Virginia. She came to Nebraska as a pioneer woman and is now making her home in Merna, her husband having passed away at the age of seventy-five years. She is a member of the United Brethren church, as was also her husband, and they became parents of seven children: Oliver G. is the eldest; Mattie is the wife of D. W. Widaman, of Merna; Mrs. Charles Wachter likewise resides in Custer county; David S. is a resident of Merna; Wirt lives in the Arnold vicinity of Custer county; Mary died at the age of sixteen years; and John died in childhood.

Oliver G. Smith was a boy of eleven years when the home was established in Nebraska. He was reared amid the scenes of pioneer days and on reaching manhood became a farmer. His first purchase was 160 acres adjoining the old place, and when it came into his possession it was wholly unimproved. To-day Mr. Smith is the owner of 775 acres, with a fine set of improvements, and general farming and stock-raising are carried on with good success.

As a companion and helpmeet Mr. Smith chose Miss Luella Wheeler, who was born in New York, a daughter of Joseph and Eliza

Wheeler, who became residents of Custer county in 1888 and are both now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have become parents of three children: Lena passed away at the age of twenty-one years; and Alta and Edgar are still at home.

Mr. Smith is one of the substantial men of the community. He casts an independent ballot at the polls and has never aspired to nor held any public office. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and Woodmen of the World lodges in Merna and is held in unqualified esteem by all who know him.

WILLIAM H. Mc KNIGHT. — A resident of Nebraska from the time when the only buildings known in the central part of the state were composed of sod, William H. McKnight has watched with the eye of a proprietor the various changes that have been brought by the passage of the years and the sturdy and progressive work of the settlers, and has himself borne a full share of the labor of development. He is now one of the large landholders and successful agriculturists of the Berwyn community of Custer county, where his accomplishments entitle him to the respect and esteem in which he is uniformly held by his fellow citizens.

Mr. McKnight was born in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, May 20, 1850, a son of Miles and Joanna (Dillehay) McKnight. His father, the son of Scotch parents, was born in 1805, in eastern Tennessee, and was married in Virginia to Miss Joanna Dillehay, who was born in Virginia, August 11, 1811. The year following the close of the Black Hawk war they moved in covered wagons to Wisconsin, and for a number of years Mr. McKnight was employed in the lead mines at Mineral Point, because, although he had taken up land, he had no capital with which to develop his farm and was consequently compelled to take other work. He passed the remainder of his life in Wisconsin and before his death, May 15, 1865, had seen his financial affairs in excellent shape, and was known in his community as a well-to-do citizen. Mrs. McKnight survived him until 1873 and died in the faith of the Baptist church, of which he also was a member. He was a Democrat in his political sympathies. Of the seventeen children born to this worthy couple, only three survive at this time: William H.; Belle, who is the widow of N. G. Dergin and resides at Monroe, Green county, Wisconsin; and M. W., who is engaged in farming in the vicinity of Adams, Nebraska.

William H. McKnight was educated in the

public schools of Wisconsin and was reared on the home farm, where he was living at the outbreak of the Civil war. He was much too young for service, but was constantly entreating his parents to permit him to join the army, and toward the close of the war, when he was still only a lad, he ran away from home and joined the Eleventh Illinois Cavalry, with which he served six months. He then returned to his Wisconsin home and resumed his association with farm enterprise. In 1871 he there married Miss Etta Parsons, who was born in Wisconsin, a daughter of Monroe I. and Jane Parsons, now residents of Iowa. There were five children born to this union, of whom four are now living, these being: Ira Derwood, who resides on a farm at Glenwood, Iowa, and is engaged in the real-estate business; Lewis Winfield, who is a farmer of the same community; Della Leora, who is the wife of Oscar Lee, principal of the State Industrial School at Waukesha, Wisconsin; and Wilbur Harrison, who is a member of Company I, One Hundred and Sixty-eighth Infantry, arrived in France in December, 1917: he was later wounded and, was in a hospital at the time this article was written. Mrs. McKnight died December 13, 1888, and February 28, 1889, Mr. McKnight was again married, Miss Belle Jones becoming his wife. She was born February 7, 1868, in Tippecanoe county, Indiana, and is a daughter of James Alfred and Louisa Elvira (Joslin) Jones, the former a native of Indiana and the latter of Kentucky. The parents of Mrs. McKnight moved to Saunders county, Nebraska, in 1869, and after the father's death the mother came to the home of her daughter and son-in-law, with whom she remained until her death. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. McKnight: Jesse Floyd, who was in the base-hospital camp at Camp Cody, is now at home; Virgil Sidney is a farmer of Custer county; and Forrest Edward, George William, and James Theodore all remain at home.

Mr. McKnight first came to Nebraska in 1879, in which year he located in Butler county. He saw little to encourage him at that time, the country being practically undeveloped, while the few settlers, living far apart, were doing without conveniences and living in primitive sod houses. After two years he returned to Wisconsin, but the western country had made its impression and formed its attraction, and shortly thereafter he again located in Butler county, where he followed farming until 1903. That year marked his arrival in Custer county, which has since been his home. Here he purchased 440 acres of land, put it under cultivation,

built a nice home and substantial outbuildings, and he has since established himself as a progressive and skilled farmer who thoroughly knows his business and can make his labor pay him proportionately. He carries on general farming and raises all kinds of live-stock, the while the success which has attended his efforts is evidence of the consistency of his methods.

Mr. McKnight is fraternally affiliated with Ansley Lodge No. 176, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, and has received the thirty-second degree of Scottish Rite Masonry, at Omaha. In politics a Republican, he has wielded some influence in his community, and has rendered good service as a member of the school board.

CLARENCE MACKEY.—Instances are numerous in Custer county where men have arrived in this part of the country without acquaintances or friends and have worked their way to affluence and position, but there are few which equal the record of Clarence Mackey, president of the Ansley State Bank and one of his community's wealthiest and most prominent citizens. Mr. Mackey was handicapped at the outset of life by very little educational training, and before he came to Nebraska he had been unable to accumulate any sum even approaching a starting capital. Yet his ability, given the opportunity, finally evidenced itself, and to-day Mr. Mackey is accounted one of Ansley's leading citizens.

Mr. Mackey was born at Minerva, Ohio, August 11, 1860, and is a son of Thomas and Caroline (Taylor) Mackey, natives of Stark county, Ohio. His father, who was the son of a lifelong resident of the Buckeye state, learned the cabinetmaker's trade in his youth, and was engaged in the work of his trade at the outbreak of the Civil war, when he enlisted for service in the Union army and became a first lieutenant in a regiment of Ohio volunteer infantry. He engaged in a number of hard-fought battles, but escaped wounds, although for some time he was confined to the hospital, because of sickness. After the war he was engaged for a long period in agricultural pursuits and the later years of his life were passed at Minerva, Ohio, where he died in 1899, and where his widow, who survives him in ripe old age, still makes her home. She is a devout member of the Christian church and is a woman of many excellencies of mind and heart. Mr. Mackey was a Democrat in his political faith and was a member of the Masonic fraternity. He and his wife were the parents of five children, of

whom four are living: Clarence is the immediate subject of this review; Harry, who resides at Chadron, Nebraska, is a locomotive engineer on the Chicago & Northwestern Railway; William met his death a number years ago, in a railway accident; Leona is the wife of E. W. Jobes, a manufacturing machinist at Minerva, Ohio; and John, who resides at the old home at Minerva, is retired from active pursuits. The maternal grandfather of Clarence Mackey was Pinn Taylor, who was born in Ohio and spent his entire life there, patenting land under President Monroe, at a time when the Indians were to be found in large numbers.

The educational advantages of Clarence Mackey in his youth were decidedly limited in character, for he early began work at the coal mines of Pennsylvania, and continued thus employed for a number of years. He first came to Nebraska, in 1891, and following this was employed at various places. In 1892 he located near Westerville, where he first rented a farm of 160 acres. He later purchased land, and this he put under cultivation and improved in various ways, in the meantime carrying on extensive operations in mixed farming and stock-raising. His success was marked in agriculture, and subsequently he began to turn his attention to other affairs. About 1903 he entered the field of banking, and at the present time he is president of the Ansley State Bank, which, under his wise and capable direction and conservative policies has become recognized as one of the safe and substantial institutions of the county. His success has been absolutely self-gained and his career can be profitably studied by aspiring youths who are commencing their careers without friends or fortunes to assist them.

In 1892 Mr. Mackey married Miss Ella Campbell, who was born in Pennsylvania, a daughter of Richard and Elizabeth (Fate) Campbell, who now live at Westerville, Custer county, Nebraska. Mr. Campbell was a railroad man for many years. Mrs. Mackey died in April, 1906, the mother of four sons and one daughter: William, who is twenty-one years of age, entered the United States Navy, June 1, 1918, as a student at the Great Lakes Naval Training School; Thomas, eighteen years of age, has entered the United States Navy school at Lincoln, where he attends the State University; Richard, who is seventeen years of age, is attending school; Clarence, Jr., fifteen years old, is likewise a student; and Ella, thirteen years old, is attending school. Mr. Mackey was again married, in February, 1917, when Miss Elsie Sa-

ville became his wife. She was born in Custer county, and is a daughter of Dana M. and Sarah L. Saville. Her father, who came to Custer county about 1883, and was a pioneer homesteader, died on his farm, in 1916.

Fraternally Mr. Mackey is connected with the Masons, in which order he has reached the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite; and he is affiliated also with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Knights of Pythias. In each of these fraternities he is popular with his fellow members. He has long been prominent in civic and political affairs of a local order, and his well known business and financial ability, as well as his integrity and personal probity, have caused him to be selected by his fellow citizens for positions of marked trust. He has twice been a member of the state legislature and twice county treasurer, and his public record is a splendid one, characterized by conscientious and constructive service for the general welfare. He is a staunch Democrat.

DANIEL G. BOWLEY. — Practical industry, wisely and vigorously applied, seldom fails of attaining success, and the career of Daniel G. Bowley, now one of the progressive farmers of Custer county, is but another proof of this statement. When he started out in life he had but few advantages to assist him along the road to success, but his diligence and judicious management have brought him ample success as a reward for his labors.

Mr. Bowley was born in Alleghany county, Virginia, October 3, 1870, a son of William O. Bowley, who was one of Custer county's first settlers and of whom extended mention is made elsewhere in this volume. Our subject accompanied the family to the pioneer home in Nebraska and as a boy witnessed the hardships and struggles of the early-day settlers. As his age and strength increased he assisted more and more in the labor incident to developing and operating the homestead, and under the instructions of his father he learned the best methods of planting and harvesting, so that when he reached manhood he was well equipped with the practical experience to enable him to become a farmer on his own account. He started out for himself at the age of twenty-two years and operated land as a tenant for a few years, meeting with the success that justified him in making a purchase of land. It is fifteen years since he bought his present farm, which at that time was wholly unimproved but which has been brought to a high state of cultivation, and by the erec-

tion of suitable buildings Mr. Bowley has a valuable property. General farming and stock-raising form the basis of the enterprise carried on by the owner, though he has given considerable attention to horticulture and has a fine apple orchard of seven acres, the same having been bearing fruit for several years.

For a companion and helpmeet Mr. Bowley chose Miss Josephine Hennesey, a native of Virginia. They are members of the Methodist church, South, and Mr. Bowley's political beliefs make him a Democrat. The Bowley family were among the first settlers of the county and members of that family have had to do with the upbuilding of the community for more than forty years, so that historic consistency is conserved when a place is given the subject of this biography in the annals of Custer county.

WARREN THOMAS HURST, M. D. — The medical profession of Custer county includes among its members many men of eminent ability, whose training has been comprehensive and whose fine talents have been developed through broad experience, close application, constant study and the broadening influence of intimate association with their fellow men. In this category one of the foremost, without doubt, is Dr. Warren T. Hurst, a general practitioner in medicine and surgery and a specialist in diseases of the eye, ear, nose, and throat. He has been engaged in professional labors at Broken Bow since 1912. Dr. Hurst was born August 20, 1878, at Marion, Linn county, Iowa, and is a son of Thomas and Martha (Walker) Hurst.

The parents of Doctor Hurst were born, reared and educated in Canada, where their marriage was solemnized, and shortly after that event they came to the United States and settled in Illinois. After about ten years' residence in that state, they changed their location to Iowa, where Mr. Hurst continued to work at railroading, which was his life vocation. In 1883 he came with his family to Nebraska, where he held various positions with railroad lines, and finally he took up his permanent abode at Omaha, where, although advanced in years, he continues to be identified with the big railway companies, at this time being connected with the flag service in the shops. He has been a Mason for many years, is a Republican in politics, and his wife is a member of the Baptist church. They are the parents of three children: Lydia, the wife of Theron Brown, a railroad man of Omaha; Frances, the wife of James Leary, a mechanic of Denver, Colorado; Dr. Warren T., of this

review. There are two deceased children: George E., formerly of Omaha, died in 1912, and Mrs. Alice Elizabeth Short, of Omaha, died in 1910.

Dr. Warren T. Hurst was five years of age when he accompanied his parents to Nebraska, and here his early education was secured in the public schools. He was graduated from the high school at Weeping Water, Cass county, with the class of 1895, and after some further preparation he entered the Creighton School of Medicine, at Omaha, where he took a four years' course. He spent another year at the Chicago College of Medicine and Surgery and then went to Valparaiso, Indiana, where he was graduated May 20, 1912, following which he engaged in practice at Chicago. In this same year he changed his field of operation to Broken Bow, and since then he has built up a splendid practice, both in a general way and as a specialist in the treatment and cure of diseases of the eye, ear, nose, and throat. Doctor Hurst belongs to the various organizations of his calling, and keeps fully abreast of the advancements being made in the sciences of medicine and surgery. He stands high in his calling, not alone among his fellow practitioners, but with the general public as well, and has served as county physician of Custer county and as health officer. His political tendencies cause him to support the principles and policies of the Democratic party. During his college career he joined the Phi Rho Sigma fraternity, and he belongs also to the Masonic fraternity, both York and Scottish Rite bodies and also the Mystic Shrine. Dr. Hurst has been a supporter of good movements, civic and educational, as well as those of the Presbyterian church, of which he is an attendant, Mrs. Hurst being a member thereof.

Prior to her marriage to Dr. Hurst, Mrs. Hurst, who is a native of Copenhagen, Denmark, was Miss Lola Beck. She and the Doctor are the parents of one child; Juanita.

JAMES LANGE. — Since he is the owner of a fine tract of land on the second bench of the Buffalo Table, south of Callaway, and has around him everything necessary for comfortable living and thrifty farming, Mr. Lange should be rated as one of the foremost citizens of the south part of the county.

James Lange was born in Denmark, on the 13th day of December, 1865, and is a son of Theodore and Anna M. (Sorrenson) Lange, both of whom were natives of Denmark, possessing all the characteristics of Scandinavian thrift. For more complete record of

Theodore Lange and the family, reference may be made to the sketch of Marius Lange, on other pages of this volume.

When James Lange reached the age of fourteen years he entered upon a four years' apprenticeship in a blacksmith shop. When nineteen years of age he came to the United States, and in the city of Chicago he and his older brother, Marius, worked about a year. Then coming farther west, he landed in Lexington, Nebraska, and worked for Anton Abel, a ranchman who seems to have had a ranch in both Dawson and Custer counties. A year later he came into Custer county, where he continued work on the Abel ranch on the Cottonwood branch, for at least a year. He then filed on a homestead 20 miles south of Callaway, on Buffalo creek. This property he acquired by the relinquishment of Jacob Peterson. He and his brother bought a yoke of oxen and went back to Lexington to straighten up the land deal. On this trip they experienced one of the severest and most trying ordeals of their pioneer days. They were caught in a three-day blizzard, and when they started for home the snow was nearly three feet deep. They had to lead a couple of wild bronchos, which they had bought of Mr. Abel. Night overtook them, they lost their way, could find no trail and came near to freezing to death. Marius was not strong, and the task of plowing through the snow was more than he could stand. He became sick and exhausted, and James carried him miles on his back and led the ponies. Marius begged to be left on the prairie, but that would have meant his death, so they dragged on mile after mile, and reached home about one o'clock in the morning. Both men had their feet so badly frozen that their toes had to be amputated.

On February 24, 1889, in Broken Bow, was solemnized the marriage of James Lange to Miss Hester Richardson, daughter of William T. and Jane (Vinsen) Richardson, both Kentucky people. Since the establishment of their home the Lange family has had its circle increased by the birth of four children—Gertrude S. J., Julius T., Verna M. and Loretta L., all of whom remain under the parental roof and contribute to the life and happiness of the place.

Mr. Lange's holdings comprise 720 acres, which he is now improving. A fine dwelling has just been erected, which makes a splendid modern domicile in which the family can enjoy farm life. A general farming and stock-raising business is carried on by Mr. Lange and the boys. The family are connected with the Lutheran church and in the matter of poli-

tics, Mr. Lange's first choice is for the Democratic party.

JOSEPH D. BYLER.—This is an ordinary story of an ordinary man,—one who in his modest way lived his life and in his departure left behind him a splendid family, a creditable record, and the comforts earned by hard toil.

The subject of this memoir was born in Pennsylvania, January 2, 1857, and was a son of Jacob and Sarah (Yoder) Byler. He came of an excellent Pennsylvania family, and was one of eight children, only three of whom are living at the present time—Isaac, Rudolph, and David. Joseph D. was the youngest of the family.

It was in Pennsylvania that the boyhood years of Joseph D. Byler were spent, and there he had recourse to the common schools, in which he received a good fundamental education that qualified him for the business transactions of life. At the age of fifteen years he left the home farm and started into the world for himself. His first journey landed him in Logan county, Ohio, where he worked for a number of years. From there he went to Garden City, Missouri. There he associated himself with Charles McCants, and the two started for Nebraska. He arrived in Custer county in the spring of 1885. An inventory of his worldly possessions showed him to be better off than a good many others were when reaching the county. He had three mules, harness, wagon and twenty-five dollars. He located in Roten valley, fourteen miles southwest of Callaway, and bought a relinquishment from James Howell. It was here that he established, and maintained for two years, bachelor quarters.

Two years after he reached Custer county Mr. Byler married Miss Ida F. Hauenstine, a native of Ohio and daughter of Jacob and Lucinda (Dull) Hauenstine, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. In the family of Mrs. Byler's father were fourteen children. The surviving members of this large family of children are: Mrs. Joseph Redhead, living near Callaway; Jacob, of Toledo, Ohio; Mrs. John Belmire, of St. Louisville, Ohio; Joseph, residing near Callaway, Custer county; and Mrs. Ida Byler, widow of the subject of this memoir.

When the Byler home was established in Custer county, in 1887, it was an unpretentious sod house, and the home was maintained and the early developments of the farm started under very adverse circumstances. For two years Mr. Byler hauled water six and seven

miles. Then he dug a well 200 feet deep and put in a board casing. He had a horse and bucket to draw the water from the well. Later he added more room to the sod house, but in order to do this he took the roof from the barn and got along with a dirt floor.

In the course of time four children were born into the home of Mr. and Mrs. Byler, and concerning them the following brief record is entered: Bessie M. Blixt, whose husband is an implement dealer in Callaway, has four children, two boys and two girls. Clarence H. is, at the time of this writing, in the nation's military service, as a member of Battery C, Three Hundred and Thirty-ninth Field Artillery, at Camp Dodge, Iowa. Ruth A. and Nellie M. are at home with their mother.

A great sorrow came to the home on the 8th day of July, 1916, when the husband and father was called from the scene of his labors in this world to the reward of the next. He had been a kind and provident father and husband, and his death was a sore bereavement. He left his family, however, in good circumstances, on a farm of 480 acres, well improved and in a high state of cultivation. For twenty years prior to his death, Mr. Byler had been a faithful member of the Evangelical church. Mrs. Byler and her children who are not married, make their home on the place and maintain the farming operations conducted by the late husband and father.

ARTELLUS P. CALHOON.—One of the venerable and honored citizens of Broken Bow, long a Nebraska farmer in Polk and Custer counties, Artellus P. Calhoon is now living in comfortable and well deserved retirement, after a long and creditable career. He is a native of St. Joseph county, Michigan, and was born May 26, 1845, his parents being Alvin and Lois (Bean) Calhoon.

While still a young man, Alvin Calhoon, who had been reared to farming, raised a company for service in the Indian troubles, and he fought with the rank of captain. Later he removed to Michigan, where he settled on a farm and passed the rest of his life in agricultural pursuits. He was a strong Abolitionist, in the climacteric period leading up to the Civil war, was a stanch Republican in his political views, and he and his wife were faithful members of the Methodist church, of which he was a local preacher during the early days. There were eight children in the Calhoon family, and all are living: Marcellus, who married Clara Rowley, is a retired farmer of Ord, Nebraska; Emma, who

is the widow of Samuel Sidwell, makes her home at Minatare, Nebraska; Clarence C., who married Tillie Hahn, is a farmer of Polk county, Nebraska; Bingham, who married Caroline Simpson, is a farmer of York county, this state; Lola is the wife of Lewis Munson, a farmer near Peoria, Kansas; Lawrence and Florence are twins, the former having married Anna Demmick and being a farmer near Gladwin, Michigan, and the latter being the widow of Lewis Moore, of Three Rivers, Michigan; and Artellus P. is the subject of this sketch.

Artellus P. Calhoon received his early education in the public schools of Michigan, and as a young man of twenty-seven years he came to Nebraska, his first settlement being in Polk county, where he took up a homestead and farmed for eighteen years. In 1900 he disposed of his interests in that locality and came to Custer county, where he continued his operations with increasing success until the spring of 1918, when he turned over the responsibilities and burdens to younger shoulders and retired to his comfortable home at Broken Bow, where he is surrounded by every convenience. During his active years Mr. Calhoon was rightly accounted a capable farmer and stockman, as well as an able business man whose transactions were characterized by the highest integrity. He has always been a loyal and public-spirited citizen and at various times has been active in civic affairs, more as a supporter of movements for the general welfare than as an aspirant for office or a holder of public posts.

In the spring of 1877 Mr. Calhoon was united in marriage, in Polk county, Nebraska, to Miss Henrietta Robinson, who is now deceased, and they became the parents of six children, concerning whom the following brief record is consistently entered: Alvin, who married Bertha Luther, is a minister of the Free Methodist church and is living near Alberta, Canada, where he has a farm and fills a pulpit; Calvin, who married Dolly Barbee, is a preacher of the Home Association, and resides near Jerome, Arizona; Miss Zora resides with her father, for whom she keeps house. Ina is the wife of Rev. James Davis, a farmer and preacher in the vicinity of De Nova, Colorado. Clinton, who married Mary Shepard, is a preacher of the Nazarene church and resides in Kansas. Charles, who is still a bachelor, resides with his father and sister and is now studying to become a minister.

It is interesting to note that Mr. Calhoon's sons have inherited from their paternal grandfather the predilection for ministerial labors,

three already having adopted this profession and the fourth being engaged in preparing for that high calling. The married daughter of Mr. Calhoon chose for her husband a preacher. Mr. Calhoon is himself a generous contributor to religious enterprises and movements.

EARL W. BROWN. — This caption spells the name of a prosperous son of a popular sire who was one of the prominent pioneers of Custer county, as the story which follows will disclose.

Earl W. Brown hails from Kansas, where he was born March 12, 1881, and he is a son of A. D. and Matilda (Mullen) Brown, Custer county pioneers of more than ordinary prominence. In the family of A. D. Brown were the following named children — Claude, Harl, Lawrence, Forrest, Stella Holliday, Earl W., Lila Phifer, and Oma, the last mentioned being a student in the Grand Island Business College at the present time. A. D. Brown was a prominent farmer and stock-raiser in the early days of the South Loup country, in which section he settled in 1881. Here he located a tree claim and bought 160 acres, about five or six miles southeast of the site of the present thriving town of Arnold. He was at that time in the full vigor of manhood and soon became one of the active and influential men in that part of the county, much credit being due him for the service he rendered in developing the southwest section of the county. He served on the board of supervisors for a number of years. He and his good wife were devoted members of the Christian church. Mr. Brown died on his farm, December 17, 1909. He was a high-degree Mason and an Odd Fellow of high rank and good standing. The children have been a credit to their parents and occupy in their respective communities much the same relation as that sustained by the parents. All of the children are in the Christian church and the boys are either Masons or Odd Fellows.

Further brief data concerning A. D. Brown, the sterling pioneer, are available and should be incorporated in this review. He was born at Indianapolis, Indiana, March 1, 1847, and thus his age at the time of his death was sixty-two years, nine months and five days. He was reared and educated in the old Hoosier state and he represented that commonwealth as a gallant young soldier of the Union in the Civil war. At the age of eighteen years he enlisted as a member of Company A, One Hundred and Thirty-second

Indiana Volunteer Infantry, John S. Tarkington having been captain of the company. Mr. Brown proved a faithful and valiant soldier and his honorable discharge, dated December 15, 1864, was signed by Abraham Lincoln, president of the United States, and Edwin M. Stanton, secretary of war. His marriage to Miss Matilda Mullen was solemnized in 1870, near Dwight, Illinois.

It was here in Custer county that Earl W. Brown ran the gamut of youth and received his education in the public schools. Here, too, he laid the foundation for the activities of his manhood years. On June 7, 1915, in the home of the bride, on the South Loup river, four miles east of Georgetown, he led to the marriage altar Miss T. Leila Downey, the ceremony being performed by Rev. N. C. Johnson. Mrs. Brown is a daughter of John M. and Anna E. (Welch) Downey, pioneers who became widely known as Mr. and Mrs. "Mack" Downey and who became the parents of nine children — Charles H.; Mary McMillan; Leila Brown; Edna Wood; Helen, who was graduated in the Broken Bow high school and who is now a teacher and a prominent playground supervisor for the Chautauqua system; Verna, who is a stenographer in Saginaw, Michigan, was a commercial graduate of the Broken Bow high school; Zenadie was graduated in the Broken Bow high school and is a teacher at the present time; Gregor M. is at present attending Kearney Military Academy; D. Marlen is a student and is at home with his parents. Mary, Leila, and Edna Downey finished their education at the state normal school. The Downey family are all members of the Presbyterian church. The father was an old-time landsman who came to Custer county nearly forty years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Brown are following in the footsteps of their respective parents and in addition to being representatives of two very popular families, both prominently connected with early-day history, they individually are winning a well deserved popularity for themselves. One child, Robert E., two years of age, furnishes sunshine and good cheer for the home. Mr. Brown is farming rather extensively, as he operates his mother's farm and also 320 acres of his own. He is one of the men to be reckoned with at the present time — one of the contingent upon whom present-day responsibilities rest heavily. He is a farmer and stock-raiser of no mean caliber and the general appearance of his home premises denotes thrift and declares his success. He is a member of the Christian church, his wife holding membership in the Prebyterian church, and both stand for high

ideals and highest type of service. Mr. Brown has received the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite in the Masonic fraternity, and is a Republican in politics. As stated in the beginning, this prosperous son of a popular sire has paid the tribute of his life to Custer county.

JACOB J. SEANEY. — Living in honorable and well earned retirement in the Finchville vicinity, than which there is no more fertile district in all the vast domain of Custer county, is a courteous gentleman who has known the privations and hardships of pioneer life in the west and who has contributed his share to county upbuilding and food production as demanded by the present day. It is to this citizen that recognition is here accorded.

Mr. Seaney was born February 16, 1853, in Union county, Indiana, and is a son of Pleasant and Elnora B. Seaney, both of whom likewise were born in the Hoosier state, and who became the parents of three children — William, Sarah Beck, and Jacob J. The father was a farmer, and he lived and died near Richmond, Indiana.

Jacob J. Seaney lived at the parental home until he attained to his legal majority. He earned his first money trapping muskrats and coons. He received good educational advantages, but all his life has confined his efforts to the farm. In the state of his nativity he was married, on October 3, 1878, to Miss Nancy Mendenhall, a daughter of Noah and Nancy (Gard) Mendenhall, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Indiana. In Mrs. Seaney's immediate family, besides herself, were two children — Jeremiah, and Margaret Hamilton. Mr. and Mrs. Seaney came to Custer county in 1888 and located on the South Loup river, six and one-half miles southeast of where Arnold now stands. There is some contract in the condition in which Mr. Seaney arrived and that of other pioneers, for he was fairly well supplied with this world's goods when he first took up his residence here. He owns at the present time 800 acres of good land, well adapted to farming and stock-raising and in this dual occupation he has acquired most of his money. In the family circle are the following named children: Elsie is the wife of Charles T. Snyder, who lives at Snodgrass, Wyoming, and is assistant game warden of that state, and they have one daughter. Charles P., who is farming near Arnold, married Lida Bailey and they have one son. Maud M. is the wife of Ellery Kruser, a farmer in the Arnold vicinity, and they have two sons

and one daughter. Dora is the wife of Ferdinand Beshaler, an Arnold farmer. Elmer J. is still a bachelor and is farming his father's land.

Mrs. Seaney, the mother, died May 12, 1891. Mr. Seaney still lives on his farm, but his possessions are such as to render him care-free and to enable him to retire from active work. His land is leased and still goes on producing foodstuff for humanity. The pioneers of the '80s and '90s know of Mr. Seaney's early activities and hold him and his family in high esteem. In politics his affiliations are with the Republican party, and he has been always ready to assist all worthy objects, the while he has been regarded as a prominent and leading spirit of the community.

NOAH MELHAM. — America, with its vast and varied opportunities for the achievement of success, has attracted to its shores those of every civilized race in the world, and in every well settled community there are to be found representatives of far-distant countries. Custer county is no exception to this rule, and one of its thriving communities, the enterprising little city of Sargent, has a worthy representative of far-off Syria, in the person of Noah Melham, who is successfully engaged in business as the proprietor of a general store.

Mr. Melham was born August 4, 1884, at Aumscheit, Syria, Asia Minor, and is a son of Melham Norah and Mary (Scessian) Norah, who spent their entire lives in Syria. The father was a small farmer for many years, but when overtaken by failing health he took up the occupation of charcoal burning. There were eight children in the family, of whom five are living: Charlie and his wife, Jennie, reside near Sargent, and he is a farmer; the present address of Abraham is unknown; Beade is engaged in farming near Sargent; Noah is the subject of this review; and Barbara is the wife of John Rohana, a farmer living in Syria. Noah Melham received his education in his native land and remained under the parental roof until he attained the age of twenty-one years, when, stirred by ambition which could not be satisfied in his own country, he bade farewell to his parents and went to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where he remained six months. He then came to the United States and for six months was a resident of Fall River, Massachusetts, at the end of which period he turned his face to the west and in 1906 arrived at Comstock, Nebraska. For one year following his ar-

rival he tried his hand at farming, but this vocation did not prove congenial or remunerative, and the young Syrian gave up the attempt and began traveling as a salesman of Watson's remedies. He thus continued for three years, during which time, through his industry and capable methods of salesmanship, he accumulated a snug little capital. He had built up a good business, which was growing rapidly, but the first of his objects was accomplished, and he sold out his route and returned to his native land, where he remained six months. Within that time he married Sadie Wieken, who was born in Syria, May 4, 1885, a daughter of Pete and Machbobe (Mahwat) Wieken, farming people of that land, where they spent their entire lives. Mrs. Melham has one brother, John, who still farms the paternal acres in Syria. Mr. and Mrs. Melham became the parents of three children, of whom two survive: Marie, born July 17, 1911; and Oscar, born June 2, 1913.

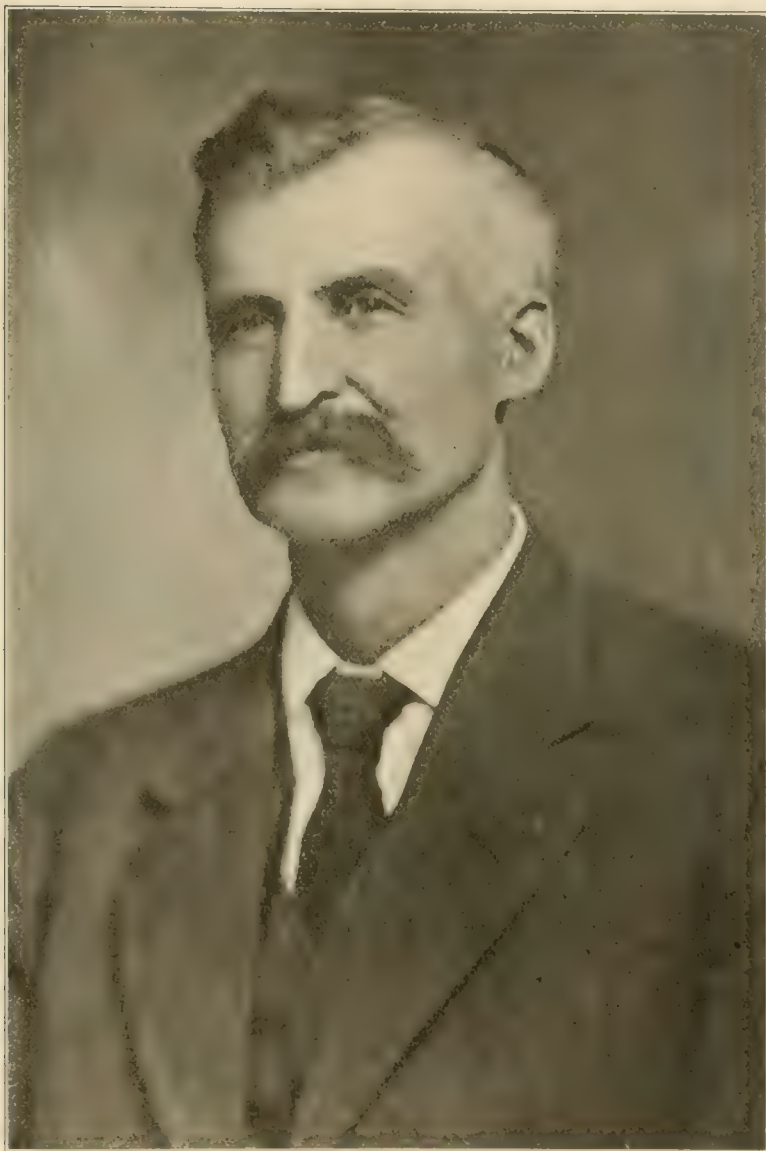
Upon his return to the United States from Syria, Mr. Melham again took up his residence in Custer county, and again gave his attention to farming. This he followed with some degree of success for six years, but, once having experienced the attractions of commercial life, he was irresistibly drawn back into business affairs, and he eventually sold out his farming interests and opened a general store at Sargent. This he has continued to conduct with constantly growing success, a feature of his business being the handling of the proprietary articles known as Watson's remedies. A man of pleasing personality, courteous, obliging, he has made scores of friends in his adopted land and this fact perhaps has contributed as much to his success as have his untiring industry and his native business ability.

MARSHALL E. EDDY, ex-county treasurer of Custer county, furnishes in his career another exemplification of self-made manhood. Thrown upon his own resources at the tender age of eleven years, he has won his way to business success and public influence, and at present he is extending the scope of his usefulness to the work of education, religion and national patriotism. In consonance with the regulation that a county treasurer may serve only two consecutive terms, Mr. Eddy retired from this office at the end of the year 1918, after having served two terms. He was born May 5, 1857, in Canada, and is a son of Stephen P. and Margaret Jane (Finlay) Eddy.

The Eddy family originated in England,

whence its early representatives came to America prior to the Revolutionary war, in which several bearing the family name participated. For some years the family resided in New York state, where Harden Eddy, the paternal grandfather of Marshall E. Eddy, passed his life as an agriculturist, and there also, for a time, lived the maternal grandfather, Henry Finlay, who was a native of Ireland. Stephen Eddy was born, reared, and educated in the Empire state, and after his marriage went to Canada, where for a few years he was engaged in business as a contractor for brick and stone work. He subsequently returned to New York, but in 1877 he removed to Michigan, where both he and his wife were residents of Bay City at the time of their death. They had nine children of whom five are living. Charles H., an invalid, is proprietor of a shooting gallery at Unionville, Michigan; Mary is the wife of James Ormisten, a land man of Alberta, Canada; Margaret J. is the wife of C. C. Honeywell, a farmer in the vicinity of Unionville, Michigan; Marshall E. is the subject of this sketch; and S. R. is a painter at Marquette, Michigan. The family has been affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal church. Two of the uncles of Marshall E. Eddy took part in the Civil war, as Union soldiers. One, Carleton Eddy, was wounded in the last battle of the war and never recovered from his injuries, dying a few years later; the other, Philo, was in the engineer corps, and returned safely to his home.

Marshall E. Eddy, as noted above, was called upon to make his own way in the world when he was still a child, and for the most part he educated himself, although he attended the public schools of Canada and Bradford, Pennsylvania. He equipped himself so well that he was able to secure a teacher's certificate, and for several years he taught school near Bradford, being present during the big excitement in the oil fields, about 1879. From that community he came to Exeter, Nebraska, where he taught school for one year, following which he turned his attention to agriculture and began working a homestead in Custer county, twelve miles west of Merna. He was courageous and persistent enough to remain until he paid out on his claim, and he then transferred his base of activities to Merna, where he took charge of an implement business for the firm of Holland & McDonald. After working for this concern three years, he received and accepted an advantageous and attractive offer from the Deering Harvester Company, and for six or seven years he was a traveling salesman for this famous corpor-



MARSHALL E. EDDY

ation. When he resigned and left the road it was to form a partnership with Mac Johnson, in a ranch located in the northern part of Custer county, where they handled 300 to 400 head of cattle, but Mr. Eddy later sold his interests to his partner and bought a tract of land at the townsite of Merna, where for three years he was engaged in farming. Next he was one of the founders of the institution known as the Home Bank of Merna, and about that time was also instrumental in the erection of several large structures there, including a modern hotel and opera house. When he sold his bank, after operating it for three years, he came to Broken Bow to assume the duties of deputy county treasurer, under Clarence Mackey, and he held that position for five years. During this time he gained in full degree the confidence and respect of his fellow citizens and when the opportunity came they elected him to the county treasurership, his record in that office being such a splendid one that when he appeared for re-election he was given a majority of 1,700 votes, on the Democratic ticket, in a county that is largely Republican. He retired from office in January, 1919.

Mr. Eddy was married November 10, 1888, to Miss Frances J. Reader, who was born in Wisconsin, a daughter of Henry and Wilhelmina Reader, the former a native of New York and the latter of Switzerland. They were early settlers of Wisconsin, from which state they drove to Iowa in an ox-cart, as early residents, and about 1882 changed their home to Nebraska, where they passed the remainder of their lives. Mrs. Eddy was educated at Osceola, Iowa, and after teaching school in Iowa two terms spent the same length of time in teaching at Broken Bow. She is a member of the Christian Science church and is one of the highly intellectual and well informed ladies of her adopted city. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Eddy, of whom the first born, Carl, died at the age of nine months. Euroia Pearl has for the past two years been engaged in Chautauqua work, and is now manager of a troupe of girls, touring the New England states, she herself being a brilliant reader and gifted and a talented singer. She received her early education at Merna, following which she was sent by her parents to Brownell Hall, at Omaha, and her musical training was completed at Northwestern University, Chicago, and the Boston Conservatory of Music. Vera M., the youngest child, was educated at Merna and Brownell Hall, Omaha, following which she took a three years' course in the Mechanics Institute of Rochester, New York, from which she secured a diploma in

domestic science. She also has a state teacher's certificate in Nebraska, and during the 1917-18 term taught in the Union school, near Berwyn, Custer county. On the 18th of May, 1918, Miss Vera Mae Eddy became the wife of Sargeant William J. Lovelace, of Kentucky, who was at the time located at Camp Taylor, that state, in the service of the United States. Since the signing of the armistice Sargeant Lovelace has been transferred to Newport News, Virginia.

Mr. Eddy is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and is a prominent Democrat. Always a loyal and public-spirited citizen, he has given his aid to all progressive and patriotic movements, and in connection with the world war he rendered his country excellent service as chairman of the exemption board at Broken Bow, and as a member of the executive committee of the Red Cross.

JOHN D. WIELAND, who is manager of the Dierks Lumber Company at Callaway, Nebraska, is a man well and favorably known in Custer county, of which he has been a continuous resident for thirty-three years. He has led an active business life during all that time, continually coming into contact with other stable and reliable men, and at the present time he is numbered with the county's best and most dependable citizens.

John D. Wieland was born at Salem, Columbiana county, Ohio, February 14, 1867, and is the only survivor of the six children of Daniel and Christiana (Koupp) Wieland. Daniel Wieland was a farmer, and in the spring of 1867, when his son John D. was three months old, he removed from Columbiana county, Ohio, to Montgomery county, Iowa, where he carried on farming until his death, which occurred when John D. was about eighteen years old. The latter had completed the common-school course and had also a business-school education. When thrown upon his own resources he came to Custer county and immediately secured employment with the Dierks Lumber Company. He worked for this company at Broken Bow for eight years, in a responsible position, and then moved to Callaway and took charge of the Dierks interest at this place. Mr. Wieland has the distinction of being the oldest employee of the company, having worked for it continuously for thirty-three years. It goes without saying that he is highly valued by the company's principals, who have found him not only thoroughly efficient, but also faithful and trustworthy.

Mr. Wieland was married, at Callaway,

Nebraska, March 28, 1894, to Miss Elizabeth Thompson, a daughter of Robert and Esther (Hendry) Thompson. Mr. and Mrs. Wieland have three sons and one daughter: Robert D., who is a druggist and registered pharmacist, in business at Callaway, married Sophia Maller, a daughter of Albert Maller; Verne O., who is a student of the Callaway high school, is employed in the lumber and coal office of the Dierks Lumber Company; Lester D., who resides at home and still pursues his studies, is a clerk in his brother's drug store; and Laurretta, a bright little miss of ten years, is still in school. Mr. Wieland has never taken any active part in politics but has always been conscientious in the performance of civic duties.

PETER N. HENRY is an industrious and progressive farmer and highly respected citizen of Custer county, where he has prestige as a representative of an old and honored pioneer family. Further distinction is his in that he can claim Custer county as the place of his nativity.

Mr. Henry was born in the district known as Stop Table, west of Callaway, this county, and is a son of Josephus W. and Margaret (Atwood) Henry, the former of whom was born at Edinburg, Johnson county, Indiana, in 1842, and the latter of whom likewise was a native of the old Hoosier state. In the early '80s Josephus W. Henry came with his family to Nebraska and numbered himself among the pioneer settlers of Custer county. He became a substantial farmer and valued citizen, was a Republican in politics, was affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and he and his wife were members of the Baptist church. Of their nine children six are living,—Samuel M., James W., Joseph F., Peter N., Mrs. Minnie Carr, and Mrs. Catherine Blixt.

Peter N. Henry remained with his parents until he had attained to his legal majority, and in the meanwhile he had assisted his father in the work of the pioneer farm and attended the country school during the winter terms. In choosing a vocation he wisely adopted that under whose influences he had been reared, and he has devoted his attention to the basic industries of agriculture and stock-raising, with an attendant success which demonstrates his energy and good judgment. Mr. Henry is the owner of 200 acres of excellent land, in the vicinity of Callaway, his well improved farm being situated nine miles south of that village, besides which he owns an attractive and comfortable residence at Callaway. In

an industrial way he gives his attention to diversified agriculture and stock-raising, and while he has never been active in politics he gives his support to the Republican party, co-operates with his fellow citizens in the furtherance of measures advanced for the general welfare of the community, and is loyal to all civic duties and responsibilities.

At Broken Bow, on the 24th of November, 1908, Judge A. R. Humphrey solemnized the marriage of Mr. Henry to Miss Elizabeth Osborne, a daughter of David M. and Mary E. (Gilbert) Osborne, who were born in Indiana and who now reside at Callaway, Custer county, their other children being as here noted: Ollie, who is the wife of Joseph D. Haunstine; Alwilda, who is the wife of Arthur Ashley; and Scott, C. Wesley, Noah C., and Francis M., all of whom remain at the parental home. Mr. and Mrs. Henry have no children.

CHARLES E. REED. — One of the young men of sterling worth in Custer county, who was born, educated, reared and married here, is Charles E. Reed, who belongs to an early settled and highly respected family of the county. Charles E. Reed was born in Custer county, December 7, 1895, one of a family of nine children born to his parents, F. S. and Amy (Jacobson) Reed. The mother of Mr. Reed was born at Crete, Nebraska, and died in Custer county, January 14, 1918, aged fifty-three years and ten months. The father was born in Illinois and is an extensive agriculturist in this county.

Charles E. Reed obtained his education in the public schools. Farming has been his chosen vocation and at the present time he is working with his father, in order to have an unusual harvest in the time of war stress, when loyal and patriotic men all over the land have been offering their lives on the field of battle, and when others, far away from the stage of conflict, have been making superhuman efforts, in their occupations and activities, to help the cause for which the stupendous world war has been waged. At time of this writing Mr. Reed was placed in Class 4-A of the selective draft.

Mr. Reed was married February 26, 1917, at Broken Bow, Nebraska, to Miss Flossie Palmer, who was born in Custer county, she being a daughter of John B. and Mary A. (Kensell) Palmer and a granddaughter of Henry V. Kensell. The father of Mrs. Reed resides on his ranch, which is located seven miles southwest of Broken Bow. Mr. and Mrs. Palmer came to Custer county in 1884

and settled eight miles southwest of Broken Bow, at a time when they had to freight all their supplies from Kearney, a distance of sixty-five miles. They had a family of four sons and two daughters, as follows: Edward F. Palmer is deceased; Jasper I. is at home; Clarence E. is a member of Company E, Fourth Infantry, American expeditionary forces in France; Joseph E., who died from wounds received in the trenches in France, June 16, 1918, will have his name perpetuated as the first Custer county hero to give his life in the world war; Flossie is the wife of Charles E. Reed of this sketch; and Ollie remains with her parents. In the season of 1918 Mr. Reed and his father have 250 acres in corn and 250 acres in small grain, and their prospects are very encouraging as to the abundance of the yield on both sections. Mr. and Mrs. Reed have one child, Alice Lorraine, born September 26, 1918.

THOMAS NORBURY.—Custer county has had many men of worth who have finally passed from the scene of life, and a notable one of these was the late Thomas Norbury, who for many years was president of the Seven Valleys Bank, at Callaway, this county. He was an unusual man in many ways, and during a part of his life was a traveler and a pioneer in different lands, his experiences giving him a wide knowledge of men and affairs. He possessed literary ability that won him notice as a magazine writer, and he was also an astute business man and able financier. For more than a quarter of a century he lived in Custer county, and during that time, through his energy, encouragement, and capital, some of the most stable business enterprises here were organized and established on firm foundations.

Thomas Norbury was born at Knutsford, Cheshire, England, December 28, 1841, and died at Callaway, Custer county, Nebraska, July 25, 1915. He was the only child of John and Ann (Daniels) Norbury. His father was a master builder and as the youth grew up, when not attending school, he learned the mason's trade under his father. In 1859 his father consented that he should make the voyage to Australia, hoping the sea air would restore the youth to health, which desirable result was realized. When Thomas Norbury reached Australia, with two companions he began to prospect for gold, and they located a claim on which they were working when a telegram reached him that his beloved father was dying. Hastily disposing of his interests for almost nothing, the dutiful son has-

tened back to England, where he found his father on the road to recovery and, in fact, he lived many years afterward. In the meanwhile the abandoned claim in Australia was later fully developed and became known as the famous Williams Creek mine, estimated to be worth millions of pounds.

Mr. Norbury remained in England until about 1860 and during those years wrote voluminously for the magazines. He then once more decided to try mining for gold, and in this quest he visited the mines in the vicinity of Caribou, British Columbia. He continued to prospect for the precious metal for several years, and before feeling ready to settle down to a quiet business life he made two trips around the world. In answer to another call from his father, he then returned to England, and subsequently he went into the building business at Leigh, in Lancashire. He had a large business there, and in his own yards dressed the lumber for use in the houses he built for rent. He became a man of local prominence and served on the town board of Leigh. Mr. Norbury then crossed the ocean once more, and landed in the United States. In 1888 he came to Custer county, Nebraska, locating at Callaway in June of that year. He immediately became interested in the building up of this section and was one of the first to buy shares in the flouring mill and other enterprises which he helped to put on a paying basis. He was one of the leading organizers of the Seven Valleys Bank of Callaway and was its president for many years.

On the 20th of August, 1893, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Norbury to Miss Agnes L. Tyson, at Cottonwood farm, near Callaway. Mrs. Norbury was born March 10, 1864, on Clarence street, Bolton, Lancashire, England. Her parents were William and Jane (Roberts) Tyson. On the paternal side her grandparents were Roger and Betty (Burkitt) Tyson, and on the maternal side her grandparents were Joseph and Mary (Davis) Roberts. Her father was born on the border of Cumberland, in the north of England, and her mother was born October 3, 1827, at Nantlyn, county of Denbeigh, North Wales. Mr. Tyson was an upholsterer by trade. His children were as here noted: Adelaide J., Birkett, and Barbara are deceased; Miss Catherine A. lives in England; William, who is president of the Seven Valleys Bank at Callaway, is a Royal Highlander, a Republican and a member of the Episcopal church, his wife, Annie, being a daughter of William Norbury; Agnes L. is the widow of Thomas Norbury, the honored subject of this memoir; Fannie, who is the wife of Edward Warbur-

ton, a druggist in England, has one child, and they belong to the Congregational church; and George, who is a member of the Church of England and of the Masonic fraternity, owns a cotton mill at Leigh, England.

To Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Norbury a son and daughter were born—Thomas W. and Fanny J. Thomas W. Norbury had four years of training in the Kearney Military Academy and then attended the Bradley Polytechnic School, at Peoria, Illinois. Thereafter he was bookkeeper in the Seven Valleys Bank, a position which he was filling when he enlisted for service in the world war, as bugler in Company B, One Hundred and Eighth Military Police, Thirty-third Division, Illinois infantry. At time of this writing he is "somewhere in France." He is a member of the Episcopal church and is affiliated with the Royal Highlanders. Miss Fannie J. Norbury was graduated from the Callaway high school and afterward was for one year a student in the Nebraska State Normal School at Kearney. She resides with her mother at Callaway and they are prominent in social life. Mrs. Norbury is a communicant of the Episcopal church and she holds membership in the Royal Highlanders and the Order of the Eastern Star.

JOHN H. RUSSELL.—In every community will be found quiet, industrious business men following different vocations, without whom the ordinary industries of civilized life could not go on, and very often it will be found that these are self-made men, having, unaided, built up their own fortunes. In this connection attention may be called to John H. Russell, who is the leading stone mason at Callaway, an experienced man in his line of work, and also a citizen who is held in esteem on account of his sterling character. John H. Russell was born at Gates, in Custer county, Nebraska, December 25, 1882, and is a son of William H. and Elizabeth E. (Bowman) Russell, the latter of whom was born in West Virginia, a daughter of Abraham Bowman. William H. Russell was born in Indiana but later in life became a farmer in Custer county, Nebraska. Of his two children, John H. is the elder, and Jennie A., who died at Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1903, was the wife of Trem N. Denman.

John H. Russell remained at home with his parents until he was twelve years old, attending school and making himself useful to his father, and later on he was a student for one year in the Lincoln high school. He has taken care of himself ever since he left the

parental roof. He began as driver of a delivery wagon for J. C. Bowen, and remembers how proud he was when he thereby earned his first suit of "store" clothes. In 1897 he applied himself to learning the mason's trade and afterward, for seven years, he was in the employ of William C. Dodson, a prominent general contractor at Lincoln. In 1904 Mr. Russell came back to Custer county. For six months he was connected with a hotel at Merna, but with that exception he has been in business as a stone mason continuously ever since. He has completed the stone work on many of the important buildings at Callaway and other places, and his reputation is that of a steady, reliable and competent workman.

Mr. Russell was married, at Broken Bow, Nebraska, June 3, 1905, to Mrs. Vinnie Barker, who is a daughter of Jesse M. and Indiana (Carter) Ash, and she has brothers and sisters as follows: Mrs. Elva Wright, Mrs. Blanche Mooney, Alonzo, Ward, Harry, Herbert, Boyd, George, and Corbett. By her former marriage Mrs. Russell has one son, Richard Barker, and Mr. and Mrs. Russell have three daughters, Nina, Della, and Lulu, all of whom are attending school. Mr. Russell has never been very active in politics but he has his own political preferences and keeps well informed on all the great issues of the present time, as well as showing lively interest in public affairs in his own nation, state, county, and community.

ROBERT E. GIVEN.—On the roll of Custer county's early settlers who have passed to their reward, mention should be made of Robert Elliot Given, who was born in Pemberton county, Virginia, March 25, 1826. On the 4th of January, 1855, he was united in marriage to Rachel M. Jordan, a native of the same county as her husband, her birth having occurred June 13, 1831. They were farming age of eighty-seven years, a privilege which people and in 1870 they became residents of Whiteside county, Illinois. In 1879 they numbered themselves among the early settlers of Fillmore county, Nebraska. In 1884 they came to Custer county, where Robert E. Given secured as a homestead the southwest quarter of section 28, township 18, range 21, where he became one of the early settlers of this part of the county. His first home was the primitive sod house, and he shared in the hardships and privations incident to those early days. He later bought a quarter-section adjoining his original homestead on the west, where he and his wife passed the remainder of their days and where his death occurred

April 3, 1899, his wife having preceded him to eternal rest, January 19th of the same year. A few days prior to his death he told his minister that he had been a Christian for sixty years. He and his wife had been lifelong members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Robert E. Given met with success in his farming operations, and at the time of his death he was the owner of three quarter-sections of land. He and his wife had a family of nine children: William is a resident of Lincoln, Nebraska; Sampson is engaged in agricultural pursuits in Custer county; Elizabeth is the wife of J. S. Kennard, of Seward, Nebraska; Mansel, who died two years ago, lived in Chicago; Samuel is a resident of Whiteside county, Illinois; John died in infancy; Ellis W., who owns and operates the old home farm, is individually represented on other pages of this volume; E. S. is residing at Pueblo, Colorado; and Deborah is the wife of James Anderson, of Emporia, Kansas.

Pioneer conditions were still in evidence on every hand when Robert E. Given settled in Custer county, and he lived to see vast changes take place in the community he helped to develop.

MICHAEL McCARTY is one of the native sons of Custer county, and was born on his father's homestead, in Dale valley, September 28, 1888, a son of Robert D. McCarty, of whom extended mention is made elsewhere in this volume.

Michael McCarty was reared on the farm and acquired his education in the public schools of his native township. As a boy he assisted in the development of the homestead and when a young man of twenty-one years he wisely chose the vocation with which he was familiar. He is now operating a farm of 160 acres, belonging to his father.

For a wife and companion Mr. McCarty chose Miss Irene Dale, a native of Custer county, and they are the parents of three children: Rachel, Laurence, and Leonard. Mr. and Mrs. McCarty are members of the Catholic church and are held in high esteem in the community with which the McCarty family have been identified for thirty-eight years.

CARL R. KRENZ. — Few men in Custer county have been residents here for a longer period than has the gentleman whose name introduces this record, thirty-eight years having come and gone since he cast in his lot with the pioneers of this county.

Carl Rudolph Krenz is a native of Prussia, Germany, where he was born November 27, 1831. He has no knowledge of his parents, both having passed away when he was quite young. He made his home in his native land till he was twenty-two years of age and there he learned the trade of furrier. In 1853 he started for America, and after a trip of three weeks, from Liverpool, England, he landed at Brunswick, Nova Scotia, the voyage being made on a sailing vessel. He went to Boston, Massachusetts, where he found employment until 1859, when he became a resident of Davenport, Iowa, there working at his trade for sixteen years. His next place of residence was in Nebraska City, where he remained two years, after which he went still further west in Nebraska, and located at Grand Island.

Desiring to become a farmer and not possessing the necessary capital with which to purchase land, he came to Custer county in the fall of 1880 and took a homestead of 160 acres, in section 14, township 18, range 22. He also secured a tree claim, in another part of the township, but this he later traded for land adjoining his homestead. His first dwelling here was a dugout, in which the family lived two years. Then was erected a sod house in which the family home was maintained till 1903, when the present commodious frame house was erected.

Those were strenuous times for the settlers, and the hardships and privations they endured can hardly be realized by the present generation. One of the greatest drawbacks to the country was the question of water. It was a long way to the spring on Victoria creek and water was scooped from buffalo-wallows or lagoons till a well could be dug. The first well in Dale valley was dug by Mr. Krenz, in the spring of 1881, on the William Couhig homestead. The nearest market or trading posts were Kearney and Grand Island, and the trip to either of these towns required several days. Mr. Krenz, like other early settlers of Custer county, possessed those qualities which made it possible for him to meet and overcome obstacles, and, as the years passed, success crowned his efforts. Thus to-day he and other pioneers who remain are surrounded with the comforts and blessings which they justly deserve and which the present generation ought to appreciate.

Mr. Krenz has been twice married. His first wife, Wilhelmina, he wedded in Germany. To them were born five children, two of whom are deceased, while those living are Mrs. Bertha Eberling, of Davenport, Iowa; Robert, of the same place; and Julius, a resident of New Mexico.

For his second wife Mr. Krenz chose Miss Catherine Katosky, a native of Germany, and she passed away in 1900. She was the mother of eight children: William, Joseph, and Charles are all residents of Custer county; John resides in Grant county, Nebraska; Almon resides on the old home farm; Anna is unmarried and resides in Iowa; Emma is the wife of Fred Hargerden, of Alliance, Nebraska; Catherine is the wife of Tom Murray and they reside at St. Paul, Minnesota.

Mr. Krenz's religious views coincide with the teachings of the Lutheran church, in the faith of which he was reared, and in politics he is Republican.

Almon Krenz, who now owns the old farm, was born February 3, 1881, in a sod house on the Thomas farm, where his parents lived for a time after they first came to the county. He has always made farming his occupation, and the scene of his operations has been the old homestead. For a wife and helpmeet he chose Miss Daisy Winther, and they have three children: Ray, Rena and Thelma.

Carl Rudolph Krenz has lived retired for several years and has reached the venerable comes to but few persons. He has been an eye-witness to the changes that have taken place in Custer county, and in the work of transformation he has contributed his full share. It is only fair to such as he, as well as to their children and their children's children, that their life record be written and given a place in the history of the county in which they spent the best years of their lives.

WILLIAM E. MARTIN.—Down in the Roten valley, seventeen miles southwest of Callaway, in a splendid farming district, is the well equipped farm of the progressive citizen whose name introduces this sketch.

Mr. Martin was born near Hollister, California, and is a son of John and Clara (Wilkins) Martin, the former a native of Wisconsin, and the latter of Iowa. In the family of John Martin were three sons and one daughter. When William E. Martin was but four years old, his father died, and the mother left California, taking the children back to Iowa, where William was sent to live with his uncle, with whom he remained until he was thirteen years of age. He obtained his early education by attending country school in the winter time, and his boyhood work included catching gophers, picking up rock and cutting wood. After he was thirteen years of age he worked on a farm by the month, for which service he received three dollars per month.

After coming to Nebraska, Mr. Martin set-

tled in Nance county, and on the 12th of September, 1899, in Fullerton, that county, he married Miss Nettie Bishop, a very excellent young lady who was well fitted to be the partner of his joys and sorrows. Mrs. Martin was born in Illinois, and is a daughter of John W. and Elizabeth (Gustine) Bishop, the former a native of Shelby county, Indiana. In the Bishop family were five children—Mrs. Nettie Martin, Arthur E., Ella F., Mary L., and Fred E.

In the Martin home to-day are three children—Erma F., who is a young ninth-grade student; Otha O., who has climbed to the eighth grade; and Kenneth A., who stands on the seventh rung of the educational ladder. All are at home and are promising candidates for future usefulness.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin came to Custer county in 1905 and bought the farm known as the Solomon Yoden place, in Roten valley—a property described above as being seventeen miles southwest of Callaway. Mr. Martin farms 110 acres. He has made his money by mixed farming, in which he has turned off a good many hogs and cattle. He gives some attention to dairying and in 1918 he sold four hundred and seventy-four dollars' worth of cream from seven cows. When it comes to handling stock on the farm Mr. Martin has a notion that only the best quality pays, and accordingly he keeps the best that can be procured. He has a pleasant home, a profitable farm, is thrifty and prosperous, and he and his wife enjoy the confidence and respect of their neighbors. Their religious affiliation is with the Methodist Episcopal church.

LESTER D. KIRKPATRICK.—Here is a title-line name widely known in Custer county; here is the story of a young man who is essentially a Custer county product, who is at the present time a very extensive operator in food production, and who has already laid the foundations of an unusually successful career.

Lester D. Kirkpatrick was born in Broken Bow, Nebraska, October 30, 1885, and is the second son of John S. and Isabel (Croft) Kirkpatrick, his father having been a well known early-day lawyer whose residence was in the county-seat town. Lester D. Kirkpatrick is one of a family of seven children—John C., Lester D., Harrison M., Ina B., Ruth, Marie, and Marion. His sister Ina is a law graduate. His youngest brother, Marion, is at the time of this writing, somewhere on the French coast, in the naval service of the United States. John C., the eldest brother, is estab-

lished on a ranch of 3,000 acres, owned by his father, in Brown county, Nebraska. Harrison M. is a lawyer by profession and is engaged in practice at Idabel, Oklahoma. Ruth is the wife of Franz Jansen and they reside in Kansas City. Marie is the wife of Willard M. Bohart, of Plattsmouth, Missouri.

Lester D. Kirkpatrick left Broken Bow with his parents when his father moved to Lincoln, after having been appointed a commissioner of the supreme court, on the bench of which he served four years. Lester was graduated in the Lincoln high school and also took a course in the Lincoln Business College. In 1904 he enlisted in the coast artillery division of the regular army, stationed at Fort Hunt, Virginia. He served thirteen months and, not liking regular army life, bought his discharge and went to Kansas City, where his father's family was located. There he attended the Kansas City Business College, which gave him an additional educational equipment. When through school he returned to Custer county and took charge of one of his father's farms, about eight miles west of Broken Bow.

March 2, 1907, recorded the marriage of Mr. Kirkpatrick to Gertrude Reinhard, a daughter of John and Mary Reinhard, living near McKinley postoffice in Custer county. An extended reference to this family is found elsewhere in this volume.

The family circle of Mr. and Mrs. Lester D. Kirkpatrick has been increased by the advent of three children — Marion, aged eight; Helen, aged six, and Eugene, aged four (1918). These are bright young children, full of hope and promise. At the present time Mr. Kirkpatrick is operating a ranch which belongs to his father and is located in the Sells valley, seventeen miles south of Callaway. The holdings comprise 1,540 acres, of which 750 are in cultivation and used for crop production. The remainder of the land is used for grazing purposes and has helped to produce army beef, so much needed in connection with the great world war. Aside from his local operations Mr. Kirkpatrick deals in stock, which he buys and sells, and he is considered a "live wire" in the community. He expects the home place to ship out each year at least 200 head of cattle and 100 head of hogs. This makes Mr. Kirkpatrick an extensive producer and a very valuable citizen, especially at this time. In politics, Mr. Kirkpatrick affiliates with the Democratic party. Both he and his wife have a good standing in the community and are rated as "A No. 1" in all progressive movements.

JOSEPH D. HAUENSTINE. — The farmers of the Callaway district seem to be uniformly prosperous and possessed of a common thrift that has distinguished their locality. This story concerns a man who has contributed and is contributing to that reputation.

Joseph D. Hauenstine was born August 10, 1859, in Chatham, Licking county, Ohio. He is a son of Jacob H. and Lucinda (Dull) Hauenstine, who were both natives of Pennsylvania and were very estimable people. The stork served them well and brought to their domicile fourteen children, only five of whom are living at the present time. They are Jacob W., Joseph D. (the subject of this sketch), Mrs. Matilda Bellmire, Mrs. Lucinda Readhead, and Mrs. Ida F. Byler.

During his early life Joseph D. Hauenstine attended the country school and formed studious and industrious habits which have shaped the course of his entire life. His first money was spent for a slate and pencil, and very early in his career he formed a habit — which developed into a hobby — of making scrapbooks out of clippings from newspapers. These books he has preserved through the years, and to-day they show not only his wide range of reading but also the course his mind has taken in all public events. In addition to his scrapbook filing, he has kept a faithful diary, and some day these daily accounts will be very interesting reading. His father, although a cooper by occupation, owned a farm, and here young J. O., as he was familiarly called, put in his first years and began the reading which has made him a well informed man on all subjects.

Mr. Hauenstine came to Nebraska in 1882 and to Custer county in 1886. Here he took a homestead and tree claim. During the drouth period of 1894 he relinquished his homestead to the man who held a mortgage on it, for \$350. The farm is now a very valuable one.

August 24, 1892, at Lexington, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Hauenstine to Miss Minerva O. Osborn, who was born in Kentucky, the daughter of David M. and Mary (Gilbert) Osborn, both of whom were natives of the Hoosier state. In the Osborn family were seven children. Aside from Mrs. Hauenstine they were Alwilda Ashley, O. Scott, Wesley, Lizzie Henry, Noah C., and Francis Osborn. The family belonged to the Evangelical church.

Mr. and Mrs. Hauenstine established and have maintained a comfortable home and they have reared a family of five children, all of

whom are promising candidates for future usefulness. The children are Florence, Elsie, Edith, Raymond, and Hazel I., all of whom are in school—either at home or in the high school at Callaway, where Miss Edith is pursuing her studies.

The hardships and trials of pioneer days are known to Mr. and Mrs. Hauenstine. They have weathered storms and drouths, and they have surmounted difficulties that would have discouraged less dauntless spirits. They have conquered their difficulties and are to-day well and pleasantly located, surrounded by the rewards of their toil. They own the original tree claim and the total area of their Custer county holdings is 375 acres, beside which Mr. Hauenstine still owns the old homestead of his father in Knox county, Ohio. He and his wife, who has been a true helpmeet, have made their money in farming and stock-raising. They have emphasized dairying and to-day their dairying operations are made more profitable than ever, by the use of an underground silo which is unique in its construction and very profitable as a forage preserver for milch stock and all grades of young cattle.

The Hauenstines are regarded as fine people, and are well esteemed by their neighbors. Mr. Hauenstine exercises a good deal of independence in politics.

CHARLES B. PEARCE is one of the most prominent and prosperous exponents of farm enterprise in the Arnold section of Custer county and is a liberal and progressive citizen who well merits recognition in this publication.

Mr. Pearce claims the fine old Hoosier state as the place of his nativity and is a scion of one of the sterling pioneer families of that commonwealth. He was born in Sullivan county, Indiana, on the 27th of July, 1865, and is a son of Washington Allen Pearce and Susanna (McClure) Pearce, the former of whom was born in Sullivan county, Indiana, in 1813, and the latter of whom was born in Kentucky, in 1821, she having been eight years of age at the time of her parents' removal to Indiana, where she was reared to maturity and where her marriage was solemnized. Washington A. Pearce continued to be identified with agricultural industry in his native state until 1876, when he removed with his family to Missouri, where he passed the remainder of his life, the subject of this review being the youngest of the family of eleven children.

In the public schools of Indiana Charles B. Pearce acquired his early educational discipline and he was about eleven years of age at the time of the family removal to Missouri, where

he continued his studies in the public schools, when opportunity afforded, and where also he gained full fellowship with the sturdy work of the home farm.

In 1887, within a short time after attaining to his legal majority, Mr. Pearce, animated by his full share of ambition and self-reliance, made his way to Custer county, Nebraska, where he cast in his lot with the pioneers of that day. Here he pre-empted a quarter-section of land, and the same constituted the nucleus around which he has developed his present large and valuable landed estate, his home ranch to-day comprising a full section of 640 acres, of which 250 acres are maintained under a high state of cultivation, and here Mr. Pearce devotes himself vigorously and successfully to diversified agriculture and stock-raising. He gives special attention to the breeding and growing of hogs, and for several years past two car-loads of hogs have been marketed from this farm each year. On the place Mr. Pearce keeps an average of forty head of cattle and twenty-five head of good horses, while the yards show a fine flock of thoroughbred Rhode Island Red chickens, the poultry exhibit being really one of the attractions of the farm. Enterprising policies and wise management characterize the varied operations of Mr. Pearce, and thus he gains the maximum returns from his well ordered activities as a representative husbandman of Custer county.

The domestic relations of Mr. Pearce had their inception in 1891, when he led to the marriage altar Miss Sylvia Campbell, who was born in Iowa and who came with her mother to Custer county in 1884. Mrs. Pearce has proved the gracious and popular chatelaine of the pleasant home and has contributed greatly to the success of her husband. They have four children, concerning whom the following record is consistently entered, the ages noted being applicable at the opening of the year 1919: Vera, aged twenty-six years, is a Red Cross nurse and at the time of this writing is stationed at Camp Cody, New Mexico. She is a graduate of the training school for nurses that is maintained in connection with St. Luke's hospital in the city of Denver, Colorado, and has been in the Red Cross service for several months. Cecil, aged seventeen years; Gladys, aged thirteen; and Nolan, aged ten, all remain at the parental home and are duly profiting by the advantages of the public schools.

With naught of exaggeration or inconsistency, it may be stated that Mr. and Mrs. Pearce are leaders in their community, where they have been active promoters and supporters

of all helpful enterprises. Mr. Pearce has contributed community service from time to time by holding some of the local district or township offices, and at the time of this writing he is giving efficient service as township clerk. He is a successful, progressive farmer who attributes much of his success to a faithful following of the mixed-crop policy in his farm activities. He and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church and are popular factors in the best social life of their home community.

JOHN T. MARONEY. — Credit this young farmer of Irish extraction to the Anselmo region. Give Anselmo credit for his thrift and enterprise, and let it be known that Custer county, in common with most other sections of this great country, is deeply indebted to Irish-American blood.

John T. Maroney is a native of Custer county. It was here that he discovered America in 1889. He is the son of Timothy Maroney, a familiar character in Anselmo. In the father's family were two children, John T. and his sister, Mary Knoell, of New Helena. John T. Maroney, himself a native of the county, married a native daughter of the county when, on April 26, 1911, he led to the marriage altar Miss Ora Ross, who was born in the year 1890 and is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jonas Ross. Since their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Maroney have maintained a representative Custer county home and by provident energy have supplied it with necessities and comforts as occasion required. Three children furnish the household with sunshine and banish lonesomeness. Kenneth, aged six years, Paul, aged four years, and Richard, aged one year (1918), will soon be large enough to assume the management of household affairs. Mr. Maroney and his family live on his father's land, upon which are good improvements and 160 acres of which are in cultivation. He has a good grade of stock, which consists of fifty head of cattle, twenty-one head of horses, and ten head of fine-grade hogs. These form a foundation of the herds Mr. Maroney expects to own when a few more years have come and gone. They constitute the nucleus of a fortune which he anticipates will be large enough to permit his retirement after the strenuous years of middle life are past. He and his wife have lived eight years on the place and are making good in more ways than one. John's early education was in the public schools and later in the Long public school of Omaha, of which he is a graduate. He is in-

dependent in politics and stands for anything that is helpful to the community. Speaking of the opportunities in this country for making money, he remarks that when eleven years of age, he made his first money by loading hay, and for this service his employer gave him two dollars, which was almost, if not quite, a man's wages. Mr. and Mrs. Maroney are members of the Catholic church. They are good neighbors and enjoy the confidence of their many friends.

HOMER M. SULLIVAN, of Broken Bow, Nebraska, was born in Davis county, Iowa, May 1, 1857, and is a son of David L. and Rebecca (Morris) Sullivan. He began the study of law in the office of Payne & Eckleberger, at Bloomfield, Iowa. He taught school until 1883, when he was admitted to the bar. In the fall of 1884 he came to Broken Bow and began the practice of his profession with Augustin R. Humphrey, with whom he was associated until 1890. He then formed a partnership with C. L. Gutterson, and this alliance continued until he was appointed judge of the district court, by Governor Holcomb, to fill the vacancy caused by the election of Judge William L. Greene to congress.

In the fall of 1897, Judge Sullivan was elected to fill out the term, and he was re-elected for the full term in 1899. He was county attorney of Custer county for one term, 1887-88.

Judge Sullivan affiliated with the Republican party until 1896, when he allied himself with the Populist party. In November, 1880, he married Miss Ella Turner, of Agency City, Iowa, and five children, four daughters and one son, have been born to them — Ina, Jennie, Lynn, Alma, and Elma.

AUGUST OSTRAND. — A resident of Custer county during a period of thirty-five years, Mr. Ostrand here acquired a homestead on the 9th of June, 1884, since which time he has advanced himself to a position of substantial prominence among the agriculturists of his community, near Mason City, where he is now conducting general farm operations on a half-section of land, with due attention given to diversified agriculture and stock-raising. Mr. Ostrand is a native of Sweden, where he was born January 5, 1850, and he is a son of John R. and Breta (Oleson) Ostrand, who passed their entire lives in their native land.

August Ostrand was educated in the schools of his native country, where also he early learned the lessons of practical industry. In

1872 he came to the United States and found employment in a furnace manufactory at DeKalb, Illinois. He later returned to Sweden, where he remained for some time, and upon coming again to the United States he sought ways and means to lay the foundation for individual independence and success. In 1884 he came to Custer county, Nebraska, and made permanent settlement. He secured in that year a homestead claim near Mason City, and this property he still owns. To the same he has added from time to time, as his financial resources have warranted and his judgment dictated, with the result that he is now the owner of a half-section of land, in addition to other valuable real estate. His residence farm is situated in section 6, township 13, range 18, where he has an attractive residence and other substantial buildings, as well as being provided with modern implements and machinery with which to lighten farm labor and add to the success of his operations. While general farming has been his principal business, Mr Ostrand has been successful also in the raising of cattle and hogs, and each year he ships livestock to the leading markets. He is progressive and energetic and maintains a reputation for integrity in business and for public spirit as a citizen. He is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and the Modern Woodmen of America, and the religious faith of the family is that of the Presbyterian church.

On the 30th of November, 1879, Mr. Ostrand was united in marriage to Miss Breta Carolina Olsen, and concerning their children the following brief record is available: Constantine, who was born in Sweden, is now engaged in farming in Custer county; Anna is the wife of Harley Johnson, likewise an agriculturist in this county; Lavina is the wife of L. G. Kleckner; John R., at the time of this writing, is with the American Expeditionary Forces in France; Hattie is a popular teacher in the public schools of Mason City; Bettie is the wife of Lee Fisher, a farmer of this county; William and Benjamin remain at the parental home; and Clara is attending the public schools at Mason City.

E. C. HOUSE.—One of the oldest real-estate, loan, and insurance enterprises of Broken Bow is that established in 1886 by E. C. House. The founder was an excellent candidate for a successful real-estate business, for he had formerly had experience in the same line, and the field which he chose as his scene of operations was an advantageous one, both from the town and country standpoints, the while he pursued clean methods and made his

word and judgment respected. The result is a business which is not only financially profitable but has also placed the community in a favorable light before those living in adjacent towns and country. The business is now conducted under the title of E. C. House & Son.

E. C. House was born at Moundville, Marquette county, Wisconsin, June 28, 1858, a son of James David and Francis (Turner) House, natives of London, England, where they married and where several of their children were born. Coming to the United States in 1848, the family settled in Wisconsin, where the father became a successful farmer, and where his death occurred in 1865. He was a staunch Republican, and he and his wife were consistent members of the Episcopal church, four of their sons and one daughter having their names registered in the church at St. Johnswood, England. There were ten children in the family, of whom eight are living: Nate J., who is a retired citizen of Canton, South Dakota, served four years and three months as a soldier of the Union during the Civil war; John, who is a retired citizen of Morris, Minnesota, enlisted for one year in the Union army at the outbreak of the Civil war, was wounded in the first battle of Bull Run, where he was taken prisoner, and spent the following eleven months in Libby and Andersonville Prisons before being exchanged and honorably discharged; William is living retired at Arlington, Iowa; Eliza is the wife of George Falkner, a farmer of Glenwood, Minnesota; Julia is the wife of J. E. Cowen, a retired citizen of Fresno, California; Mrs. Anna Bates is a widow and resides at Arlington, Iowa; Emma is the wife of Mr. Broten, who is in the cream-separator business at Grand Forks, Minnesota.

E. C. House received his education in the common schools of Portage City, Wisconsin, and for his first occupation learned the saddlery business, in which he was engaged for some time, subsequently turning his attention to the insurance field. Later he displayed talent as a real-estate operator and insurance salesman, and his business grew to such importance that he subordinated all else to it. In 1886 he came to Broken Bow, where he established himself in the same line, and in more recent years he admitted his son to partnership, under the firm style of E. C. House & Son. The prosperity which has attended this firm has been the direct result of industry and the following out of an honorable policy in conducting a general real-estate, loan, and insurance business. Mr. House is a Royal Arch Mason, and during an early day he held the chairs of senior deacon and junior warden in the chapter. He is a stalwart Republican,

and he and Mrs. House, as well as their children, belong to Saint John's church. Protestant Episcopal.

July 2, 1890, Mr. House married Miss Susie I. Cole, who was born at Champaign, Illinois. She is a daughter of W. D. Cole, an agriculturist, who came to Broken Bow in 1888. To Mr. and Mrs. House there have been born two children: Adella is the wife of Harry B. Tierney, a managing chemist with interests at Antioch, Sheridan county, Nebraska; and Nathaniel J., still a bachelor, is junior member of the firm of E. C. House & Son, he being a graduate of the Broken Bow high school, class of 1913. Nathaniel J. House, who was born August 20, 1894, is a blue lodge and chapter Mason, and is one of the energetic and progressive young business men of Broken Bow.

RICHARD BELLIS.—Of the old and honored residents of Custer county, few have combined in greater or more successful degrees the qualities which make for individual success and those which are helpful to their fellow men than has Richard Bellis, prosperous farmer and extensive landholder, and minister of the Church of God. Mr. Bellis has reached the age of eighty-one years and, while he has somewhat relaxed from the strenuous labors of a decade or so ago, he still attends to the daily routine of his farming affairs, and continues to minister to the spiritual needs of his church's people.

Richard Bellis is a native of Wales, born February 14, 1837, his parents being Robert and Hannah (Bill) Bellis, neither of whom ever left their native land. Robert Bellis began life as a butcher, but in later years adopted the vocation of farming. By his first wife he had a family of four children, all deceased, and by his second marriage he had eight children, of whom Richard is the only survivor. Richard Bellis was given his early education in the public schools of Wales, and while his training was not far out of the ordinary his mind was so receptive and retentive that he gained a much better schooling than the majority of his companions with the same advantages. Throughout his life he has continued to be a great reader and keen observer, with the result that today he is an extremely well educated man and a clear and logical thinker. Shortly after his eighteenth birthday he left his home in Wales and came to America. He arrived in New York City February 22, 1855. For one year thereafter he remained in the Empire state, and he then removed to Illinois, where he made his home for two years and was employed as clerk. He came to Nebraska in

1879 and was numbered among the pioneers of Hamilton county, where he bought land and resided for ten years, carrying on farming. It is to be understood that when he came to this country he had little or no capital, that his early struggles were exceedingly hard, and that every dollar he possesses to-day has been gained through his own efforts. When he left Hamilton county, Mr. Bellis came to Custer county and homesteaded a property, and here he has continued to reside to the present time. He erected all the buildings which are now located on his quarter-section, in sections 9 and 39, in addition to which he made all the other improvements which make this property so valuable and productive. Carrying on mixed farming operations in an industrious way and according to modern methods of procedure, he won success such as comes to but few, and he is now able to enjoy the comforts and conveniences which are the rewards of a life of earnest effort, clean living, and probity.

On the 29th of May, 1861, Mr. Bellis wedded Miss Hattie Cornelia Sweezey, who was born in Illinois, and after their marriage they located on a farm near Winnebago, Illinois, where Mr. Bellis continued his active association with farm enterprise for the ensuing sixteen years. Mrs. Bellis passed to the life eternal in January, 1877, secure in the faith of the Church of God. Of the three children of this union only one is living—May, who is the wife of Frank McFarland, a farmer in the vicinity of Newell, Iowa.

In 1881 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Bellis to Mrs. Nancy J. (Stark) Stine, widow of John Stine, who had served as a soldier in the Civil war, the three children of this union being Tillie J., Ellen May, and La Nora Ann Stine. Mrs. Bellis claims Indiana as the place of her nativity; she is a representative of a sterling pioneer family of the Hoosier state, and is seventy-one years of age.

In 1892 Mr. Bellis was ordained as minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, by the Nebraska eldership of the Churches of God in Nebraska. At the time of the present writing he has charge of the Church of God at Berwyn, Custer county. It is interesting to record that Mr. Bellis personally revised this sketch, and that without the aid of glasses. For twenty-six years he has preached locally, having spent eleven years of that time at Weissert, without interruption, and at times during his career of spreading the Gospel he has traveled many miles by team to address the people. The life of Mr. Bellis has been a long, useful



MR. AND MRS. RICHARD BELLIS

and inspiring one, and furnishes a lesson which cannot fail to have a good effect upon the minds of the young—those who are starting life without friends or helpful influences, just as Mr. Bellis did many years ago. His achievements make him deserving of the reverence and esteem in which he is uniformly held in his part of Custer county.

ROBERT McCARTY.—Born and reared on the farm which is now his home, Robert McCarty represents one of the pioneer families of Custer county. September 3, 1890, was the date of his birth and he is a son of Robert D. McCarty, who is a retired farmer residing in Merna and whose life story, as a pioneer in Custer county, will be found elsewhere in this volume.

Robert McCarty married Miss Dora Ellen Thomas, who was likewise born in Custer county. She is a daughter of Charles Thomas, who was only a boy when he came to Custer county and who, when old enough, secured a homestead, his life record being given elsewhere in this history.

Robert McCarty is successfully engaged in farming operations on the old homestead. He and his wife are members of the Catholic church and are prominent in the younger social circles of the community. They have one child, Lucille M., born February 19, 1918.

OLIVER H. MEVIS.—Broken Bow counts on her role of honored and departed citizens none who left behind more numerous or substantial evidences of association with its affairs than did the late Oliver H. Mevis. As a soldier, business man, investor and public-spirited citizen, he came and went among the people of his town from his arrival in 1890 until his death, August 5, 1913, and there remains in his wake an impression of practical usefulness, and of genuine, dependable character—due in part to his sturdy ancestry, but more directly traceable to his untiring zeal and ready recognition of opportunity.

Mr. Mevis was born at Syracuse New York, January 22, 1836, a son of Hiram Mevis. His father was born in one of the eastern states and his mother in Holland. At an early date the family located at Lansing, Michigan, where Oliver H. Mevis secured the advantages to be obtained by attendance in the public schools. He was still a young man when he left Michigan and removed to St. Paul, Minnesota, where he was located at the outbreak of the Civil war. With youthful enthusiasm and

patriotism he offered his services to his country, and during the following three years he fought gallantly as a member of Company D, Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. His service was crowded with experience, including wounds and capture by the enemy, and was characterized not only by the utmost courage in the face of danger but also by unremitting fidelity to duty. When he received his honorable discharge, Mr. Mevis went to Chicago, where he was united in marriage with Miss Anna Kernan, who was born near Three Rivers, Canada. Mrs. Mevis died, without issue, in 1896. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Mevis went to Galesburg, Illinois, where Mr. Mevis founded a dry-goods business, with a small stock of goods. Later he disposed of his interests there and went to Hillsboro, where, with a little larger stock, he engaged in a similar venture and carried on a successful business for a number of years. His advent in Nebraska occurred in 1879, in which year he settled at Fremont, where his business activities continued for eleven years. During all this time he had been constantly pushing further and further ahead on the road to success, and in 1890 he came to Broken Bow and opened a pretentious establishment, which immediately attracted the patronage of the citizens of the community. This was the leading store of its kind and continued to be under Mr. Mevis' capable management and wise and far-sighted direction right up to the time of his death,—and this in spite of the fact that he was an invalid for three or four years preceding his demise. His guiding hand and alert mind were always felt in the conduct of the business which he had founded and which was still growing and expanding when death called him to his final rest. Mr. Mevis started his career with practically nothing, and he worked his way steadily upward until he was one of the substantial men of a community in which there were numerous citizens of independent means. In doing so he never found it necessary to take an unfair advantage of others, and his life record contains no dark pages in regard to disabling others that he might himself go unscathed in the battle for commercial supremacy. He made numerous wise investments, exercising his excellent business judgment and his faith in his community at one and the same time, and among his purchases was a large block at the southeast corner of the Public Square, a property which is still owned by his widow. Mr. Mevis was a faithful member of the Catholic church, to which Mrs. Mevis also belongs.

He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and was a Republican in his political views.

October 27, 1897, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Mevis to Mary Elizabeth Boures, who was born at St. Paul, Minnesota, a daughter of Thomas and Amelia (Kernan) Boures, who were united in marriage at St. Paul, Minnesota, the father having been born at Three Rivers, Canada, and the mother at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

CANUTE LEE, who is industriously and successfully engaged in farming in the vicinity of Mason City, and whose specialty is the raising of cattle, hogs, and horses, is one of the sons of Norway who have found prosperity in Custer county through the exercise of natural ability, good management, and persistent industry. His entire career has been devoted to the pursuits of agriculture, for from the time of his arrival in this country, as a child of three years, he has always lived on a farm and his interests have always been centered in the pursuits of the soil.

Mr. Lee was born in Norway, July 14, 1852, and is a son of Stephen B. and Ellen Lee, also natives of that country. He was the third in order of birth, the others of the children being: Bruns, who is now retired from active pursuits and makes his home at Los Angeles, California; Nels, who died and is buried at Broken Bow; Martha, who makes her home with her brother at Los Angeles; Andrew and Margaret, who are deceased; and Louis, who met his death at Los Angeles, California.

Canute Lee was about three years old when his parents came to the United States, in 1855, the first residence being in Henry county, Illinois, where the father was engaged in farming for five years. From the Prairie state the family moved to Crawford county, Wisconsin, in 1860, and there the son Canute attended the public schools during and after the period of the Civil war. He was brought up as a farmer, and after a career of only ordinary success in Wisconsin he came to Custer county, Nebraska, and here, in 1889, he purchased his present property. The home of his parents was three miles north of Ansley, where they rounded out long and honorable lives, but Mr. Lee's property is situated near Mason City, being in section 15, township 13, range 18, where he has 160 acres in a good state of cultivation. Mr. Lee has had much success in his experiments in raising cattle, hogs, and horses, and his reputation in this direction has led him to be accounted some-

what of an authority upon the subject. Just as he is progressive in his private affairs, so he is likewise public-spirited and constructive in his citizenship, and his support is never withheld from any worthy measure, whether religious, civic, or educational. His integrity in business dealings has never been questioned, and, all in all, he is a very desirable citizen.

Mr. Lee married Miss Mary C. Nelson, a member of a Custer county agricultural family, and to this union there have been born five children: Ida, who is the wife of Bernard Schrader, a farmer of Custer county; Edward, who married Miss Laura Dewey, of Ansley, and who carries on agricultural operations not far from the home place; Andrew, who married Miss Hulda Porath and who is his father's assistant in operating the farm; Amy, who is deceased; and Eunice, who lives with her parents on their home farm, on Elk creek.

JACOB B. KLUMP.—Among the men who came to Custer county during the early '80s were found a number of men who were veterans of the Civil war and who had also had experience in farming. They were men who were destined to assist in the development and upbuilding of this section. One of these was Jacob B. Klump, who, after many years spent in successful farming operations, is now living in comfortable retirement at Broken Bow.

Mr. Klump was born December 24, 1834, in the kingdom of Wurtemberg, Germany, and he is a son of John M. and Fredericka (Wolf) Klump, who passed their entire lives in that country. There were seventeen children in the family, of whom thirteen grew to maturity, and Jacob B. was the fifth in order of birth. In his native land he had the benefit of eight years of training in the public schools, and during his boyhood and early youth he was employed in his father's mill. In March, 1853, his mother took him before the district court of his home community in order that he might relinquish his citizenship to Germany, and not long thereafter he and his two sisters, Katie and Sophie, came to the United States and joined their uncle, Francis Klump, a farmer of Lake county, Illinois. Jacob B. Klump worked at whatever honorable employment presented itself, and was variously engaged until the Civil war came on, when, in 1861, he joined Company G, Thirty-ninth Illinois Veteran Volunteers, under Colonel Light. He served his term of enlistment, three years, and then re-enlisted

for a like period "or for the duration of the war," at Hilton Head, South Carolina, in the same company and regiment. While he participated in every engagement in which his regiment took part, he was of sturdy physique and glowing health, and was incapacitated only twice, when he received slight wounds. His big engagements numbered thirteen or fourteen, and at all times he proved a brave and faithful soldier. Mr. Klump's brother William, who had come later to this country, was a member of the same company and regiment and died at Morris Island, South Carolina, after serving nearly three years. In the Union army, he also had six brothers-in-law, three of whom died of wounds during their first year of service. In January, 1864, Mr. Klump secured a furlough and returned to Jo Daviess county, Illinois, where, on February 29th, he married Miss Jane Parkinson, a daughter of James and Christina (Hoy) Parkinson. He returned to his regiment and continued to serve gallantly, being advanced to sergeant and then to regimental color-bearer, and receiving two honorable discharges from the service, the last one in 1865. At that time he returned to his home in Illinois and purchased eighty acres of land, on which he continued to carry on operations with success until 1883. He then came to Custer county, Nebraska, and located near Cliff postoffice, where his wise management and industrious labor combined to bring him success and enabled him to accumulate a large tract of land. He made numerous improvements on his property, including the sinking of a cistern that held 1,000 barrels of water, and in 1888 he sunk a well 400 feet deep, at a cost of \$600. When he reached advanced years he retired from active pursuits and removed to his present home, at Broken Bow, but he is still active and alert, and much of his time is spent in his repair shop, where his natural bent toward mechanics finds expression.

Mr. Klump has been frequently called upon to serve in public positions and his record as an official is an excellent one. Before leaving Illinois, he served sixteen years as justice of the peace, being commissioned by four different governors, and since coming to Custer county he has been justice of the peace eight years and supervisor two years. Mrs. Klump died in 1906, having been the mother of eleven children, of whom nine are living: Sophia is the wife of Fred Bertram, a farmer near King City, Missouri, and she is the mother of six children; Herman R., who is a resident of McPherson county, became the father of

six children, of whom three are living; Julia is the wife of James Holliwell, a farmer at Merna, and they have two children; Frederick W., who is a ranchman at Ringgold, McPherson county, married Ethel Butler; Miss Mary is engaged in teaching school at Lincoln; Ruby is the wife of Fred Hackbarth, engaged in farming near Hershey, Lincoln county, and they have four children; Hardy B., who served as a soldier in the Spanish-American war, is now a farmer near Arnold, Custer county; Miss Olive is engaged in teaching in the state of Washington; August E., a farmer in Garfield county, married Lulu Martin and they have three children.

In 1907, at Broken Bow, Mr. Klump was again married, being united with Mrs. Mary Koch, concerning whose four children by a former marriage the following brief record may consistently be entered: Andy married Miss Clara Dale and they have two children; Jacob wedded Miss Lizzie Harpley and they have four children: Oscar enlisted in the government airship service in connection with the nation's participation in the world war and at the time of this writing he is assigned to duty as clerk in the office of the major in government barracks in the state of New York; and Carrie is the wife of Clayton Yohn, their children being four in number.

Mr. Klump is one of the valued and appreciated members of the Broken Bow post of the Grand Army of the Republic, his wife holding membership in the Woman's Relief Corps, and both are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

FRANK J. McCARTY is one of the younger generation in his native county and has had the good judgment to remain within its borders. Here he owns and operates a farm of 160 acres. Mr. McCarty was born in his present home township, on the 11th of March, 1885, and is a son of Robert D. McCarty, of whom extended mention is made elsewhere in this volume.

While yet a young man at home, Frank J. McCarty began farming independently, by renting land. In 1912 he purchased his present farm, and he has brought his fields to a high state of cultivation, the while he has erected a substantial set of buildings and successfully carries on general farming.

Mr. McCarty married Miss Mary Teahon, who, like her husband, was born in Custer county, and who is a daughter of Patrick Teahon, now deceased. The home of Mr. and Mrs. McCarty has been blessed with two chil-

dren—Bernadette and Richard. The family are members of the Catholic church and in politics Mr. McCarty is a Democrat.

DANIEL R. ROCKWELL.—The career of Daniel R. Rockwell is an illustration of active and diversified energy, and in its working out it has invaded the fields of agriculture, commerce, and public service. It has been the fortune and privilege of this prominent citizen of Broken Bow to have attained well merited success in each of the avenues of personal endeavor into which his industry has taken him, and at the time of this writing he is giving his country exceptionally efficient service in discharging the responsibilities connected with the office of federal food administrator for Custer county.

Mr. Rockwell was born in Chautauqua county, New York, November 5, 1866. His father, William H. Rockwell, was born in Bradford, Pennsylvania, the family having come from Germany, and settled at Bradford, Pennsylvania, where the grandfather was engaged in business. William H. Rockwell removed from the Pennsylvania home to Chautauqua county, New York, where he was residing at the outbreak of the Civil war. He was a volunteer for the Union service, and for three years fought gallantly with a New York infantry regiment. When he received his honorable discharge he returned to his home, resumed his civilian duties, and made as good a record in the paths of peace as he had in the strenuous energies of the great struggle between the north and south. His political support was given to the Democratic party, and he and his wife, whose maiden name was Adaline Remington, and who was a daughter of Ransom Remington, were consistent members of the Congregational church.

Daniel R. Rockwell entered upon his career at a time when the usual run of boys are still enjoying the advantages of the public schools. He had opportunities for the training of his mind in the district institutions of his neighborhood during the winter months, but he was a lad of only thirteen years when he left the parental roof and went to Benton county, Iowa, where he found employment on the farm of his cousin, W. H. Rockwell. During the next eleven years he remained in that county, his industrious and energetic services always being found available by the farmers there, and careful saving of his earnings enabled him, in 1889, to come to Custer county, Nebraska, and buy a relinquishment claim on timber land near Sargent. Thirteen years of development work brought this land

to a high state of cultivation, and during this period Mr. Rockwell added to his holdings from time to time, so that to-day he is the owner of 960 acres of fertile Custer county land, in addition to which he has properties in other counties in Nebraska and in other states. His work at the start was of the hardest kind, but his ability, perseverance and ambition were able to stand any kind of strain, and he had the final satisfaction that comes only to a man who has accomplished something worth while, by himself and for himself. Mr. Rockwell took up his residence at Broken Bow in 1902. He had shown to himself that he was possessed of business ability, and he proceeded during the next five years to demonstrate this same fact to the old Plano Company, for which concern he traveled throughout the surrounding territory, as a salesman of machinery and as a collector. When he resigned his position with that concern, he embarked in a business venture of his own, his line being hardware and furniture, and he brought this business to a point where it was paying large dividends. He has since disposed of his interests in this enterprise, having accepted a very satisfactory offer. When he gave up his business cares, he did so with an absolutely clean slate, his reputation in commercial circles being one of the kind that will stand an acid test.

Mr. Rockwell's business record is not the only thing that gives him the right to be named as one of Broken Bow's first citizens. His public service also has been something far from the ordinary. He was early recognized as a man of ability, stability and worth, and after acting three terms as councilman he was elected mayor of the city. During the two terms that he served as chief municipal executive, the community was given the benefit of splendid administrations; numerous movements of a progressive nature in the way of civic betterment were started, and Broken Bow was the beneficiary in a number of other ways. That his record was clear was evidenced in his appointment to his present position as federal food administrator for Custer county. Mr. Rockwell is a thirty-second degree Mason, and the family attend the Presbyterian church.

November 18, 1884, at Belle Plaine, Iowa, Mr. Rockwell married Miss Almeda Vadike, daughter of J. P. and Mary Jane (Drake) Vadike, well known and honored farming people of this community. Four children were born to this union: Edna I., who is the wife of Edgar B. Osborne, a prosperous farmer of Superior, Wisconsin, with one daughter, Robetta; Ethel I., who is the wife of Thomas

Rector, a railroad man of Superior, Wisconsin, with a daughter, Margarie; Miss Hazel, who resides with her parents at Broken Bow, and is a well known teacher in the public schools; and Melvin, who is still a public-school student.

HARRY R. KNAPP.—So to direct one's affairs that it is possible to retire from the strenuous activities of life while still there are the best years of existence coming, is a reward that comes to but a favored few. Among these may be mentioned the present county clerk of Custer county, Harry R. Knapp, of Broken Bow. He has been a ranchman and business man, has made good in both directions, and now, while in retirement as to business affairs, he is still active and energetic in his community, and has so impressed himself upon the minds of his fellow citizens that it has been recognized that he is of the timber of which good public officials are made. He was elected to the office of county clerk in November, 1918, on the Republican ticket, and he assumed office January 1, 1919.

Mr. Knapp is a Nebraskan by birth, training, education, experience, and inclination. He was born at Wahoo, Saunders county, in November, 1874, a son of John W. and Nancy I. (Tull) Knapp, natives of Hancock county, Illinois. John W. Knapp is a Saunders county farmer whose qualities of character have made his name in his locality synonymous with integrity and stability. He is an Odd Fellow, votes the Republican ticket, and attends the Methodist Episcopal church, in the faith of which he and Mrs. Knapp reared their five children. Three of these children survive: Harry R. is the subject of this review; Wirt E., a well known grain dealer of Saint Louis, Missouri, who married Fay Harris, now deceased, is the father of two children,—Wirt E., Jr., and Laura; and Roy C., a farmer of Kearney, Nebraska, is married and has four children.

Alternating with his work on the home farm, Harry R. Knapp passed his boyhood in attending the local public schools. He had the further advantage of being sent to the high school at Wahoo and a business college at Fremont, but he was no sluggard in his youth, as his industry kept him energetically working and his first money was secured by strenuous labor on a neighboring farm in Saunders county, his emolument being fifty cents a day. He remained on the homestead until he had attained to his majority, at which time he struck out for himself, and his good

judgment in business affairs placed him in a position where, in 1907, when he came to Custer county, he was able to purchase 1,000 acres of land, on Ash creek. After eleven years he retired from active participation in business affairs and took up his residence at Broken Bow.

As an intelligent and well informed man, co-ordinating his community's interests with his personal feeling, Mr. Knapp has been a constant observer of what is going on about him. He has been a constructive worker in assisting local movements, and his prominence in this direction led his party to give him the candidacy for the county clerkship. His personal record is one that assures him of good support, and his business career is one of the kind that stands for an A-No. 1 rating. Fraternally, Mr. Knapp belongs to the Masons, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Woodmen. With his family, he holds membership in the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Knapp was married November 4, 1901, at Wahoo, Nebraska, to Miss Edna C. Robinson, daughter of Charles T. and Flora (Spurgeon) Robinson. Mrs. Knapp's parents are well known and honored farming people of Saunders county and prominent members of the Methodist Episcopal church in their community. Mr. Robinson is a Democrat and is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. and Mrs. Knapp have a bright and interesting little daughter, Glayds M., who is five years old in 1918.

GEORGE W. McRAE.—After thirty years of continuous effort in the vocation of agriculture, George W. McRae retired from his activities in 1913, and since that year has been living quietly at Berwyn. During the time that he was applying himself to his vocation, he demonstrated the possession of marked abilities, and accumulated a competency, while at the same time he won and held the respect of his fellow citizens. Mr. McRae was born in Harrison county, Indiana, January 12, 1852, a son of Daniel B. and Nancy (Wright) McRae.

C. C. McRae, the paternal grandfather of George W., was born in Scotland and was a young man when he immigrated to the United States. He lived at various points, principally in the south, and died in western Tennessee, where he had been engaged in farming. The maternal grandfather was Joseph Wright, who for years carried on farming in Indiana and passed away there. Daniel B. McRae was born on his father's home planta-

tion in South Carolina, where he was educated, and as a youth of twenty years he went to Indiana, where he pre-empted land. He soon showed his capacity for shrewd business dealings, added to his holdings from time to time, and when he died he left an estate which included 160 acres of land, in addition to which he had other valuable investments. Following his demise his widow came to Nebraska, but she lived only a year after her arrival. They were the parents of five children, of whom there are two living: George W.; and J. W., the latter a farmer of Colorado. The parents were faithful members of the Presbyterian church. Politically Daniel B. McRae was a Republican, and during Civil war times he was a staunch Abolitionist and did much to assist the Union cause.

George W. McRae was educated in the district schools of Indiana, and while he was reared on the farm and trained in its pursuits, he also learned in his youth the trade of plasterer, which he followed in connection with his farming activities. Leaving the Hoosier state in 1882, he came to Nebraska and located in York county, but after one year he came to Custer county, where he took up a homestead. This continued to be his home for the next thirty years, or until 1913, when he retired from active labor and removed to his pleasant home at Berwyn. The success which came to Mr. McRae was the result entirely of his own efforts, for at no time in his career did he have to call upon other than his own abilities to attain his objects. He is a Republican in his political views, but, while a good citizen, has not cared for public office. His reputation in business is beyond reproach, and there are many who have reason to thank him for his good advice and counsel in matters of importance. As a fraternalist, Mr. McRae has been affiliated with the Odd Fellows for many years.

In 1881, prior to coming to Nebraska, Mr. McRae was married, in Indiana, to Mrs. Maggie (Walter) Hart, who was born in southern Indiana, a daughter of John Walter, a native of Germany who died in Indiana. To this union there were born three children: Coday married Hazel Norcutt, and has one child, Dorothea Maxine; Flavious resides at home, but at the time of this writing he is in the government war service, as a member of a medical corps stationed at Dunkirk, New York; and Ora Lee is the wife of James Davidson, a farmer of Perwyn, and they have one child, Mary Margaret. By her former marriage, Mrs. McRae is the mother of three children: George H., John W., and Katie (Hart) Davoll.

HENRY L. WILSON.—While he is one of the latest members to join the bar of Custer county, Henry L. Wilson has already obtained a recognized position and standing among the practitioners of this locality, and at Broken Bow, where he established his residence in December, 1916, he has built up a substantial and representative professional business. Mr. Wilson is a native son of Nebraska, and was born at Chadron, Dawes county, September 5, 1886, his parents being John M. and Clara E. (Mitchell) Wilson.

John M. Wilson was born in Scotland and as a lad developed wanderlust that caused him to run away from home and work his passage across the Atlantic to Canada, where he accepted such employment as he could find. His adventurous spirit later led him to Colorado, where, during the early pioneer days, he engaged in hunting and freighting, and he secured his start in this way—principally in what he was able to obtain by his prowess in hunting buffalo. In 1886 he settled down at Crawford, Nebraska, where he established himself in the clothing business, and there he has conducted the leading store of its kind ever since, he being known as one of the foremost merchants of his community. He is a Republican in his political views. In Colorado was solemnized the marriage of John M. Wilson to Clara E. (Mitchell) Williams, and they are the parents of three children: Henry L., Harry (a traveling man with headquarters at Vancouver, Canada), and Ruby.

Henry L. Wilson attended the public schools at Crawford, and after his graduation in the high school, in 1903, he began teaching school, a vocation which he followed for one year. Next he entered the University of Nebraska, and after there continuing his studies two years he was absent for one year, but later he was a student for another half-term. Finally he entered the law department, and in 1911, he was graduated, being immediately admitted to practice. He started his professional labors at Crawford, and in the same year he was appointed city attorney, but in 1914, he removed to Lincoln, where he remained until coming to Broken Bow, in December, 1916. Here he bought the practice and good will of Judge J. R. Dean, and since that time he has been in the enjoyment of a constantly increasing professional business. He has been active in public affairs, and is at present serving Broken Bow as city attorney. In the election of November, 1918, he was the Republican candidate for county attorney, but was defeated. A man of broad learning and sound, practical knowledge of the law, he is rapidly making a name and reputation for himself.

and has already taken long strides toward a leading place in the legal fraternity in Custer county. In politics he supports the cause of the Republican party. Mr. Wilson belongs to the various organizations of his profession and is fraternally affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

On June 21, 1913, Mr. Wilson was united in marriage, at Crawford, to Miss Lena Fafek, who was born at that place, and to this union there has been born one child: Twilla.

CARL SWENSON is a young man of thirty-six years and is a native of Custer county. He is one of the successful young farmers operating in the Burr Oak district of the South Loup river region. His life story for the most part is covered in the following biographical sketch of his father and father's family.

John Swenson, seventy-nine years of age in 1918, is a native of Sweden and forty-nine years ago brought to the United States those industrious and frugal habits common to the people of that north Scandinavian region. His wife, Mary (Peterson) Swenson, is past sixty years of age and possesses all the qualities of the sturdy Swedish race to which she belongs. John Swenson landed in New York, where he remained until he came to Custer county and homesteaded a fine quarter-section of land. He located on his present place thirty-eight years ago. When he reached this country he had practically nothing, and all his possessions of the present day are the direct results of his own toil and savings. Mr. and Mrs. John Swenson became the parents of seven children: Mollie is deceased; Samuel and Carl remain at the parental home; Tilda Amy lives in Custer county; Eddie is at home; Olga continues to reside in this county; and Willie, the youngest, is at home. The father and mother belong to the Presbyterian church.

Carl Swenson, the subject of this sketch, is a farmer and partner on the home place, which to-day consists of the old homestead and three other quarter-sections, which have been purchased, making in all a full section of good land, on which are excellent improvements. The stock raised on this farm is of unusually high grade—the best kind of hogs that select breeding can produce, and red Durham short-horns and Percheron horses that make a fine show for live-stock production.

Carl Swenson is a social member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and is a constituent member of the Presbyterian church. He enjoys the confidence and respect of a large circle of friends and as a progressive

son of the west he also has exhibited the sterling characteristics of the hardy race from which he springs.

WILLIE C. SHOEMAKER.—The man whose life history these lines relate lives in the Cumro district, where the soil is productive and where the inhabitants are among the best people of the county.

Mr. Shoemaker is fifty-six years of age (1918), and a native of Porter county, Indiana. His Hoosier blood has stood him in good stead and his industrious traits, inherited from good parentage and imbibed in early years, have borne splendid fruits in Nebraska.

His father, Albert Shoemaker, who was a native of the Buckeye state and who lived to the age of seventy-nine years was a retired farmer at the time of his death, which occurred in Iowa. The mother of the subject of this sketch was Melvina (Maulsby) Shoemaker, who was born in Indiana and who died in that state, when but twenty-two years of age. Born to the union just mentioned were two children, the subject of the sketch and a little sister, Melvina, who died at the age of eighteen months. By the father's second marriage there are four children—Rila, who lives in Muscatine, Iowa; Mrs. Viola Dood, whose husband is an Iowa farmer; Everett, who is a Missouri farmer; and Roy, who lives at Red Oak, Iowa, where he is assistant cashier of the First National Bank.

Albert Shoemaker was a veteran of the Civil war, in which he rendered to the government very valuable service as a valiant soldier of the Union. He was a farmer by occupation and both he and his wife were faithful members of the United Brethren church.

In 1888 Willie C. Shoemaker married Miss Nettie H. Martin, and to bless this union and make happy the parental home have come six children: Bliss is a young man of twenty-eight years (1918) of age and is already embarked upon his successful career as a farmer in Custer county; Ray, aged seventeen, is still on the home farm and is rendering his father valuable assistance; Ross, aged nine years, is a school boy who is still home and who is a candidate for usefulness in future years; Ethel Cherry is married and lives on a farm in custer county; and Lula and Albro are deceased.

In the Shoemaker holdings are 700 acres, well adapted to farming and stock-raising. One quarter-section of this ranch was homesteaded by Mr. Shoemaker. When he was but two years of age his parents removed from

Indiana to Iowa, where he grew to young manhood and received his early education. It was there that the foundation of his life and character were laid, in the formative years when human destinies are plastic. He came directly from Iowa to Custer county in 1887, ten years after the organization of the county, when everything connected with the country was young and primitive.

Mr. Shoemaker's stock-raising operations have followed all lines—horses, hogs, and cattle—and in each of these he has been a successful producer. His farm improvements are ample to meet all requirements and make stock-raising profitable. He and his wife now take their ease as compared with the experiences of early days. The slow vehicle of 1887 has been transformed into a modern automobile and this has brought the home farm comparatively close to community centers and larger towns. Mr. Shoemaker is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the family is connected with the Presbyterian church.

PETER STRIEDER.—From the time of his arrival in Custer county, in 1898, to the present, Peter Strieder has been demonstrating the possession of qualities of perseverance, industry, and good citizenship, which have combined to win him personal success as an agriculturist and the esteem and friendship of those among whom he has lived and with whom he has been associated. This enterprising and energetic farmer and stock-raiser of section 21, township 71, was born in Germany, June 19, 1860, a son of Andreas and Gertrude (Dhein) Strieder.

The parents of Mr. Strieder passed their entire lives in their native land, where the father was a successful agriculturist and also followed the vocation of milling, being an industrious man and one possessed of unbounded energy and marked ability. He and his wife were faithful members of the Catholic church, and were the parents of four children: Peter, who is the subject of this sketch; Henry, who is a resident of Germany; Gertrude, who married Anton Fier and lives in Germany; and Anna, who is married and likewise lives in Germany. Peter Strieder grew up on the home farm in Germany, where he assisted his father in the daily tasks about the home place and also secured a knowledge of the milling business. He continued to reside under the parental roof until he was twenty-seven years of age. In the time that elapsed between that age and the year of his majority he had harbored longings to try his

fortunes across the Atlantic, his imagination having been fired by the tales of opportunities at hand in America. Accordingly, in 1887, he came to the United States and took up his abode in Jackson county, Illinois, where, in order to get a start and to familiarize himself with conditions and the language and customs of the country, he worked about the country among the farmers. Gradually he accumulated a competence, and in 1898 he realized his ambition to become a property owner on his own account, when he came to Custer county and purchased his present home place, a property consisting of 160 acres. This land at that time was not in the best of condition, but Mr. Strieder set about remedying this defect, and he now has one of the fertile, productive and valuable tracts of his locality. He does general farming, being equally at home in all the various branches of agriculture, and has made what is to be considered a very satisfying success. Mr. Strieder has not been active in politics, and upon political questions of the day maintains an independent stand, reserving his right of franchise to vote for the man he considers best qualified for the office. He served as postmaster of Pilot for more than four years. He and the members of his family are faithful and consistent attendants of the Catholic church.

In 1895 Mr. Strieder was united in marriage to Miss Louise Zimmer, and two children have been born to this union: Bruno P., who at the time of this writing is with the American Expeditionary Forces in France; and Gertrude, who remains with her parents.

ORVILLE M. MOUREY.—Among the younger element in the agricultural industry in Custer county, Orville M. Mourey has been numbered since 1912. In that year he came to his present farm, in section 30, in the Mason City community, and here his success has been marked and continued. He is typical of the class of young farmers who are expected to maintain the prestige of this locality during the years to come, and his progress thus far would seem to be indicative of his ability to do his full share in carrying on the work of development and the raising of standards.

Mr. Mourey was born near Miller, Buffalo county, Nebraska, not far from the banks of the South Loup river, March 13, 1891, and is a son of W. R. and Sarah (Dougherty) Mourey. His father, who was a native of the east, migrated to Nebraska in 1883. At that time he was a man of no means, his main capital in fact being found in his ambition and determination, along with a willing industry

and an inherent capacity for persistent and continued labor. He took up a homestead in Buffalo county, near the site of what afterward became the town of Miller, and since that time has continued to be engaged in agricultural pursuits, adding to his acreage and to his standing as a business man each year. He is now the owner of 900 acres of good land, all accumulated through legitimate channels of business, and has the greater part of this land under cultivation. He and his wife became the parents of seven children: Orville M., of this notice; Ada, who married Ervin Simmons, a farmer of Buffalo county; Herbert, who lives in Custer county; his twin, who died in infancy, unnamed; and Blanche, Esther, and Melvin, who live with their parents.

Orville M. Mourey received his education in the schools of Buffalo county and grew up on the home farm, his boyhood being passed in much the same manner as other farmers' sons of his day and locality. He commenced farming operations on his own account in Buffalo county, where he met with a measure of success, but in 1912 came to Custer county, where he purchased his present farm of 160 acres. Since then he has been busily engaged in erecting substantial buildings and improving his land with the installation of modern improvements of every character, and the fertility of his land can be testified to by his large crops. He is one of the progressive and constructive men of his community and is always ready to give a trial to any method or experiment that promises to aid in progress and advancement. He has found no time to enter actively into politics, his farming operations having to this writing demanded all of his attention.

Mr. Mourey was married September 18, 1911, to Miss Minnie Esherman, daughter of William and Mary (Shucker) Esherman, farming people of Buffalo county, and to this union there have been born two children: Earl and Mildred, both of whom reside with their parents, and the former of whom is attending school.

ELLIS W. KNIGHT.—Custer county gained a good citizen in 1913, when Ellis W. Knight settled in the Anselmo region.

Mr. Knight began his earthly career June 18, 1889, which makes him still a young man just entering the prime of manhood. He is a son of William and Zelma (Brown) Knight. His father was a native of England and his mother a Wisconsin lady of splendid and homelike qualities. The father came to Amer-

ica with his parents in the days of his youth. They settled near Topeka, Kansas, and later moved to Gage county, Nebraska, where they established a farm home near the town of Adams.

Ellis W. Knight qualified himself for life and all its activities in the public schools and in the University of Nebraska. Five years ago, in 1913, he came to Custer county and became manager and part owner of the Smith & Knight ranch, containing 1,120 acres, and in this partnership arrangement he is an extensive cattle and hog raiser. At present they have 200 head of cattle and 250 hogs.

February 15, 1908, Mr. Knight married Miss Ethel Shrepf, daughter of Emil and Nellie Shrepf, of Lincoln, Nebraska. The father was a native of France and the mother came of English lineage. Mr. and Mrs. Knight are the parents of five children, who are bright, full of life and all candidates for energetic manhood and womanhood. They are: Donald, George, Dorothy, Irene, and Leonard.

Mr. Knight has three brothers: Henry, who is a Custer county farmer; William, who is employed on the Smith & Knight ranch; and Fred, who is at present away from home. On the Smith & Knight ranch managed by the subject of this sketch are good buildings of all kinds, a farm home and every farm and stock accessory, building or shed that could be required. The ranch contains also the present-day accessory of a good garage, and everywhere one sees the evidence of thrift and good management.

The Knights are splendid people, good neighbors, reliable and substantial citizens. In politics the Democratic principles have the preference of Mr. Knight, but independence is not abandoned. He is a member of the Ancient Free & Accepted Masons.

PATRICK TEAHON was one of the early settlers of and lived to see vast changes take place in Custer county. He was born in Ireland and when a boy accompanied his parents to America. His mother died when he was quite small and his father was killed while serving in the Union army in the Civil war. Thrown upon his own resources, young Teahon worked at whatever would give him a living, and in the early '80s he came to Custer county and secured a homestead. There he built a sod house, in which he kept bachelor's hall until his marriage to Mrs. Thomas Griffiths, who was a native of Wales and whose maiden name was Mary Price. She was a girl of eighteen when she came to America to make her home with an aunt. By

her marriage to Thomas Griffiths she became the mother of seven children. By her marriage to Thomas Teahon she became the mother of two children — Mary, who married Frank J. McCarty, and Joseph, who operates the home place and makes his home with his mother. It was on this farm that Thomas Teahon was called to his final rest; he passed away January 11, 1918, and in his death the community lost one of its sterling pioneers and substantial citizens.

JAMES D. McCARTY, who owns and operates a fine farm of 160 acres, in section 22, township 18, range 22, is a representative of one of the families of Custer county that has been prominent since pioneer days. He was born in Webster county, Iowa, October 31, 1871, a son of Robert D. and Anna (Downey) McCarty, and he was a lad of nine years when the family came to Custer county and settled on a homestead in this township.

The incidents pertaining to those days and the labor involved in opening up a new farm are quite familiar to him. He remained at home, assisting in the work of the old homestead, until he reached his majority, when he began an independent career as an agriculturist. He operated land as a tenant for a few years, and met with the success that made it possible for him to become the owner of a farm. His present place is equipped with substantial buildings, and general farming is carried on successfully.

In 1899 was solemnized the marriage of James D. McCarty to Miss Anna Sweeney, a daughter of Henry Sweeney, deceased, and Bridget (Harvey) Sweeney, who came to Custer county in 1886 and of whom further mention is made on other pages of this volume. Mr. and Mrs. McCarty are the parents of four daughters, all of whom are still under the parental roof — Lily K., Ruth V., Ferne M., and Estelle A. The family are communicants of the Catholic church and in politics Mr. McCarty is a Democrat. Aside from the duties of presiding over the household Mrs. McCarty has found time to serve two terms as a member of the school board. Mr. and Mrs. McCarty are people of real, genuine worth and are held in high esteem by all who know them.

FLORIAN JACOBS. — The two vocations of agriculture and merchandising are so closely allied that it is not unusual to find an individual person engaged in both lines of endeavor. Such has been the experience of

Florian Jacobs, who, after many years of successful effort in farming, turned his attention to merchandising. At the present time he is president of the Co-operative Company, one of the leading business enterprises of Broken Bow.

Mr. Jacobs was born in Hamilton county, Indiana, October 22, 1869, a son of Francis M. and Laura A. (Teal) Jacobs. His grandfather, Sanford Jacobs, was a South Carolinian who became a pioneer in Ohio and later in Indiana, at a very early day, and he died in the latter state. Francis M. Jacobs was born in Adams county, Ohio, in 1842, and as a youth was taken by his parents to Indiana, where he was living at the outbreak of the Civil war. He enlisted in Company B, Thirtieth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, with which regiment he served during the greater part of the war and with which he made an honorable record, while taking part in a number of hard-fought engagements. While with General Sherman on the famous "march to the sea," he was wounded, at Marietta, Georgia, but he recovered. Later he was captured by the enemy, in South Carolina, and for three months was confined in Libby Prison. After being mustered out of the service, at the close of the war, he returned to Indiana, where he married Laura A. Teal, who was born in Sweden, in 1849, and was three years of age when brought by her parents to the United States. Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs settled down to an agricultural career in Indiana, where they remained until 1874, in which year they came west and located in Dawson county, Nebraska, where Mr. Jacobs bought land. In 1875 he moved to the vicinity of Callaway, Custer county, where he remained two years. In 1877 he took up a homestead at New Helena, where he duly perfected his title and where he continued to carry on operations until his death, in 1900. His widow still remains on this old homestead. Mr. Jacobs was a Democrat and a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He and his wife were the parents of the following children: Florian; Miss Cora, a professional nurse, of Ansley, Nebraska; Jessie L., a well known educator and lecturer, of Tulsa, Oklahoma; Charles S., engaged in the lumber business at Craig, Colorado; Miss May V., a teacher in the schools of Ranchester, Wyoming; Maude V., the wife of S. M. Blue, an accountant and expert in penmanship, of Portland, Oregon; Edna, the wife of H. R. Cutler, a carpenter at New Helena, Nebraska; and Beatrice, the wife of David Williams, a farmer of the same community.

Florian Jacobs was five years of age when

brought by his parents to Custer county, and when he was nine years old he attended the first school in the county, in a little log structure which still stands as a landmark of early days. He secured sufficient education to enable him to get a teacher's license, and for several years he was engaged in the instruction of the young, but eventually he turned his attention to farming and stock-raising. He started in a small way, but through industry and persistent effort succeeded in the accumulation of satisfying capital, and in 1903 he moved to a farm seven miles northwest of Broken Bow, where he had 190 acres and carried on extensive operations. Mr. Jacobs continued to center his interests in farming until he became one of the founders, in 1917, of the Co-operative Company, which conducts a general merchandise business, with a capital of \$50,000. Of this company he is the president. In his business career he has demonstrated the same ability that he displayed as a farmer and stock-raiser, and his straightforwardness and honorable conduct have but served to further advance his reputation and solidify his popularity.

In 1898 Mr. Jacobs married Miss Hettig M. Taylor, daughter of Miner and Lenore (Stearns) Taylor. Miner Taylor was a native of New York, was a Civil war veteran, and was a pioneer of Custer county, where he settled in 1888. Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs have no children. Mrs. Jacobs is a member of the Christian Science church, and Mr. Jacobs is a Scottish Rite Mason. He is a Republican in politics, and though he prefers business to public matters, he is at all times a loyal citizen and a supporter of public-spirited movements. He is serving at the present time as representative of Custer county in the state legislature.

DARIUS M. AMSBERRY, whose election to the office of mayor of Broken Bow occurred in April, 1918, has in this preferment been accorded one of the many evidences of popular confidence and esteem shown him within a period of more than forty years' residence in Nebraska. Mr. Amsberry has wielded large and beneficial influence in connection with the civic and material development and progress of Custer county, and has been specially prominent in connection with educational matters and the newspaper business in this section of the state. Save for his official services he is now living virtually retired, and as one of the foremost citizens of Custer county, he merits a definite tribute in this history. In the fall of 1918 he was elected secretary of

state for Nebraska, the duties of which office he assumed January 1, 1919.

Mr. Amsberry was born near Knoxville, Marion county, Iowa, on the 10th of September, 1851, and is a scion of one of the honored pioneer families of that part of the Hawkeye state. He is a son of William F. and Harriet A. (Brown) Amsberry, both of whom were born and reared in West Virginia, where also their marriage was solemnized. The father was born September 9, 1823, and his death occurred in November, 1887. The mother was born in 1833 and she passed to the life eternal in the year 1898.

William F. Amsberry came to the west and settled in Marion county, Iowa, in 1848. There he became a pioneer farmer, and later he engaged in the lumber business, with incidental operation of a saw mill. In 1879 he came with his family and settled in Custer county, near Mason City. He took up a homestead and developed a productive farm, both he and his wife having passed the residue of their lives in this state and the names of both being here entitled to pioneer distinction. Mr. Amsberry was originally a Democrat in politics, but eventually he transferred his allegiance to the Republican party. He was influential in community affairs as a pioneer in Iowa and there served as justice of the peace. Both he and his wife held membership in the Baptist church. Of their seven children all are living except one: Beatrice, who resides at Mason City, Custer county, is the widow of Hiram T. Kauffman; Darius M., of this review, was the next in order of birth; Madora H. is the wife of George W. Runyan, a retired farmer residing at Broken Bow; Boyd F. is a resident of Anacortes, Washington; Marcena L. is a farmer near Ansley, Custer county, Nebraska; and Kittie is the wife of Lew M. Whitaker, a merchant and stockman at Canton, Sioux county.

The paternal grandparents of the subject of this sketch were William and Polly (Everett) Amsberry, who were born in the state of New York and who thence removed in an early day to West Virginia, the closing years of their lives having been passed in Iowa, where they were pioneer settlers. It may consistently be noted that the family name of the mother of Polly (Everett) Amsberry's mother was Franklin and that she was a cousin of Benjamin Franklin.

Darius M. Amsberry was reared under the conditions and influences that obtained in the pioneer epoch of Iowa history and in his youth he received good educational ad-



DARIUS M. AMSHERRY

vantages, including those of Central University, at Pella, Iowa. He was for four years successfully engaged in teaching in the public schools of his native state, and after coming to Nebraska he taught five years in the vicinity of Grand Island. He then came to Custer county and entered a homestead claim near Mason City. He gave his attention to the reclamation and cultivation of this farm for a period of six years, and he then, in 1884, established his home at Broken Bow, the judicial center of the county. In formulating and advancing the work of the public-school system of Custer county Mr. Amsberry played a most prominent part, and for this service alone the county owes him a lasting tribute of honor. He served six years — 1882-88 — as county superintendent of schools, and within this regime he effected the organization of one hundred and sixty school districts in the county. This was at the period when the county was gaining its maximum tide of immigration, settlers coming in caravans and by other primitive mediums of transportation and giving to the social and industrial development of the county a remarkable impetus.

After his retirement from the office of superintendent of schools Mr. Amsberry purchased the plant and business of the *Custer County Republican*, and for the ensuing twenty years he continued as its editor and publisher. He made this paper a medium for the advancement of the best interests of the county along all lines, and under his administration it continued as the leading newspaper of the county during a long period. In 1906, under the administration of President Roosevelt, he was appointed receiver of the United States land office at Broken Bow, and he was reappointed under the regime of President Taft. In this important office he continued his effective service for a period of nine years and nine months, at the expiration of which time he retired. After selling his newspaper business Mr. Amsberry turned his attention to real-estate operations, and in this connection likewise he proved himself the able and progressive exponent of civic and industrial development and advancement.

Since his election to the office of mayor of Broken Bow, in the spring of 1918, Mr. Amsberry has shown the same loyalty and resourcefulness that have marked his activities in all other fields in which he has served within his long period of residence in Custer county. His able and resolute administration in the office of secretary of state is assured.

In politics Mr. Amsberry is found aligned as a stalwart and able advocate of the prin-

ciples of the Republican party, he is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and both he and his wife hold membership in the Baptist church.

On the 6th of April, 1875, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Amsberry to Miss Evelyn Greenlee, who was born near Corydon, Wayne county, Iowa, and who is a daughter of Sylvester and Hettie Greenlee, sterling pioneers of Iowa, in which state they continued to reside until their death. In conclusion, is given a brief record concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Amsberry: Minnie M. is the wife of James W. Clay, a prosperous farmer near Broken Bow; William S. is a railway employe and resides in the state of Oklahoma; Amy R. is the wife of Carl Foote, a ranchman near Dunning, Blaine county, Nebraska; Lorin W. is identified with newspaper enterprise at Dunning; and Lillie H. is the wife of Wilbur H. Bangs, a ranch operator near Purdum, Blaine county.

WILLIAM H. LEWIS. — The agricultural interests of Custer county find a worthy representative in the subject of this record, who owns and operates a well improved farm near Anselmo.

Mr. Lewis was born in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, August 24, 1860, and is a son of William R. and Elizabeth (Simons) Lewis, the former born in New York state and the latter a native of Boston, Massachusetts. The parents were married in Wisconsin and in 1870 they became early settlers in Sedgwick county, Kansas, but owing to ague and fevers, which were prevalent in that country in the early days, they moved to Missouri, later settling in Iowa. From the Hawkeye state they returned to Kansas and settled in Smith county, where they resided from 1877 to 1900. In 1901 they moved to Colorado, where both passed away at the age of seventy years.

William H. Lewis spent his boyhood days on farms in Wisconsin, Kansas and Iowa and eventually became a farmer on his own account, residing in Smith county, Kansas, for fifteen years. In 1900 he came to Custer county and purchased 160 acres, south of Anselmo. Here he has erected substantial buildings, and he has enlarged his farm by purchasing an additional quarter-section in 1914 and still another quarter-section in 1916. Here he is successfully engaged in diversified agricultural pursuits, and he also owns 640 acres of grazing land, north of Anselmo.

For a companion and helpmeet Mr. Lewis married Miss Ann Brechbuhle, who was born

in Switzerland and who accompanied her parents, Fred and Anna Brechbuhle, to the United States when she was five years of age, the family home being established in Smith county, Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis are the parents of eight children: John and Clarence are married and reside in Anselmo; Ralph is, at the time of this writing, in the service of his country, as a member of the United States army in France; and Frank, Lester, Marie, Jennie, and Doris are at home.

Mr. Lewis is a Democrat in politics and has rendered efficient service as justice of the peace and township clerk. He is one of the substantial men of his community and is well and favorably known.

ALVIN DAILY.—As manager of the Farmers Mercantile Company, Inc., of Anselmo, Mr. Daily is demonstrating his ability as one of the able business men of Custer county, and he also has the distinction of being one of the early settlers of the county.

Mr. Daily is a native of the Empire state, and was born near Hallsville, New York, January 1, 1862, a son of William Grant Daily and Phoebe (Howe) Daily, a record of whom appears on other pages of this volume. Alvin Daily, a record of whom appears on other pages of this volume. Alvin Daily was nine years old when the family moved to Knox county, Illinois, and was with his parents when, two years later, a removal was made to Louisa county, Iowa. He was reared on a farm and educated in the public schools, and when a young man he taught school for a time. At the age of twenty-one years he took up the occupation to which he had been reared, and for a short time he was engaged in farming in Louisa county, Iowa, but in the fall of 1883 he and his brother Leon started for Nebraska with a covered wagon and a team of four horses. They spent one season in Howard county and then came on to Custer county. In section 24, township 20, range 22, Mr. Daily took a homestead which he improved and upon which he resided until he moved to his present location, the northeast quarter of section 16, township 20, range 21. This property he has developed into one of the valuable farms of the community. It is equipped with a fine, modern house, good barns and outbuildings and is one of the finest homes in Custer county. "The Meadows" is the name given to the place and it embraces 400 acres, all under a good state of cultivation.

May 26, 1882, in Louisa county, Iowa, Mr. Daily was united in marriage to Miss Rose Dell Peters, a daughter of Daniel H. and Mary

(Lake) Peters, who were natives of Delaware county, Ohio, and who settled in Louisa county, Iowa, in 1881, both being now deceased. Mrs. Daily joined her husband in Custer county soon after he located the homestead, and she shared in all the pioneer experiences incident to the times. Mr. Daily says he wore out three "soddies" before they built their present residence.

Mr. Daily is now manager of the Farmers Mercantile Company, Inc., of Anselmo and still resides on his farm. He has made a success of his affairs and is justly accounted one of the substantial men of his adopted county.

THOMAS TORGERSON.—Two generations of toilers have pinned their faith and lent their practical energy to the farming property now owned and managed by Thomas Torgerson, a tract which lies in the Broken Bow community of Custer county and which has been in the family name since 1886. Its present owner, a man of industry and splendid reputation, was born in Norway, in 1867, and is a son of Lars and Martha Malinda Torgerson.

The parents of Mr. Torgerson were born in Norway and in 1874 immigrated to the United States, the first settlement of the family being in Iowa. There the father secured work in the coal mines, and there the mother's death occurred, following which Lars Torgerson, deciding he was not making sufficient progress, came to Custer county and, in 1886, homesteaded the present property of his son, Thomas. He and his wife were the parents of six children, of whom five are living, but only two are now located in Nebraska: Thomas and Samuel, the latter farming near the Kansas line. Lars Torgerson, who died at the home of his son in Custer county, was a Republican in politics, and his religious faith was that of the Lutheran church.

Thomas Torgerson was but seven years of age when brought by his parents to the United States, and as he was sent to the coal mines to work and to assist in the family support when he was but twelve years old, he was not given any great advantages in an educational way. However, he was bright and alert, has always been a close observer of men and things, and thus he has acquired more thorough and practical knowledge than many men who have had infinitely better opportunities. When he accompanied his father to Nebraska, he turned his attention to farming, and in this vocation he has made a worthy success. His father, while an upright and industrious man, had not been prosperous, hav-

ing met with several business reverses, which necessitated his putting a mortgage on the homestead, and this had not been cleared off when he died. His son Thomas, who took over the farm, has not only succeeded in making the farm clear of indebtedness, but also has added from time to time to its acreage, until he now owns a full section of land, all under cultivation, and improved with a modern home and substantial and commodious barns and other farm buildings. "Tom" Torgerson, as he is familiarly known, bears the reputation of being a man of his word and one of inflexible integrity. In addition to general farming, he buys and sells horses, and also handles many cattle. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, maintains an independent stand in regard to political questions, and, with Mrs. Torgerson, belongs to the Christian church.

On December 25, 1898, Mr. Torgerson married Miss Maude Cox, who was born in Missouri, and was brought to Custer county in 1885, by her father, Daniel Cox, who homesteaded a property and was engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death. Mr. and Mrs. Torgerson are the parents of four children: Wardie, Nellie, and Blanche are attending the Broken Bow high school, and Martha, at home, is the youngest of the children.

DAVID CHRISTEN may truly be called a self-made man, as his present prosperity has come to him through his own efforts, and his life record exemplifies what may be accomplished by industry and perseverance.

Mr. Christen is a native of Bohemia, where he was born August 20, 1862, and he is a son of Pius and Nellie Christen, who spent their entire lives in Bohemia, the father passing away at the age of seventy-eight years and the mother at the age of sixty-eight years. They were farming people, and they had three sons, all of whom came to America and are now residents of Custer county. The names of these sons are Pius, David, and Frank.

David Christen was reared in his native land and at the age of fourteen years he found employment as waiter in an eating-house. When seventeen years of age he began learning the blacksmith trade, and he followed that trade in the old country until 1885, when he came to America. At Beaman, Grundy county, Iowa, he worked at his trade and at farm labor until 1892, when he came to Custer county, Nebraska, and purchased 160 acres of land, in township 19, range 21. The place was equipped with a sod house and

stable, and for two years he resided on this farm. He then purchased the old Dryden farm, in the same neighborhood, and there he successfully carried on agricultural pursuits for several years. That he succeeded is attested by the fact that to-day he is the owner of 1,200 acres of land, which he and a tenant operate on shares. In 1910 Mr. Christen removed to Anselmo, and for one year he here conducted a hardware store. He then built the electric-light plant, which he operated three years. He became vice-president of the Anselmo State Bank and when J. J. Tooley became secretary of the state banking board Mr. Christen succeeded him as cashier. Since that time he has devoted his time to the management of this substantial banking institution.

The Anselmo State Bank was organized July 27, 1903, with a capital of \$5,000. Frank Young was president, David Christen vice-president, and J. J. Tooley cashier. Business was conducted in a little frame building on the site of the present quarters. For three years the bank occupied the building where the postoffice is now established, and when the Masonic Temple was erected the bank leased the ground floor, where it is now located. The Anselmo State Bank has had a steady growth and its capital has been increased to \$25,000, while it has a surplus of \$5,000. The present officers are: Charles G. Sanders, president; J. A. Kellenbarger, vice-president; David Christen, cashier; and E. J. Foley, assistant cashier.

Mr. Christen was united in marriage to Mrs. Lena M. Streb (nee Smith), a native of Springfield, Ohio, and a daughter of Frank Smith. At the time of her marriage to Mr. Christen she was the widow of Roman Streb. In religious faith Mr. and Mrs. Christen are communicants of the Catholic church, and his political views make him a Democrat. Successful in business, public-spirited in citizenship, every worthy cause has the liberal support of Mr. Christen.

WILLIAM G. MILLS.—Custer county has a fine coterie of retired farmers who have worked through the long days of their middle life and are now enjoying a deserved rest, being well provided with the comforts of life, as the result of their toil. William G. Mills is one of these. He was born June 13, 1862, in Madison county, Iowa. His parents, William and Lucinda (Stark) Mills, were staunch, substantial people, and were held in unqualified respect and esteem. The father was a native of Illinois and the mother was born in

the Hawkeye state. The father was affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and during the Civil war served as a second lieutenant in Company I, Twenty-first Iowa Volunteer Infantry. Four children compose the family circle of this estimable couple. They are Ira P., William G., Emma L. English, and E. Grant.

When William G. Mills was but three years of age his father yielded to the call of the west and located in Lancaster county, Nebraska Territory, in 1865. Lincoln at that time was not yet on the map. Here the father obtained a homestead farm, and he lived on the place eighteen years. On this pioneer farm the early years of the life of William G. Mills were spent. It was here that he earned his first money and gradually inducted himself into the live-stock business. It was his job to do the family churning, for which his mother paid him one cent an hour. Twenty-five hours of churning thus earned him twenty-five cents, and with this as his part of the investment, he and his brother Ira purchased a pig in partnership. They raised the pig, sold it and bought two pigs. These were finally sold, and with the proceeds they bought two calves. This launched them into the stock business so effectually that they have never been able to get out. Mr. Mills helped on the farm during the summer time, attended public school during the winter time, and finally finished his high-school course and attended the state university, at Lincoln. In 1883 Mr. Mills came with his father and family to Custer county and the father located five miles north of Arnold, which locality has since that time been known as Mills valley. At that time William lacked six weeks of being twenty-one years of age, but with an eye to good business, he selected a homestead and a tree claim, and the day that he was twenty-one found him bright and early in the North Platte land office, ready to make his filing. Thus was laid the foundation of the competency his Custer activities have since secured for him.

Continued bachelorhood had no attractions for Mr. Mills, so, on December 7, 1884, he led to the marriage altar Miss Millie A. Guy, who was born in Lincoln, Nebraska, a daughter of William and Martha (Hall) Guy, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of the District of Columbia. Both parents were members of the Protestant Methodist church. In the Guy family were three children — Dr. Milton P. Guy, Laura A. (deceased), and Millie A. Mills.

Mr. and Mrs. William G. Mills have five children: Guy P., who lives on a farm near Arnold, married Daisy Phiper, and they have

two sons. John M., who likewise is a farmer in the Arnold vicinity, married Susie Simms and they have one son and one daughter. Charles S. is farming near Logan. He married Merle Lester, and they have one son. Clarence E. is somewhere in France. He was one of the first graduates of the Arnold school and on the 5th day of September, 1917, he entrained for Camp Funston. He was later made corporal and then promoted to sergeant of Company A, in connection with headquarters business. He was with the American Expeditionary Forces in France at the time the great war came to a close. May is at home with her parents and in the tenth grade of the Arnold schools.

Mr. and Mrs. Mills lived on their land in Mills valley twenty-seven years, during which time he was an extensive producer of hogs, cattle, and horses, but he is inclined to the idea that hogs and horses paid him better than cattle. Before he divided his land among his children he had 1,320 acres, all well improved and in a high state of cultivation. He still owns 500 acres but maintains a splendid home in Arnold, where three acres of ground makes a garden plot or small farm that furnishes him with all the exercise that he cares to take. The family, children and all, belong to the Methodist church. All are well and favorably known in the southern regions of the county.

HIRAM R. BLACK. — Once numbered with the active, progressive men of his day and generation, the subject of this memoir has been called from the scenes of pioneer life to that eternal home where it is believed worth and merit are rewarded. Mr. Black was born January 14, 1859, in Mahaska county, Iowa, and was a son of Samuel Black, a native of Germany. In his father's family there are but two surviving children — Belle Black and Anna Coakley. When Mr. Black was but seven months old his mother died and he was taken by a family named Steward. When nine years of age he went to work on his own account and prepared to face the world for himself. The adventures and hardships of after years had no effect upon his dauntless spirit. He turned his hand to anything he could find to do. He succeeded in getting a liberal education and worked his way slowly to the front.

On the 19th day of April, 1884, in Omaha, Mr. Black was united in marriage to Ernestine (Berndt) Vogel, a young lady who was born May 20, 1857, in Flinsberg, Germany, a daughter of Carl and Christina (Knobloch) Berndt. Both of Mrs. Black's parents were Germans

of long ancestral lines. In her father's family were four children — Herman, Mrs. Black, August, and Emma.

Mr. and Mrs. Black established a home of their own and maintained it always upon hospitable lines. They were hard-working people, frugal and provident, and as a result they were always able to obtain the necessities and many of the comforts enjoyed in the western homes of Custer county. Their family circle widened with years, and to-day the family page records the following named children: Edward, the firstborn, is a farmer near Callaway. He married Ella Klein and they have one daughter. They are members of the Church of God. Cora E. Black is a trained nurse, having graduated in the Douglas County Hospital, in Omaha. When not employed in her profession, she makes her home with her mother on the farm three miles east of Arnold. As she is a skilled nurse there is great demand for her services, and she is rarely at home for any considerable period. May F. graduated as a member of the first class in the Arnold high school. She married Clarence Gist, a conductor on the Burlington Railroad, and they live at O'Neill, Nebraska. Iva Black lives at home with her mother. She is also a nurse who received her training in the Douglas County Hospital. Mark R. Black runs his mother's farm.

Mrs. Black has three children by a former marriage. They are Albert Vogel, who married Florence Hoffman and lives on a farm of his own, near Arnold. Theodore Vogel likewise is a farmer near Arnold. He married Ida Ray, and they have five children — three sons and two daughters. They are members of the Baptist church. Bertha is the wife of Thomas Ryan, a farmer and plasterer living near Arnold, and they have three children — two sons and one daughter.

Three years after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Black came from Council Bluffs, Iowa, to Custer county, where they located on what is known as the East Table, on the Anselmo road. They had to haul water ten miles, and they kept this up for two years. Mrs. Black says that when her husband first came out to see this country and secure land, he told her that it was ten miles down to water and ten miles up and ten miles in any other direction. During their experience of the first two years, she became convinced that this was not an exaggeration. They lived on East Table about three or four years and then moved to the South Loup river, where she has lived ever since. Mr. Black died April 28, 1916. He was a member of the Masons, a charter member of Chapter No. 225. He was one of the

prominent pioneers of the county. He helped to develop the county's resources. He and his wife endured the hardships, crossed the rivers, climbed the hills, and outbattled their difficulties. At the time of his death they owned 670 acres of land, and this is still the home of Mrs. Black. For a time they lived in Arnold, where Mrs. Black was postmistress for five years, after which she conducted a shoe store for seven years, while Mr. Black and the children operated the farm. The farm home to-day is the rallying center for the children. Here they delight to gather and here Mrs. Black delights in the homecoming of the children and the grandchildren, to whom she recites the stories of the early days.

ALEXANDER DE LOSH. — Retired from active operations, the subject of this sketch lives in Arnold, where, in a modern home, he enjoys the comforts to which his years of toil entitle him.

Mr. De Losh was born on the 26th day of March, 1858, in St. Lawrence county, New York. In the same county were born his parents, Cornelius and Sophia (Myers) DeLosh, of whose children five are living — William, Julius, Mary A. Green, Alexander, Alma Ewald, and John. Cornelius DeLosh was a farmer by occupation and he moved to Delaware county, Iowa, Iowa, when his son Alexander was seven years of age. In Delaware county the father purchased a farm, and there the youthful days of Alexander were spent. The parents were devoted members of the Methodist church. At the age of ten years Alexander DeLosh earned his first money, by helping a neighbor drive hogs six miles to market. For this service he was given twenty-five cents. During the summers he was employed upon the farm and in the winter months he attended the country schools, where he received a fundamental education that has served him well in all the subsequent transactions of business. Since he was thirteen years of age he has practically made his own way in the world. His first wages were eleven dollars a month, and that was considered an unusual compensation in those times. These excessive wages were paid because Alexander had the reputation of being a "good hand." He did not have the easy time of the present-day farm hand. He did not expect to have the chores done before sundown and the use of an automobile after supper. In fact, the farms in those days were operated on the eight-hour plan — eight hours in the forenoon and eight in the afternoon. By the time he was eighteen years of age Mr.

DeLosh managed to equip himself for farming in an independent way.

December 12, 1878, Mr. DeLosh was united in marriage to Charlotte Whittaker, daughter of Samuel T. and Cynthia A. (Mayne) Whittaker. Mrs. DeLosh belonged to an Iowa family in which were ten children, eight of whom are living at the present time — Socrates, Marius, Jane S., Danford, Meroe Bruce, Mary A. DeLosh, Isabelle Morgan, Charlotte DeLosh, and Ulysses.

Early in the spring of 1885 Mr. and Mrs. DeLosh, urged by the lure of the west, came to Custer county, Nebraska, and located a homestead eleven miles south of Arnold, on the Tallin Table, where they have made their home for thirty consecutive years. Theirs were the experiences of the pioneer days. During the first three years of their residence here, they hauled water eleven miles, then they put down a well to a depth of 306 feet, at a cost of one dollar a foot. After eight months they lost the use of this well and had to haul water for two years more before they were able to put down another well. This shows the real stuff of which the early settlers were made. It took pluck to persevere under such handicaps, but Mr. and Mrs. DeLosh stayed. They put down another well, they "made good," and to-day the original homestead has been increased to 1,280 acres, upon which are two sets of good building improvements. Mr. DeLosh is now able to live retired, and accordingly he has established himself at Arnold, in a comfortable, modern home. He credits farming and stock-raising for all of his accumulations and success. Concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. DeLosh the following brief data are available: Walter C. married Maud Purcell and became the father of one son and two daughters. He died October 27, 1913. At that time of his death Walter owned a full section of land on the Tallin Table and his widow still resides on the farm. He was a Mason, and was well and favorably known in the community. Isabelle F. is the wife of Martin Holt, a farmer who owns a half-section of land on the Tallin Table, and they have one daughter. George A. is the youngest of the family, and thus it falls to his lot to operate his father's farm. He married Esther Magunsen, and they have one daughter. Alexander DeLosh is a Mason in high standing, having received the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite. He has been a member of the school board in district No. 133 for more than twenty-five years, and in many other ways has rendered a public service to the com-

munity in which he has lived during these years.

JAMES S. WALLACE. — Bearing a family name that has been one of eminence in the history of Scotland, this well known citizen of Custer county may well take pride in claiming the land of hills and heather as the place of his nativity. Appreciative of the subtle attractions and undeniable opportunities offered in connection with practical journalism, Mr. Wallace has chosen the newspaper profession as his vocation, and the success which he has attained in this field of endeavor is shown forth in his well equipped establishment and the excellent business which he controls as editor and publisher of the *Ansley Herald*.

Mr. Wallace was born in Berwickshire, Scotland, on the 4th of November, 1884, and is a son of James and Isabelle (McNeish) Wallace, the former of whom passed his entire life in Scotland, where his widow still resides. Of their children John, Henry, and William still maintain their home in Scotland, and thus the subject of this review is the only representative of the immediate family in the United States. William was a gallant young soldier in the English forces on the great battlefields of France during a goodly portion of the time while the great world war was raging. The father was an earnest communicant of the established Church of England, as is also his widow, and in this ancient faith they carefully reared their sons. James Wallace devoted the major part of his active career to the great basic industry of agriculture, and his life was ordered upon the highest plane of integrity and usefulness.

James S. Wallace was reared under the sturdy discipline of the old home farm, and in his youth he was given the best of educational advantages — both in Edinburgh, Scotland, and Northumberland, England. Moved by ambition and a desire to emancipate himself from the life of a farmer, soon after attaining to his legal majority Mr. Wallace decided to leave his native land and try his fortunes in America. In 1906 he crossed the Atlantic and after remaining for a short time in Canada he made his way to Seattle, Washington. Later, in 1911, he came to Nebraska, and at Alliance, Box Butte county, he gained his initial experience in the newspaper and general printing business, through his connection with the *Alliance Semi-Weekly Times*, with which he continued his association three years.

As an independent newspaper publisher Mr. Wallace made his first venture when he pur-

chased the plant and business of the *Gilby Chronicle*, at Gilby, North Dakota. He made a great success of this venture, and thus was led to seek a broader and more inviting field of journalistic exploitation. Accordingly, in June, 1918, he came to Ansley and purchased the *Ansley Herald*. He forthwith placed this paper on an upward climb, and the advancement has continued from that time to the present, with the result that the paper has become a potent influence in public affairs in this part of the county, an effective exponent of local interests, and a vehicle through which communal progress and prosperity are furthered. The *Herald* now has a circulation of nearly 800 copies weekly and is to be found in the representatives homes throughout the Ansley district of the county. The *Herald* ably champions the principles and policies of the Republican party and is a local political organ of no insignificant influence, the while it expresses the well fortified political views of its publisher. However, Mr. Wallace endeavors to give to his readers a fair, impartial, and unprejudiced view of all questions of interest, political and otherwise, and his paper merits classification among the model village publications of Nebraska, its columns giving effective summary of the latest news of general character, as well as a chronicle of local events and activities, and terse, well written editorials. The *Herald* has good support from the merchants and professional men of its community, and it is recognized as a good advertising medium. In connection with the newspaper plant is a well equipped job-printing department, in which first-class job printing of all kinds is executed. Mr. Wallace is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and he and his wife are members of the Christian church in their home village.

In June, 1915, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Wallace to Miss Elda Fern Bacon, who was born at Crab Orchard, Johnson county, Nebraska, and whose father, Royal Bacon, is an extensive landholder in Gage county, this state. Mrs. Wallace acquired her early education in the public schools at Cambridge, Furnas county, and supplemented this by attending Doan College, at Crete. Prior to her marriage she was a successful and popular teacher, as principal in the public schools of Alliance for several years. Russell, the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace, was born November 2, 1917.

EDWARD M. SENNETT. — The interests of the Mason City locality in regard to the industries of farming and stock-raising are

worthily and well represented by Edward M. Sennett, who has a well improved property in section 10, township 13, range 18. Coming to Custer county a stranger, in 1904, he soon won the esteem and confidence of those with whom his business brought him into contact, and from that time until the present his popularity and prosperity have steadily increased. Mr. Sennett was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, August 21, 1857, and is a son of James B. and Ruth (Hall) Sennett.

The parents of Mr. Sennett, Pennsylvanians by birth and agriculturists by predilection and vocation, left their native state when Edward M. was still a small boy and took up their residence in Illinois, where they passed the rest of their lives as industrious farming people, rounding out honorable careers and becoming moderately successful. They were the parents of these children: Edward M., whose name introduces this article; John, who is engaged in farming near Mason City; Frank, who resides in Illinois and is a farmer; Harry and Charlie, who also are Illinois farmers; Mary, who is the wife of John Park, a farmer in Indiana; Lizzie, who is the wife of Patrick O'Connor; and Addie, who is the widow of Del Henderson.

Edward M. Sennett acquired his education in the public schools of Illinois, where he was reared on the home farm, and he remained under the parental roof until after he had attained his majority. He took up farming as a means of livelihood, having had all his training along that line, and after some years spent in the central west he decided to try his fortune in Nebraska, from which state he had received glowing reports. With excellent judgment, he chose Custer county as his stage of residence, and in 1904 he located upon his present property, not far from Mason City, in section 10, township 13, range 18. Since his arrival he has greatly enlarged his holdings and is now the owner of 320 acres, all in a good state of cultivation, with substantial buildings and modern equipment. Mr. Sennett is the fortunate possessor of just those qualities which are essential to success in the business of farming, and, having had much experience in his field of endeavor, he is accounted one of the able and progressive men of his vicinity. Mr. Sennett has not been active in public affairs, save as a good citizen. He and the members of his family belong to the Evangelical church.

In 1881 Mr. Sennett was united in marriage, in Illinois, to Miss Jane Whitman, and to this union there were born six children: George, a widower, who is engaged in farming in Illinois; John, who is deceased; Ed, who is assist-

ing his father in the cultivation of the home acres; James, who married Hazel Hollenbach and is engaged in farming in Custer county; Ralph, who married Clara Jelinek, and also farms in this county; and Lida, who is the wife of Sid Hollenbach, owner of a Custer county farm.

HUBERT LEONARD, who is well known among the representative people of Custer county, is a prosperous general farmer residing on section 28, township 34. Mr. Leonard came to this county with his parents when he was a mere boy, and has lived here ever since. He was born in County Roscommon, Ireland, September 1, 1880, one of a family of ten children born to Hubert and Julia (Freeman) Leonard. Both parents were born in Ireland. They immigrated to the United States in 1888 and immediately came to Nebraska, where the father secured a homestead claim in Custer county, near Anselmo. This he developed and improved. In the spring of 1913 he removed with his family to Anselmo, and there his death occurred in November of the same year. His widow still makes her home in Anselmo. Of the ten children of the family the following are living: Mary is the wife of Thomas Teahon, a farmer living southwest of Anselmo; John, who is a farmer in the same neighborhood, married Lizzie Jacquot; Michael is engaged in the real-estate and insurance business at Anselmo; James G., who is in the abstract business in Broken Bow, married Nellie Reed; Patrick, who is postmaster of Anselmo, married Elsie Ross; Hubert is the immediate subject of this sketch; Bryan, who is a chiropractor practitioner and resides in Kansas, married Libbie Schmitz; and Charles, who is also a chiropractor, lives in Burke, South Dakota, and married Viola Reed. The father of the above family was a faithful member of the Roman Catholic church. In his political views he was a Democrat.

Hubert Leonard has been engaged in farming ever since his period of school attendance ended, and he has the reputation of being very successful in his agricultural undertakings, because of his practical and thorough methods and his sound judgment. Like his father before him, he is a Democrat in politics. He has never accepted any political favors but has served as school director of his district since 1917.

Mr. Leonard was married February 27, 1906, to Eleanore Holliday, who was born in Missouri, August 3, 1885, a daughter of Thomas C. and Catherine (Ray) Holliday,

the former of whom was sheriff of Custer county two terms — 1894-1898. Mr. and Mrs. Leonard are members of the Catholic church. They have two children: Pearley, born February 23, 1907; and Violet, born November 1, 1911.

ROLAND ROHDE. — There are not a few instances among the agriculturists of Custer county where the men who are engaged in farming and stock-raising are operating properties upon which they were born and upon which they have passed their entire lives. This is particularly true, and naturally, among the members of the younger generation, many of whom have succeeded their fathers, who were homesteaders here but who have now turned over the responsibilities and labors to younger and stronger shoulders. In the class mentioned is found Roland Rohde, who is a progressive and enterprising young farmer and stock-raiser of township 71, in the Mason City community, and who has already achieved a remarkable success for one who has just passed his majority.

Roland Rohde belongs to a pioneer homesteading family of Custer county, and was born not far from Mason City, in 1897, a son of Albert Rohde, a sketch of whose career will be found elsewhere in this work. There were three sons in the family, and all have grown to be worthy, industrious, and honorable men. Frank, who is, at the time of this writing, with the American Expeditionary Forces fighting in France, was well known in his home county before being called to the colors, was a general favorite among his associates, and belonged to the local Grange and to the Evangelical church at Mason City. Herman, the other brother, is associated with Roland in the cultivation of the farm, and is a young, progressive and energetic farmer, an enthusiastic member of the Grange, the meetings of which he attends regularly, and a staunch Republican.

Roland Rohde was reared on the home farm and received his education in the public schools. Having resided on the home place all his life, he is thoroughly familiar with every detail of its operation and management, and now has a full partnership in the property, which comprises 640 acres, of which 400 acres are devoted to farming. He and his brother have been greatly interested and markedly successful in stock-raising, and in addition to pure-bred horses are engaged in raising Red Polled cattle and pure blooded Poland-China hogs. The property is splendidly equipped with modern buildings and

other improvements, including an Overland automobile, a blacksmith shop with a complete set of tools, and a complete threshing machine outfit. Like his brother, Roland Rohde is a Republican. He is still numbered among the eligible bachelors of his native county.

JIM BAKER may well be cited as one of Custer county's old settlers, as forty years have rolled by since he came into the county in which he now owns 200 acres of fine land situated in section 25, within easy distance of Broken Bow. Mr. Baker was born in Iowa, September 5, 1869, and his parents were Thompson and Sarah (Huffman) Baker, who removed from Iowa to York county, Nebraska, in 1872. There were thirteen children in their family, a strong and sturdy stock, and of these the following are living: Frank, who is a farmer near Westerville, Nebraska, married Margaret Gardner; Tina, who is the widow of Charles Hare, lives at Ansley, Nebraska; Walter, who is a farmer in Custer county, married Lulu Nelms; Alice, who is the wife of Frank Hays, a farmer near Westerville; Kate, who is the widow of Austin Daniels, lives near Westerville; Hattie married William Gardner, a farmer, and they live near Morecroft Wyoming; Ralph, who is a traveling salesman, married Veila Lewis, and they reside at Alliance, Nebraska; Wesley N., who is a farmer in Custer county, married Amy Copey; May is the wife of John Dates, a farmer in Custer county; and Maud is the wife of Herbert Hollenbeck, a farmer near Westerville.

Jim Baker was three years old when his parents brought him to York county, Nebraska, and he was about nine years old when he came to Custer county, in the fall of 1878. He obtained his education in the Custer county schools and then learned the blacksmith trade, which he followed in conjunction with farming until 1903, since which time he has devoted himself to agricultural pursuits exclusively, carrying on mixed farming and cattle-raising. He has a valuable, well improved estate.

In May, 1899, Mr. Baker married Miss Lillie Ross, who was born in Illinois, and they have three children: Alice, who was born December 12, 1900; Verla, who was born August 5, 1902; and Roy, who was born June 22, 1904. All of the children remain at the parental home.

Mr. Baker is a Republican in his political views and is a loyal and public-spirited citizen. Wonderful changes have taken place since Mr. Baker came to Custer county, and he has done his part in developing the country.

PAUL J. HAUMONT, justice of the peace and representative citizen of Custer county, has been engaged in agricultural activities here ever since he completed his course of study in the State Agricultural College, at Lincoln. Mr. Haumont was born in Custer county, June 18, 1880. His parents were Edmund and Mary (Severyns) Haumont, both natives of now historic villages of Belgium, where his father was born in 1856 and his mother, April 27, 1848. It chanced that both came to the United States, the mother reaching this country in July, 1875, and the father two years later. To their subsequent marriage three children were born: Paul J., Eddie (deceased), and Sylvia, the one daughter being now the wife of Albert Kleeb, a farmer. Edmund Haumont was an intelligent man and in addition to being a capable farmer in Custer county he also became a citizen of the United States, one loyally interested in political sentiment. He voted first with the temporary Greenback party but afterward, until his death, January 7, 1917, with the Republican party. Both he and his wife were faithful members of the Roman Catholic church.

Paul J. Haumont grew up on his father's farm and attended the country schools. Later he took a course in the Nebraska Agricultural College, at Lincoln, the benefit of which discipline has been amply proved by the success that has attended the intelligent management of his farm, which he devotes to mixed farming and stock-raising. Although he is counted one of the best farmers in this section, he has not given all his time to personal undertakings but, through a hearty interest in the general welfare of his county, has informed himself concerning a good citizen's responsibilities, and has so gained the confidence of his fellow citizens thereby that, although independent in politics, he has been county clerk for four years and a justice of the peace for the same length of time.

Mr. Haumont was married in 1906 to Eva Polkingharn, who is a daughter of Douglas and Eliza (Gerrett) Polkingharn, and they have the following children: Violet, born April 10, 1907; Thomas, born May 4, 1908; Lee, born February 8, 1910; Arthur, born October 25, 1912; Grace, born January 25, 1916.

PETER R. PEDERSON, who has been a resident of Custer county for thirty-three years and is well and favorably known in every direction, is an extensive raiser of fine stock, to which industry he mainly devotes his many acres of well improved land. Mr. Pederson

was born in Denmark, February 18, 1861. His parents were S. M. and Anna (Jensen) Pederson, who were people of some consequence in Denmark before coming to America. They were highly esteemed in their own community and were leading members of the Lutheran church.

S. M. Pederson came to the United States in 1869 and in New York he followed his trade of mason and contractor about one year. He then sent for his family and they established their home soon afterward in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. From that place Mr. Pederson was sent as one of the commissioners assigned to the service of effecting and arranging for a Danish colonization in the Oconomowoc district. From different sections of Denmark the new settlers came in a body, and they became fully assimilated in the civic and industrial life of the Badger state—the founders of families that are to-day numbered among the best and most prosperous in Wisconsin, the while representatives of these families have also become worthily identified with the citizenship of various other states of the Union. The year 1870 was that in which the wife and seven children of Mr. Pederson joined him in New York, and after the removal to Wisconsin he did a considerable amount of building, as a contracting mason, as did he later in Chicago, he having removed to that metropolis in the autumn of 1871. Later he became a resident of Howard county, Nebraska. Concerning the surviving children of this sterling citizen the following brief record is consistently entered at this juncture: Lizzie is the widow of Quinn Kirkpatrick and resides in the city of Seattle, Washington; Minnie is the wife of Jens Jensen, who is engaged in the lumber business at Bellingham, Washington; Peter R. is the immediate subject of this sketch; Mary is the wife of Hans Jensen, a railroad engineer, and they reside at Cheyenne, Wyoming; and Yetta, who is the widow of George Raymond, resides at Everett, Washington.

Peter R. Pederson obtained his educational training in the public schools of Grand Island, Nebraska, and remained in Howard county until 1883. He was a clerk in the postoffice at Grand Island for one year and then spent a year at Carbon, Wyoming. From Wyoming he came to Custer county in 1885, and he has remained here ever since. Here he is to-day the owner of a section of well improved land. He bought a brother's claim and also filed on a claim for himself, and all this land, substantially improved, returns adequate income. His home place is in section 23, township 34.

In 1887 Peter R. Pederson was united in

marriage with Emily J. Cudmore, who was born February 12, 1876. Her parents were Edward W. and Sarah J. Cudmore, and they came to Nebraska from Canada, both being natives of Toronto. Concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Pederson the following data are available: Soren M., who was born January 19, 1899, entered the United States service in connection with the nation's participation in the great world war. As a member of Company H, Third Engineers Corps, he received training at Camp Humphrey, Virginia, and he was serving in Company C, One-Hundred and Twenty-second Regiment of Engineers, at the time when the war came to a close. Elsie, who was born September 27, 1900, is a student in the Nebraska State Normal School at Kearney. John Clifton, who was born September 7, 1902, died on the 11th of September, 1916. Marmion, who was born July 30, 1904, and Esther, who was born March 7, 1908, remain at the parental home and are attending the public schools.

In politics Mr. Pederson gives his allegiance to the Democratic party, and his religious faith is that of the Lutheran church, his wife being a member of the Methodist Episcopal church

CHESTER SAMS, who is one of Custer county's excellent farmers and whose experience in connection with farm enterprise covers many years, is the owner of well cultivated land in section 24, township 17, in the vicinity of Berwyn.

Chester Sams was born in Bremer county, Iowa, on the 1st of August, 1874, and is the younger of the two children of John L. and Cora R. (Terry) Sams. The death of the mother occurred February 25, 1879 and the elder of her two children is Charles A., who married Miss Irene Carl and who is a prosperous farmer in Custer county. The second marriage of John L. Sams occurred in Polk county, Nebraska, where, on the 30th of December, 1883, he wedded Florence A. Hornback. Two sons were born of this union: Roy B., who married Goldie Sampson, of Custer county, is engaged in farming in this county, and James L., who married Hattie M. Powell, is a farmer near Payette, Idaho. Mrs. Florence A. (Hornback) Sams died October 29, 1907.

In March, 1895, John L. Sams settled on a farm near Weissert, Custer county, and here he and his wife united with the Methodist Episcopal church, with which they continued their identification until 1904, when they transferred their membership to the Church of God.

Chester Sams was young at the time of the family removal to Nebraska, and here he has continuously resided to the present time. He obtained his youthful education in the public schools of Polk county, this state, and throughout his entire active career he has been closely identified with farm enterprise. In his farm operations he is vigorous and progressive and he is one of the valued citizens of the Berwyn vicinity.

On the 29th of March, 1903, was recorded the marriage of Mr. Sams to Miss Sadie Franklin, who was born in Otoe county, Nebraska, May 5, 1882, and who is a daughter of William and Ann (Eve) Franklin, both natives of England. Mr. Franklin died in 1910, at Mason City, Custer county, where his widow still resides. The names and respective dates of birth of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Sams are here entered: Thelma V., February 3, 1904; Rosa M., August 10, 1907; Edith O., November 26, 1913; Esther Ann, February 22, 1915; and John, August 13, 1916. The older children are attending school.

HARVEY B. ANDREWS.—Few of the pioneer residents of Nebraska passed through more thrilling experiences, faced greater hardships, overcame more obstacles, and gained greater results than did the late Harvey B. Andrews, whose death occurred at Anselmo, May 8, 1916. His life was typical of the courageous, persevering spirit which brought about the settlement, civilizing, and development of the West, and his career was one in which he rose from obscurity to prominence and wealth. In the early days, when Custer county was still on the frontier, he drove stage, fought Indians, and shot buffalo and other wild game; later he became a large landholder and one of the most successful ranchmen of the central part of Nebraska, and subsequently he applied his keen business acumen and foresight to the direction of financial and other institutions, to their great and lasting benefit—and in each capacity, in each community, and in each field of endeavor he steadfastly maintained a recognized reputation for integrity and honor of the strictest kind.

Mr. Andrews was a resident of Broken Bow at the time of his death, and a local paper gave the following statement of the passing of this honored pioneer: "In the midst of a cheerful conversation, and while seated at dinner in the home of W. S. Tupper, at Anselmo, Monday at 12:30 P. M., H. B. Andrews,

one of Custer county's best known citizens, suddenly ceased to breathe. His death was a decided shock to the community, and though he had been ailing for a year or more, the past six months had shown such marked improvement in his condition that he was thought for the time to be out of danger."

Harvey B. Andrews was born in Alleghany county, Virginia, January 22, 1849, the sixth order of birth in a family of six sons and four daughters. His parents, William and Elizabeth (Oliver) Andrews, also were natives of the Old Dominion, where they were married, reared their children, and passed their entire lives. Of their children four sons and one daughter still live in that state.

Harvey B. Andrews was educated in the public schools and was reared a farmer, remaining under the parental roof until 1874, in March of which year, in company with a party of about nine other youths of his neighborhood, he set out for the west, with the vicinity of New Helena, Nebraska, as his destination. The Union Pacific Railroad carried the little party as far as Kearney, where they hired a team and wagon and, with a driver, continued on their journey through Loup City, Sherman county, and on into the territory of Custer—along the north side of Middle Loup river until reaching a point opposite the mouth of Victoria creek. Blocked by the river, they set about the difficult task of fording the stream, in which the wagon was taken to pieces and floated across and the stronger men carried the weaker ones. It fell to Mr. Andrews' lot to carry across Charles Mathews, who in later years, as county judge of Custer county and one of the best known men in central Nebraska, frequently related the interesting story. After fording the creek, the party continued to follow it along the east side until reaching Victoria Springs, where Messrs. Andrews and Mathews were the only ones of the nine to make a permanent settlement. Mr. Mathews took a pre-emption where the springs gushed out of the creek, while Mr. Andrews selected his claim a little further up-stream, this later becoming the Bowley farm.

In the fall of 1877 Mr. Andrews made a homestead entry in Cedar canyon, this tract covering the principal part of the little cedar forest there, and being very valuable because of the timber. Some of the cabins erected from logs taken from this canyon still stand on Victoria creek. Mr. Andrews and Mr. Mathews, as the original settlers of that neighborhood, in later years exchanged reminiscences of the time when game was plenti-



HARVEY E. ANDREWS

ful and the Indians hostile. During his residence there Mr. Andrews killed deer and antelope by the hundreds, as well as one buffalo, and for ten years his family had no other kind of meat, while the family residence was first a log house and later a soddy. As early as 1874 Mr. Andrews worked at freighting from Grand Island to Fort Hartseff, the military post above Ord, thus demonstrating the fact that in the new country he was willing to accept any kind of honorable employment that promised sufficient emolument so that he could better his condition. In 1877 he accepted the dangerous position of driving stage in the Black Hills, and he held that post from April 1st to September, at a time when the Indians, on the war-path, frequently followed him. Just before his run the driver of the stage was killed by hostile Indians, and on one occasion Mr. Andrews, with his stage, came upon the mutilated bodies of two men and women who had been massacred by the redskins. It is to be imagined that for many years Mr. Andrews had anything but a friendly feeling toward the Indians. In the early days, in connection with frontier life, he had other experiences which taxed his strength and courage. At the time of the great blizzard of January 12, 1888, still well remembered by the "old-timers," he had been in Broken Bow, and left the train at Anselmo, where he endeavored to get a liveryman to take him home, offering five dollars—a large sum in those days—for the six-mile trip to New Helena. However, no one would venture out in such a storm, and, purchasing a lantern, Mr. Andrews, in the face of remonstrances by the residents of Anselmo, started out along the wire fence. By the time he had reached the end of it, he had convinced himself that he was equal to the task of braving and defeating the storm, and about ten o'clock he reached his home, thoroughly frightening Mrs. Andrews, by his arrival at such an hour on such a night. At the time of the blizzard of October 15, 1880, which continued three days, he had just returned from Dismal river, where he had a large bunch of cattle, but with the early frontiersman's sagacity he had felt the coming of the great storm and had hurried home.

Mr. Andrews was a man who made the most of his opportunities—one whose splendid judgment and foresight and fine business abilities won him success and prominence. He accumulated some 7,000 or 8,000 acres of valuable land, on which he conducted large farming, stock-raising, and ranching operations, and later he entered business and financial

circles, in which he gained like success. In the fall of 1911 he and his family left their ranch home at Anselmo and retired to a farm adjoining the eastern suburbs of Broken Bow, and there Mr. Andrews lived quietly until his death. He was originally a Democrat, but later took an independent stand regarding public questions and candidates, but was no office-seeker himself. However, he was always ready to discharge his responsibilities, and for some time served on the county board as supervisor from the Victoria district. He was a leading Mason, being a member of Broken Bow blue lodge, the chapter and commandery, and also being affiliated with Tanager Temple of the Mystic Shrine, at Omaha. With Mrs. Andrews and their daughter, Lilly, he held membership in the Order of the Eastern Star.

On September 29, 1878, Mr. Andrews was united in marriage with Miss Jennie Loughran, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Morrow) Loughran, of Loup City, to whose home Mr. Andrews had made a trip in 1876. Mrs. Andrews' parents were natives of Ireland, and her father immigrated to Canada when he was but fifteen years of age. There he married and there his first wife died. In 1874 he made a trip of inspection to Nebraska, and in 1876 he brought his family here for a permanent residence. He died here in his eighty-sixth year. Mrs. Loughran had been married first in Ireland, and was twenty years of age when she started for Canada with her husband and child, both of whom died soon after landing, of what was known as "ship fever," now supposed by many to be the deadly typhus fever. Although her father sent her money to return to Ireland, she was independent, and was working for a wage of fifty cents per week, saving her money for her passage, when she met and married Mr. Loughran. Later they came to Nebraska, where she passed away some time before the death of her husband. They were the parents of four children: James, who is a farmer of Gates, Nebraska; Mary, who is the widow of W. H. McCowin, of Curtis, Nebraska; Alice, who is the widow of J. L. Vinnedge, of Taylor, this state; and Jennie, who is the widow of the subject of this memoir. Mr. Loughran was a Catholic and Mrs. Loughran a member of the Presbyterian church.

Of the children born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Andrews, seven survive: Mary is the wife of R. F. Aldrich, living on a farm near Broken Bow; Charles H. is connected with the large real-estate firm of Wood Brothers, at Lincoln, Nebraska; Jennie is the wife

of John A. Mack, of New Helena, a farmer; Lilly B. is the wife of Joe M. Downey, a stockman near Anselmo; Alice is the wife of C. Ernest Crouch, a farmer and stock-raiser, and they live with Mrs. Andrews; Fannie is attending school at York; and Stella Minerva is attending school at Broken Bow. Mrs. Andrews still survives her husband and resides at the pleasant and comfortable modern home in the suburbs of Broken Bow, where she always extends a hospitable welcome to her many friends, whether they be of the modern times or of the days of the frontier, when she assisted her husband so ably in his struggle to obtain a foothold in the new country where in later years he was destined to become such an important figure.

FRED H. ARTHUR.—A pronounced study in contrast among the upbuilders of Custer county is presented in the career of Fred H. Arthur. His twentieth century status is represented by the ownership of large tracts of land, and between the laborenslaving and poverty-clouded days of the past and those of the prosperous present, he has encountered many varied and developing experiences, the very existence of which stamps him as a man of courage, initiative, and purpose. Mr. Arthur was born at Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, May 14, 1859, and is a son of Horace and Mary (Green) Arthur.

Homer Arthur, the paternal grandfather of Fred H. Arthur, was born in the state of New York, where he spent the greater part of his life, but finally he moved to Wisconsin, and thereafter to Iowa, where he died at the age of ninety years. He married Miss Fannie Higby, who was related to ex-Governor Bradford of New York and was descended from Revolutionary stock. Horace Arthur was born in Lewis county, New York, in 1828, and there he married Miss Mary Green, who was born in 1830, in that same county, and who was a daughter of James and Hannah Green, the former of whom died in Wisconsin, in 1858, and the latter in 1869, both being natives of the Empire state. Shortly after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Horace Arthur went to Wisconsin, making the voyage via the Erie Canal and the Great Lakes to Chicago and thence proceeding by stage coach to Wisconsin. There Mr. Arthur took up government land and engaged in farming. He was making a success of his operations when the Civil war interrupted his peaceful career. As a loyal and patriotic citizen he enlisted as a member of a Wisconsin regiment of volunteer infantry, and he was with his command in camp in Indiana

when he was suddenly taken sick with typhoid fever, his death occurring soon after his return to Wisconsin, in 1863. He was a Democrat in politics, and his religious faith was that of the Congregational church, as was also that of Mrs. Arthur, who survived until 1915, and died in Iowa. They were the parents of six children, of whom three are living: Charles M., who is a retired resident of Webster City, Iowa; Fred H., whose name introduces this sketch; and Minnie, who is the widow of Frank Wilson, and is a resident of Webster City, Iowa.

The district schools of Iowa, to which state he was taken after the death of his father, furnished Fred H. Arthur with his early education, this being supplemented by one year's attendance in a business college at Webster City. His life work was then commenced as a farmer in the Hawkeye state. He remained in that state until 1887, when he and his brother went to South Dakota and took up land, remaining there seven years. Following this, Mr. Arthur came to Custer county, where, in 1894, he bought land. He has since added to his holdings until he now has 520 acres in his own property, all well improved, said improvement having been made by himself. In addition to his own land, he is the owner of the property which formerly belonged to his wife's father, and both farms have splendid buildings and other improvements. When he started upon his career he had absolutely nothing to assist him save his own initiative, determination, and resolute purpose, and with these fortifying characteristics and good management he won success. His judgment led him to make a specialty of live-stock for a number of years. This venture turned out prosperously, and a good grade of stock is still raised upon his farms, although alfalfa is the principal product at this time. Mr. Arthur retired from the farm in January, 1917, and since then has been living quietly in his modern residence at Broken Bow.

In the year 1889, at Broken Bow, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Arthur to Miss Alta B. King, a daughter of George W. and Emily (Green) King, natives of the state of New York. Mr. King came with his family to Custer county, Nebraska, in 1886. Here he entered claim to a homestead and set himself vigorously to the developing of a productive farm. Sterling citizens of the county, he and his wife here passed the remainder of their lives. Mr. King died in January, 1908, his wife having passed away July 17, 1890. They became the parents of four children, concerning whom the following brief data

may consistently be entered at this juncture: Emma, who was born in the state of New York, July 13, 1849, became the wife of Robert Ledwith, a farmer in Custer county, and her death occurred May 25, 1917. Edgar Howard, who was born January 29, 1852, in Wisconsin, died March 6, 1897. He married Ida Burnham and they had one child, Horace B. Frank E., who was born September 13, 1854, became a locomotive engineer in the service of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, died on the 19th of January, 1895. Alta Bell, wife of the subject of this sketch, was born September 28, 1859. Captain George W. King, father of Mrs. Arthur, was one of the gallant sons of the nation who went forth in defense of the Union when the Civil war was precipitated. At the inception of the war he enlisted as a private in Company H, Thirty-second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and through valiant and efficient service he won consecutive promotion and was captain of his company when the war came to its close. He participated in many engagements, including a number of the important battles marking the progress of the great conflict, and was with the forces of General Sherman on the historic march from Atlanta to the sea.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur have one son, George E., who now has active charge of the father's fine farm property in Custer county. The maiden name of his wife was Frances Shirley, and they have one child — Louise.

Fred H. Arthur is a Republican in politics, and on his party ticket he was elected township assessor, an office of which he was the efficient incumbent during a period of seven consecutive years. He is affiliated with the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

JACOB M. CASE, who has spent the greater part of his life as a farmer in Custer county, Nebraska, is a representative of a well known and highly respected pioneer family of this section and is a substantial farmer living on section 11, township 17, not far distant from Berwyn. Jacob M. Case was born in Ringgold county, Iowa, August 25, 1874. He is the eldest of four children born to Peter M. and Ellen (Wray) Case. They were natives of Indiana, from which state they moved to Iowa. From the latter state they came to Nebraska and they reached Custer county in October, 1888. They came overland, in pioneer style, and the father bought a relinquishment and developed the property into a fine farm. He now lives retired at Weissert. The mother died in December, 1893, her children all surviving, namely:

Jacob M. is the subject of this review; Luther S. conducts a Salvation Army store in Peoria, Illinois; Arthur G., who is a farmer near Monte Vista, Colorado, married Ida Leck; Guy W. is connected with the Salvation Army unit that has been doing noble work in war-ravaged France.

Jacob M. Case was fourteen years old when he accompanied his parents to Custer county. He had already received a district-school education in his native state. The settlers of thirty years ago in Custer county found many hardships to contend with, but Mr. Case and his father had not expected anything otherwise for a time, and gradually, through their industry and good management, the home property became productive and increasingly valuable. As years passed Mr. Case's younger brothers left the farm for other avenues of usefulness, but he has always remained a farmer and has the reputation of being a very competent one.

Mr. Case was married March 4, 1899, to Hattie W. Perkins, and of their seven children five are living: Daisy B., born February 18, 1900; Everett A., born March 6, 1903; Gladys M., born March 2, 1906; Glenn B., born October 9, 1909; and Donald M., born January 16, 1917. All of the children remain at the parental home. Mr. and Mrs. Case are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics he is a Republican.

ROY B. SAMS, who is a general farmer living on section 14, township 17, Custer county, belongs to a well known pioneer family of the state and one of agricultural importance in Custer county. He was born in Polk county, Nebraska, October 5, 1885, and is a son of John L. and Florence A. (Hornback) Sams. His mother died October 29, 1907. He has one brother, James L., who is a farmer near Payette, Idaho, and two half-brothers by his father's first marriage, these being Charles A. and Chester, both of whom are good farmers and substantial citizens of Custer county. John L. Sams came to Nebraska from Iowa, and eventually he established his residence in Custer county, where, in March, 1895, he settled on a farm near Weissert. There he and his wife united with the Methodist Episcopal church, of which they continued members until 1904, when they transferred their membership to the Church of God.

Roy B. Sams attended the public schools through his boyhood days and then began to learn the practical duties that make up the life of a farmer. His land is cultivated care-

fully and intelligently and yields abundantly.

Mr. Sams was married September 29, 1910, to Goldie Sampson, a daughter of James and Ida (Tiff) Sampson, the former of whom was born in Denmark, January 24, 1855, and is a sailor. The mother of Mrs. Sams died February 20, 1907. Mr. and Mrs. Sams have two children but only one survives, Lawrence LeRoy, who was born July 1, 1911. Mr. Sams is a Democrat in politics.

WILLIAM T. CLOUSE.—One of the substantial farmers of Custer county is the reliable citizen whose name initiates this paragraph. He came to Custer county in an early day, and experienced all of the hardships and trials incident to pioneer life in the period of the '80s, when the conveniences of the present day were vague dreams of the future.

Mr. Clouse is a native of Pennsylvania, in which state he was born July 24, 1856. His parents were H. V. Clouse and Barbara (Metz) Clouse, whose birth dates from 1811. In the family of H. V. Clouse were ten children: Susan, Herman, and Ella are deceased; Philip lives in Yale, Iowa; Floyd lives in Pennsylvania, the state of the family nativity; William T. is the Custer county citizen around whose career the incidents of these paragraphs cluster; Katy is deceased; Theodore is in Iowa; Davis still clings to Pennsylvania, where he has his home; and Samuel was living in Iowa when last heard from.

During the Civil war the family of H. V. Clouse, lived close to the historic Mason and Dixon Line, and one of the experiences that fell to their lot during those trying years was the burning of their home, an event which the younger members of the family will never forget.

William T. Clouse was married in his native state in 1877, to Sarah Repogle, who is a daughter of David and Rosanna (Zook) Repogle, both of the Keystone state. Mr. and Mrs. Clouse became the parents of nine children, eight of whom are still living: David, resides at Squirrel, Idaho; Henry is located in Sumner, Nebraska; Charles lives in Stapleton, this state; Reuben resides in Eddyville, Dawson county; Rosanna is deceased; Alice is the wife of Horace Austin, a farmer in Custer county; Raymond answered the call of his country and is in the service of the government, as a member of a field-artillery company; Nettie is the wife of Elmer Freeze, a prosperous farmer in Dawson county; and George Washington is attending school in Sumner.

Mr. and Mrs. Clouse came to Nebraska in

1886, and he pre-empted eighty acres in Buffalo county, but later homesteaded in Custer. At the present time the family lands consist of 240 acres well improved and in a high state of cultivation. Upon this land a general farming and stock-raising business is conducted. The home to-day stands in striking contrast with the sod house which was built in the early day and in which Mr. and Mrs. Clouse lived for twenty-one years. During the first years of their residence in Custer county they had to ford the river in order to reach either Ansley or Broken Bow, to which places their produce had to be hauled. At the time Mr. Clouse filed on his claim he made the entire trip to Grand Island and return with nothing to eat. These are only a few of the incidents through which he and his wife passed during the trying times of the early days. The blizzard of January 12, 1880, has left a lasting impression upon their memories. Mr. Clouse went to the schoolhouse that evening for his boys. He left one of the boys at the home of a neighbor, and he and the older son faced the blizzard. After a hard struggle and strenuous battling, they succeeded in reaching their home—a trip both will remember as long as they live. The Clouse family are very excellent people, well rated by their neighbors, and they enjoy the confidence of all who know them. They are connected with the Brethren church.

HARRY WOODRUFF is distinctively a Nebraska product. Here he was born, here he was reared and educated, here he married, and here he has lived his life until the present time. He belongs to a family which is well known in the county and which is highly respected for its contribution to civic and material progress and prosperity.

Mr. Woodruff was born in Hamilton county, Nebraska, September 4, 1872, and in 1876, he came with his father into the pioneer section of Custer county. Here he was educated in the common schools, and here he received the qualification which enables him at the present time to conduct successfully all matters of business pertaining to farm and stock transactions.

He married Miss Fannie Judge, a daughter of James Judge, who came to Nebraska from Illinois. As a result of this union four children were born, all of whom are still living and make up a family circle of which any home might be proud. The first, Mildred, is the wife of Otto Johnson, a farmer who makes his home in Sumner. The second born, Leo, is still at home and assisting in farm opera-

tions, Eugene is the contribution of the family's patriotic spirit to the services of the government. He is a member of the Forty-eighth Balloon Corps, stationed at Omaha, at the time of this writing. Frank, the youngest, is attending high school at Broken Bow and is a member of the senior class. When he entered the high school he was the youngest student in the school.

Mr. Woodruff owns 160 acres of well improved land, splendidly equipped for successful farming, and on this he maintains his pleasant farm home. In social circles he has been active and prominent. He is a member of the Royal Highlanders, a fraternal insurance organization very popular in the middle west. He is a member and generous supporter of the Catholic church. He is also a member of the Knights of Columbus, to the war-work of which organization he has always been a liberal contributor.

Speaking of early days, Mr. Woodruff recalls that in the years gone by he hunted deer on the old home place and often stalked wild game in the immediate vicinity of his present home.

The Woodruffs are splendid people, and well merit the high esteem of their friends and neighbors. Custer county is the richer by the life efforts of this estimable family.

JOSEPH KAELIN, whose well improved farm is situated in section 13, township 17, with convenient market facilities at Berwyn, is not a native of the great state of Nebraska, but has been favorably known here for over a quarter of a century. He was born in Switzerland, November 15, 1868, and is a son of Joseph and Mary (Kaelin) Kaelin, who passed their entire lives in Switzerland, and who were faithful members of the Roman Catholic church. The father followed the trade of shoemaker.

Joseph Kaelin was twenty-three years old when he came to the United States with the intention of making this country his future home. He was a well educated young man in his own language and very quickly acquired a working knowledge of the English tongue. He reached Pawnee county, Nebraska, in 1891, and remained there three years. He then came to the neighborhood of Ansley, in Custer county, and has followed farming ever since. In 1901 he bought his present well improved farm and here he is engaged in mixed farming and stock-raising, his persistent industry and thorough methods making his farm enterprise very generally profitable.

Mr. Kaelin was married in January, 1899,

to Ida Spoerri, who was born in Switzerland, August 1, 1869, a daughter of Jacob and Annie B. (Keller) Spoerri, neither of whom ever came to America. Mrs. Kaelin has two brothers still living in Switzerland—Carl J. and Jacob J. Her father was a watchmaker by trade, and both he and his wife belonged to the church at Zwingle. Of the six children of Mr. and Mrs. Kaelin five are living, as follows: Emma, born November 23, 1899; Joseph, born June 12, 1901; Frank, born August 23, 1904; George, born October 27, 1908; and Doris, born August 27, 1911. Mr. Kaelin and his family belong to the Catholic church at Ansley. He has never been very active in politics but gives his support to the Republican party.

U. S. HORN.—One of the respected citizens of the South Loup country, prominent throughout his community, is U. S. Horn, whose life achievement is an asset to the history of the county.

Mr. Horn was born in Nemaha county, this state, August 20, 1868, and is a son of John and Harriet (Ralston) Horn. His father, who is still living, was eighty-three years of age on the 4th day of July, 1918. The mother has passed to her reward. John Horn and his wife were the parents of eleven children, and concerning those now living, the following brief record is given: Mrs. Ann (Horn) Green lives in Montana; Mrs. Alice Branstiter is a widow, and she resides at Lomax, Custer county; Charles is a farmer, and resides in the vicinity of his brother, U. S. Horn; U. S. Horn, the fourth of the family group, is the subject of this sketch; John Milton Horn is a Custer county farmer and citizen; Mrs. Elsie (Horn) Sapp lives in Nemaha county; and Orley likewise resides in Nemaha county.

The early years of U. S. Horn were spent in Nemaha county, where he passed through the common schools, and secured a good fundamental education. He was married December 24, 1889, to Miss Fannie Jewell, whose family was prominent in Nemaha county. Mrs. Horn is a native of that county, where her early years were spent and where she had the same opportunities for education as did her husband.

In the family circle of the Horns are six children, all of whom are at home, where they assist in farm work and enjoy the advantages of splendid schools. They are. Claret, Melvin, Blanche, Leo, Floyd, and Clyde.

Mr. and Mrs. Horn came to Custer county

too late for pioneer experiences, but not too late to contribute their sterling worth to the citizenship of the county at the present day. It was 1904 when they moved in, bought the place on which they now live and commenced practical farming operations. They had been farmers in Nemaha county and withal were very successful. They succeeded in securing a good foundation and what might be called a splendid start before they sold their Nemaha possessions and repurchased in Custer county. Accordingly they were better fixed when they came to the county than were most of the people who make their home in this central part of the state. But the greatest asset they brought with them was indomitable spirit, good judgment, and industry. With these they commenced their Custer county home. For a time Mr. Horn rented his father's land, and he made it profitable both to himself and his father. The home place to-day is one of the attractive farm properties on the South Loup, with a modern and comfortable house and all else to constitute a well equipped stock and grain farm. All these improvements are the result of the labors of Mr. and Mrs. Horn.

In social affairs Mr. Horn is a prominent Mason and Odd Fellow. Both he and his wife are highly respected citizens and neighbors and have a large circle of friends who delight in the good fortune that has come to them in their western home. Custer's county can well be proud of such citizens.

HARTFORD R. BRACHEAR, who, during a long and successful career, has followed various occupations in several parts of Nebraska, is now a well known resident of Franklin county, although his operations are by no means confined to the borders of that county. During his residence in this state, he has been in turn, and together, blacksmith, farmer, stockman, and auctioneer, and in his several fields his versatility has assisted him to well deserved prosperity. He is a native of Illinois, and was born December 14, 1867, his parents being Aaron R. and Ellen E. (Kelso) Brachear.

Aaron R. Brachear was born February 3, 1840, in Logan county, Illinois, and there grew to manhood and adopted the vocation of farming. With the formation of the Republican party he became an ardent supporter of its principles, and later was an advocate of the cause of freedom for the slaves. He enlisted in 1862, in Company B, One Hundred and Sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and in November, 1863, at Jackson, Tennessee, he was joined by his wife, who was un-

willing to be longer separated from him. She traveled with his regiment until the close of the war, acting in the capacity of nurse, and did not leave the service until he had received his honorable discharge, at the close of hostilities, at which time she returned with him to the farm in Illinois. Both had splendid records for bravery and fidelity to duty. In 1870 Aaron R. Brachear decided to try his fortunes in the west, and November 15 of that year, with his wife and two small sons, Montford H., and Hartford R., he started from Taylorville, Illinois, and came to Saline county, Nebraska, traveling overland by the prairie-schooner route and arriving at his destination four weeks later. The family settled on a homestead three miles north of the present site of Friend, Nebraska, where Mr. Brachear became a prominent hog and cattle dealer, following this vocation as a seller on the market for eighteen years. He was widely and favorably known in business circles as a man of integrity, and he and his wife were devout members of the Christian church. Beside their sons they were the parents of a daughter, now Mrs. Laura M. Butcher. For the past twenty years Mrs. Brachear has made her home with her son Hartford R.

Hartford R. Brachear was educated in the public schools and reared to agricultural pursuits. He was brought up in a home which should have satisfied any boy of his years, but, like some other youths, he developed a roving disposition, and when sixteen years old he suddenly took the notion to earn his own living and spend his money as he pleased. With this end in view, he arrived in a railroad camp, looking for employment, and three days later he was not only covered with glory but with various specimens of the insect world, the names of which are seldom mentioned in polite society, but a name for which has been coined by the fighting men in France, who refer to them as "cooties." Needless to say, young Brachear was glad to make his way home, a sadder but wiser young man, and cheerfully to take up the work of the farm, prosaic and lacking in adventure though it might be. In addition to general farming and raising stock, Mr. Brachear carried on a successful blacksmith business for a number of years, and eventually developed inherent powers for the business of auctioneering, one of the difficult vocations which necessitates the possession of peculiar talents. He has followed these three vocations with good success, and at present is the owner of a valuable farm, under stages of development, which is located in the vicinity of Wauneta, Chase county, this state, on the Frenchman river.

Mr. Brachear was married September 7, 1898, at Hastings, Nebraska, to Miss Geneva H. McCartney, daughter of James McCartney, and to this union there have been born four children: Mon. D., who is assisting his father in the development of the farm; Olga B., who is a high school student; Ora Ellen, who is a student in the graded schools; and Opal Ruby, who is the baby of the family. Mr. and Mrs. Brachear are consistent members of the Christian church. He is fraternally identified with the Modern Woodmen of America, and his political support is given to the Democratic party, although he is not a politician and has not cared for public office.

PAUL E. CAVENEE is one of the young farmers of Custer county who has the major part of his career yet before him, and he belongs to that class of young men who are the sturdy and substantial scions of the pioneer generation, and upon whom the burdens of the present day are resting.

Mr. Cavenée was born May 22, 1891, in Custer county, and is in every sense of the word a Custer product. His parents, John E. and Alice (Smith) Cavenée, were pioneers of the late '70s, and the family name has long been familiar throughout the county, in connection with public affairs and general civic and industrial interests.

John E. and Alice (Smith) Cavenée became the parents of two children, and the subject of this sketch is the one surviving. The father was a native of Ohio and he lived in the prairie district of the Buckeye state until the call of the west enticed him to move, and, when once started with his face towards the setting sun, he never stopped until he struck the South Loup country in Custer county. This was in 1878. Mr. Cavenée arrived with practically nothing except energy and determination. To-day the Cavenée holdings comprise 1,040 acres of splendid land, well improved and in a high state of cultivation.

Paul E. Cavenée ran the ordinary gamut of a Custer county youth, save that he had better opportunities for education than are accorded the majority. After finishing the country school he attended the Broken Bow high school and from there went to Kearney, where he took a normal and business course.

In December, 1917, Paul Cavenée married Mrs. Elizabeth Stairs, of Oconto, she being of splendid parentage and being a very estimable, and gracious lady. Mr. Cavenée conducts farming operations on a somewhat extensive scale and is raising all kinds of stock,

with which he is making a decided success. His father's farm and also leased land, known as the Campbell place, constitute the ranch property he is operating.

Both Mr. Cavenée and his father are prominent in fraternal circles, the father expending most of his activities in the Knights of Pythias. Paul E. is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and in the time-honored Masonic fraternity he has received the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite. The family's religious affiliations are with the Presbyterian church.

Opportunity and years are before Mr. and Mrs. Cavenée, and their friends prophesy splendid things for them in the oncoming years.

JOHN R. ALLEN.—Industry, self-reliance, and a capacity for painstaking labor have contributed to the present prosperity of John R. Allen, a well known Custer county farmer, and will doubtless have much to do with his future usefulness and permanent success. For many years a follower of the trade of carpenter, of more recent years he has turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, and at present he is the owner of a fine farm and beautiful home, located two miles northwest of Oconto.

John R. Allen was born in Lincolnshire, England, January 15, 1861, a son of William and Martha (Swan) Allen. The family came to the United States in 1871 and settled in Mahaska county, Iowa, where the father continued to be engaged in farming during the remainder of his life. There were three sons and four daughters in the family, and of these children four still survive: John R., Mrs. Eliza Thompson, William, and Mrs. Mattie Shelby.

When he was a small lad in England, John R. Allen could not be kept in school, as his studies were distasteful to him, and his father, desiring to teach him a lesson, hired him out to a neighbor to do chores, at a wage of three shillings a week. His mother permitted him to keep this money the first week, and the eight-year-old lad immediately spent it for the first knife that he ever owned. It is to be recorded that he lost the knife before sundown of the same day. He was ten years old when the family came to the United States, and grew up in Mahaska county, Iowa, where he completed his education in the public schools and where he worked for some years on his father's farm. He remained under the parental roof until 1880, in which year his mother died, and he left home and began to

learn the carpenter's trade, at which he spent two years, during which time he received his board and seventy-five cents a day. He continued to apply himself industriously to the carpenter trade, and in 1905 bought a farm of 240 acres, two miles northwest of Oconto, although he did not locate thereon until 1908. Since the latter year he has been engaged in farming, and he now has a beautiful home, of which he is justly proud, in section 25, township 60. He uses modern methods in his work and his property shows the beneficial results accruing from intelligent management.

On October 19, 1884, at David City, Nebraska, Mr. Allen was united in marriage with Miss Nora Lamunyon, who was born in Michigan, a daughter of Wheeler W. and Nettie (Snedaker) Lamunyon. Twelve children were born to this union: Mary is the wife of Clifford Howell, a railroad man of North Platte, Nebraska, and they have one son; Edward, a farmer of Abbott, Colorado, married Bertha Kobo and has one daughter; Carrie M., the mother of a son by a former marriage, is now the wife of O. B. Dresback, an electrician in Lincoln, Nebraska; Nellie is the wife of John Kolbo, a plumber of North Platte, and they have one daughter; George W., who is at home and engaged in farming his father's property, was placed in Class 1 of the selective draft and made himself ready to respond to the call into the service of his country; Ruth is the wife of Lee N. Bolton, a farmer of Lodi, Nebraska, and they have one son; Bessie is the wife of Thomas B. Waller, freight agent of the Union Pacific Railroad at Kearney; Joseph resides at home and assists his father; Ethel is an eighth-grade student; Frederick W. and Clyde R., are attending school; and Doris is six years of age (1918).

Mr. Allen is independent in his political views, and takes no active part in politics, but is a loyal and public-spirited citizen whose support is never withheld from helpful enterprises and good civic movements.

REV. BRENARD A. SHIVELY. — It is not often that an outsider understands or appreciates the work of the clergy of the United Evangelical church. Fortunately these learned and worthy ministers give but little thought to the criticism or lack of appreciation on the part of the world, resting content with the realization that they have carried out the ideas of their superiors, have done the work of their Master, and have accomplished untold good for the benefit of humanity. One of these unselfish and venerated members of

the United Evangelical clergy is Rev. Brenard A. Shively, pastor of the church of this faith at Callaway.

Brenard A. Shively was born January 22, 1881, at Newport, on the Juniata river, in Perry county, Pennsylvania, and is a son of Charles and Catherine (Longacre) Shively, also natives of the Keystone state. The father, now deceased, was for many years a merchant in Pennsylvania, where he had stores at different points. There were five children in the family: Brenard A., Maurice C., Laura (who died single); Mrs. Alice Straup (also deceased); and Miss Mary E.

When still a boy, Brenard A. Shively came into the first money earned by himself, this being gained by picking slate in an anthracite coal-breaker at the mines at Kingston, Pennsylvania. When he was a little older he attended the public schools of Wilkes Barre, and when not engaged at his studies, he was employed in drawing wire in the establishment of the Hazard Manufacturing Company. Later he went to Albright College, at Myers-town, in his native state, where he received his higher education, in preparation for the ministry, and at Hazelton, Pennsylvania, in February, 1902, he was licensed to preach the Gospel, by the Eastern Pennsylvania conference of the United Evangelical church. At that time he came to Humboldt, Nebraska, where he accepted a call to the Cottage church, and after there remaining two years he went to Shelton, Buffalo county, where he remained a like period.

On October 19, 1904, at Dawson, Nebraska, was solemnized the marriage of Rev. Brenard A. Shively, to Miss Bertha R. Heim, who was born at Dawson, daughter of Joseph G. and Rosa Heim, early settlers of Richardson county, where they still reside. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Shively and all reside at the parental home — Mildred A., D. Ray, T. Ruth, Hilda M., Evelyn E., and Charles J.

From Shelton, Buffalo county, Mr. Shively went to Naponee, Franklin county, where he served three years as pastor. He then went to Eustis, Frontier county, where he spent a like period, and eventually he removed to Aurora, the county seat of Hamilton county, where he remained two and one-half years. In September, 1914, he was called to Callaway, where he has since acted as pastor of the Evangelical church, serving also the pulpits at Spring Creek and Brown Valley.

For seven years Mr. Shively held various offices in the State Christian Endeavor Union, and he was transportation manager for that organization to two international and one

world's Christian Endeavor conventions. Possessed of no mean literary ability and of the power of expression, he has done much writing in the past, and he is the author of the history of the United Evangelical church in Custer county, which appears in this publication. Mr. Shively is an earnest, zealous, and energetic pastor,—one who is not only possessed of ministerial ability, but is also a practical man of affairs, capable of handling business matters in an expeditious and able manner. He is greatly beloved by the members of his congregation, and has many warm friends among men of all creeds and denominations in the various communities where he has carried on his work.

LEE H. MORRISON.—The life story of Lee H. Morrison runs the common routine of ordinary men who combine thrift, energy, and frugality, together with sterling character, in the composition of their lives.

He was born August 2, 1872, in York county, Nebraska. His father, William F. Morrison, was a prominent man of the community and came of sterling Pennsylvania stock. His mother, Virginia L. (Lichtenberger) Morrison, also came from Pennsylvania, the region of coal and iron. In this family were ten children: Harry L. (deceased), Edmond W., Charles O., Samuel A., Joseph E., Frederick W., Alfred E., Lee H., Dr. George A., and Annie (deceased).

Lee H. Morrison was reared on the farm and made himself generally useful by doing chores and assisting in all kinds of farm work. He had good school opportunities and succeeded in graduating from the Bradshaw high school.

One of the episodes connected with Lee's early life, in which he and his entire family had a thrilling experience on the father's farm, is worth relating. On the 3d day of June, 1890, a funnel-shaped cloud, out from the southwest, was observed to be coming straight toward the village of Bradshaw and in a direct line with the Morrison farm, which was located on the edge of the town. It did not take long for the inmates of the home to realize that danger was near. The windows and doors were first torn out, and this gave a decisive intimation that the house was not a safe refuge. Young Lee and his brother Alfred got hold of their mother, and together they made their way through the blinding dust and flying timbers to the cellar. They reached the cellar about the time that the cyclone picked up the house, which was a large frame building, and then dropped it back again on

its foundation. This caprice of the storm was followed by another effort, which this time lifted the house at least twenty feet high and tore it into fragments, scattering the timber and debris to the west and north for a long distance. There were eleven people in the house, and all succeeded in escaping to the cellar. The only one harmed was the hired man, George Forrester, who in some way had his left ear cut off, close to his head. The entire town of Bradshaw was destroyed.

Mr. Morrison's first money, which was not a large amount, was earned while he was still a boy, living near Bradshaw, by herding cattle for the neighbors. After finishing school, which was some time in his eighteenth year, he commenced working for his brother Samuel, who was then conducting a farm-implementation business in Bradshaw. Later young Lee had some experience in the livery business, but this was not financially profitable.

Lee H. Morrison came to the important date of his life October 22, 1899, at which time he married Miss Sadie McMullan a teacher in the Bradshaw high school. The bride's father was Patrick McMullan, an Ohioan by birth, and her mother, Rebecca (Holbrook) McMullan, was an estimable Virginia lady. Mr. and Mrs. Morrison have three children, all at home with their parents.—Harold A., fifteen years of age (1918); Edith, thirteen years of age; and Mabel, eight years old. After the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Morrison they farmed for a year near where they formerly resided, and then, in 1901, they cast in their lot in Custer county. They located four miles east of Callaway, where they operated a farm for one year in partnership with Mr. Morrison's brother Frederick. Then, still retaining his interest in the stock and farm, Lee H. Morrison formed another partnership, with his brother Alfred, and engaged in the hardware and furniture business at Callaway. This last enterprise was short-lived, and in eight months the merchandise stock was sold to Mahan Brothers.

After this Mr. Morrison returned to farming and stock-raising, and he has made the raising of short-horn, pedigreed cattle a specialty. His place is called the Sunnyside Ranch and adjoins the well known Young Ranch on the north. It is about three miles north of the South Loup river and constitutes a fine stock farm. Mr. Morrison is getting well started with a fine herd of well built, blocky Durhams, which will soon make for themselves a reputation throughout the country.

Mr. Morrison stands high in Masonic cir-

cles and his wife is a member of the Eastern Star. Both are members of the Christian church.

JOHN REINHARD is a broad-minded Custer county farmer of retiring disposition—one who shrinks from undue publicity but whose story, nevertheless, should be recorded for the benefit of his children and also to demonstrate the advantages America has over most European countries.

John Reinhard was born May 9, 1858, near the great Krupp gun works, at Essen, Germany. His father's name was Frank Reinhard and his mother's maiden name was Gertrude Schluch. Both parents were hard-working people. In their family there were six children, John (the immediate subject of this sketch), Mary Schroeder, Agnes Buttler (deceased), Gertrude Penman, Peter, and Freda (deceased). The father was a coal-miner by occupation, and by practicing strict economy he managed to support the family.

The first money John Reinhard remembers earning was that made by working in the Krupp gun works. The laws of Germany compelled the schooling of children, so young John had the advantage of a fundamental education. He was compelled to remain in school until fourteen years of age, then he began his work in the now celebrated munition factory. This was in 1872, shortly after the Franco-Prussian war. At that time business was booming, and the lad of fourteen made more money than he was thereafter able to make when he had reached the age of eighteen or nineteen years. The particular work to which he was assigned was making molds for large casting, which weighed from five to fifty thousand pounds, from fifty to one hundred men being needed to fill these molds of the largest size. The metal used was Bessemer steel. In this establishment they used steel hammers weighing from two to seven thousand pounds. Mr. Reinhard worked in this establishment a full year, and he then went into the coal mines and worked with his father until he was twenty-three years of age, when his parents immigrated to America. The Reinhard's began their career in America in the year 1881, their first location being the Hocking Valley coal fields of Ohio, where they worked at coal-mining about eighteen months.

During the time he was thus employed in Ohio coal mines, young John Reinhard learned to speak English fairly well, and he made up his mind that he wanted to see something of America. And so, during the next six years,

he developed into somewhat of a traveler, working from place to place and covering a good deal of territory. Being used to coal-mining, he first supposed that mining was the only work that he could do. In 1885 he found himself in Nevada, working in a quartz mine, and in 1886 he and an English friend, Fred Hutchinson, entered into partnership and went to Alaska, where they prospected along the Yukon river. They did fairly well, and remained in the territory three summers and two winters. Then, in 1888, they came back to the states, and in 1889, Mr. Reinhard went back to Germany and consummated a romance of early years by marrying Mary Gehrman, a daughter of Frank Gehrman. The young people came to America the same year, and came almost directly to Custer county, Nebraska, where they located in Custer canyon, eight miles northeast of Callaway, in section 35, township 16, range 22. This is still their home place. Their landed possessions now are 560 acres, all of which is splendidly improved, and on which is a beautiful farm home. All the land and improvements have been earned on and from the farm, and Mr. Reinhard votes this a good country.

Mr. and Mrs. Reinhard have reared a splendid family of children, who have developed or are fast developing into representative men and women. They are as follows: Gertrude is the wife of Lester Kirkpatrick, a farmer and ranchman living five miles northeast of Etna postoffice, Custer county, and they have two sons and one daughter. Miss Anna Reinhard, a school-teacher who has qualified herself for her work by a normal course, has taught five terms in Custer county, and she still makes her home at the old homestead place. Frank Reinhard, a bachelor of 22 years, was in Class 1, Division B, of the last selective military draft. He has 800 acres of rented land, near Round Valley, and is farming on his own account. Sophia is the wife of Clarence J. Garrison, a mechanic living in Kearney, Nebraska, where he is employed in a garage. Frederick, a popular young bachelor, is working with his brother Frank on a farm near Round Valley, this county. John, Jr., and Hilda are at the parental home, where they make themselves useful and at the same time are attending school and qualifying themselves for useful American citizenship.

Mr. Reinhard is affiliated with the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and in political matters he is independent and votes for the man rather than the party. He often talks about this country and compares its advantages with those of Germany, his native land. In speaking of the mammoth steam hammers,

of 7000 pounds' weight, used in the Essen Krupp gun works, Mr. Reinhard says those hammers were called Fritz and could strike such a blow on the large anvils that it would jar the earth for blocks around. The mechanism was also so perfect that the blow could be struck so gently that it would hardly break an egg, but he declares the blow struck by energetic, ambitious boys here in America will count for more than the blows of those heavy steel hammers.

PHILIP J. STEIGER is a very successful farmer in the Ryno precinct. He was born November 21, 1870, near Augusta, Illinois, and is a son of Jacob and Sophia A. (Snyder) Steiger, both natives of Germany. In the father's family were five children, and Philip J. is the eldest of the four who are still living, the others being John H., Dora B., and Rosa A. All are connected with the United Brethren church. The father and the children are for the most part associated with farm industry.

When he was a very young man Jacob Steiger came to the United States with his older brother, and, like most men from the "Old Country," he was quick to improve the opportunities of the New World.

From his sturdy and worthy parents Philip J. Steiger inherited the characteristics that have made him a successful Custer county farmer and valued citizen. Mr. Steiger remembers that the first money he received was earned by trapping quails, at Huntsville, Illinois. The amount was not large, but in those days, and to a boy of his age, it amounted to almost fabulous wealth. The experience of young Philip were those which commonly fall to the lot of a farmer's son in this country. He attended country school, made the most of his opportunities, and developed a self-reliance that has been one of the assets of his mature years. When Philip Steiger was but twelve years of age, his father came to Hall county, Nebraska, and located three and one-half miles northwest of Wood River. There Philip grew to manhood and there he married Miss Lillian Afflerbaugh, who was born in that county, and who is a daughter of Nathaniel and Leah (Erb) Afflerbaugh. The parents were prominent people in Hall county, and both were natives of Pennsylvania. Their children were eight in number—Mrs. Emma I. Smith, Alva I., Mrs. Ida S. Leach, David G., Mrs. Nora E. Graham, Mrs. Lillian M. Steiger, Ira R., and Jason R.

Mr. and Mrs. Steiger maintain a happy and comfortable home, in which they are blessed

with one son, Harold R., a bright lad of ten years (1918).

In 1901, Mr. Steiger moved into the Spring creek region, and purchased a quarter-section of good land, and since that time he has added to his possessions until he has 480 acres of productive and valuable Custer county soil, on which he has a beautiful home and a splendid farm equipment. All this is the product of his own toil and good management. Farming has paid him well. In connection with agricultural enterprise he has indulged extensively in breeding and feeding live stock until the combination of farming and stock-raising has rewarded him with his present possessions.

In social circles Mr. Steiger belongs to the Masonic fraternity and Modern Woodmen of America. His wife is an active member of the Eastern Star, and both are connected with the Evangelical church. Mr. Steiger's political preference is for the Republican party.

LEVI S. EMPFIELD.—The vigorous and progressive population of Custer county is made up largely of successful exponents of the agricultural and live-stock industries. In every part of the county, farmers seem to thrive, and as an able and honored representative of farm enterprise, as well as being one entitled to pioneer honors, Mr. Empfield is specially entitled to consideration in this history.

Levi S. Empfield was born in Beaver Valley, Cambria county, Pennsylvania, and is a son of Jackson B. and Jane (Pittman) Empfield, both of whom likewise were natives of the old Keystone state, their children having been ten in number—Elmer E., Mrs. Salina E. Campbell, McKee P. (deceased), Chalmers G., Levi S., Benjamin F., Laura C. McClure, Burton C., Mrs. Grace D. Owen, and Mrs. Nellie Headley. All of these children were reared to maturity in Custer county, Nebraska, and all became prominent and influential in those things that conserve and represent industry, thrift, and community development.

In the early days large families did not enjoy the advantages and luxuries that mark the present era, and consequently, in order to relieve parental burdens, Levi S. Empfield, when a lad of eleven years, went to live with an old gentleman, with whom he contracted to remain until he was eighteen years of age, his compensation for work on the farm in the meanwhile being his board and clothes, besides which, at the termination of his contract, he was to receive a horse, saddle, and bridle.

The old gentleman had distinct miserly proclivities, was never animated by any measure of generosity, and was very exacting in his relations with his young assistant. After three years young Levi Empfield decided that he had fulfilled as much of his contract as it was possible for him to do, and he accordingly abandoned his work and walked to his father's home, thirty-five miles distant. He made this journey, through a mountainous country, in the month of February, when the trip was made the more difficult by the presence of mud and snow. During the next year, 1886, Mr. Empfield worked on a farm, for six dollars a month, and he carefully saved his earnings. In 1887, in company with his father and his youngest brother, he came to Nebraska, and the other members of the family came later. In Custer county the father homesteaded the land where the old Ryno postoffice was located by him and where he served as postmaster for a period of fifteen years. During a part of this time Elmer E. Empfield, the eldest son, was mail contractor, and Levi S., subject of this sketch, carried the mail from Custer to Redfern postoffice, on the Redfern Table, via Lodi. He made the trips back and forth on horseback, and incidentally forded the South Loup river, both summer and winter. He continued his service on this mail route for two years. In 1894 he left Custer county and went to the state of Washington, where he remained about eighteen months and where he worked for fifty cents a day — and was glad to get even that amount. Thereafter he passed a year in California, and by working from five o'clock in the morning until eight o'clock at night, he finally accumulated a modest sum of money. From California he went to Utah, and there he was employed in the mines and ore mills for two and one-half years, at the expiration of which he returned to Custer county.

In the spring of 1901 Mr. Empfield purchased 320 acres of land and also homesteaded an adjoining tract of eighty acres, on Spring creek, seven miles northeast of Callaway. Here he has since maintained his home. Mr. Empfield began his independent farm operations on a tract of 160 acres, and he is to-day the owner of a well improved landed estate of 560 acres, on which he has a most attractive home and through his association with which, as a vigorous and progressive farmer and stock-grower, he has achieved substantial success. He is liberal and public-spirited as a citizen, is a Republican in politics, and he and his family command the unqualified esteem of the community in which they live.

August 12, 1901, recorded the marriage of

Mr. Empfield to Miss Eva Waddington, who was born in Illinois and who is a daughter of Samuel and Margaret (Oliver) Waddington, her father being now a well known stockman in Custer county. Mr. and Mrs. Empfield have a fine family of five children — Ralph E., Lloyd R., Alice B., Rae W., and Ruby H.

OLIVER D. JAMES was born September 21, 1856, in Park county, Indiana. His father, Samuel R. James, was likewise a native of the Hoosier state, and his mother was Lucinda (Jacks) James, who was a daughter of Pailman Jacks.

In the family of Samuel R. James were five children — Oliver D. James, Stella (James) Barney (deceased), Oscar M. James, Lydia (James) Mobley, and Alva James. Both Mr. and Mrs. James belonged to the Methodist church. Samuel R. James served three years as a soldier in the Civil war. He became a member of the Seventy-first Indiana Volunteer Infantry, which later was made the Sixth Cavalry.

Oliver D. James says that he made his first money when eight years of age by picking blackberries. He invested the money in a pig, but this did not prove a very profitable investment, as the pig died. He worked at home, and went to school in the winter time until he was seventeen years of age, when his father died, and, as he was the oldest of the children, the main burden of supporting his mother and the other children fell to him. In 1882 his mother moved to Putnam county, Missouri, where she resided for two years. Then, with three of her children — Oliver D., Stella, and Alva — she came to Custer county. Oliver and his mother took pre-emptious and a homestead five miles southwest of Callaway, in the spring of 1884. Mr. James claims to have driven the second nail in the first building built in Callaway. The valley in which they settled derived its name from the James family and is still known as the James valley. Mr. James continued to care for his mother until the time of her death, which occurred at his home, December 4, 1916. The loved and devoted mother attained to the ripe old age of eighty-two years, and they were never separated longer than a month or so from the time of his birth until her death.

February 10, 1891, at Trenton, Missouri, was recorded the marriage of Oliver D. James to Hattie E. Campsey, who was born in the state of Iowa, and is a daughter of John Campsey, who was a Pennsylvanian. Her mother, whose maiden name was Priscilla Nelson, was a native of the Buckeye

state. Mr. and Mrs. John Campsey had eight children—Mrs. Mary Jane Penn (deceased), Mrs. Margaret Gregg, John C. Campsey, David S. Campsey, Joseph D. Campsey (deceased), Mrs. Martha Rison, Mrs. Hattie E. James, and Mrs. Catharine Newton. The religious faith of this family has long been that of the Methodist church, which has received from the family a loyal and generous support.

Mr. and Mrs. James have one son, Guy C. James, who married Miss Helen Morrison, and is a farmer by occupation, living six miles north of Callaway. Mr. and Mrs. Guy C. James have one son and are prosperous young people.

In 1905 Mr. James sold his 480-acre farm in James valley and moved to Callaway, where he was engaged in the general merchandise business for four years. In 1909 he sold his stock of goods to his brother-in-law, J. D. Campsey, after which he commenced farming operations with his son, on a rented farm. He thus continued about seven years, and then moved back to Callaway, buying sixteen and one-half acres joining the town on the west. He has this small tract in a high state of cultivation and so arranged that the entire area can be irrigated, which enhances its value many times. Mr. James is a breeder of large-boned Duroc-Jersey hogs, and it is safe to say no breeder in Custer county produces better specimens of "auburn-haired" swine than does Mr. James.

In the matter of thrill and excitement, one of Mr. James' early experiences equals any of the "stunts" pulled off by Texas Jack, Little Buckshot or, perhaps, our friend Buffalo Bill. In 1886 he visited his brother in Cheyenne county, forty miles north of Sidney. One day he went with his brother and a neighbor named Dixon, into a big cedar canyon, on a hunting expedition. Dixon shot and crippled a deer, which ran up the side of the canyon on to the table land above. Mr. James in those days was an expert horseman and adept with the lariat rope. He mounted his pony and followed the deer across the level plain, gaining on it at every jump, and after a short and exciting race he was near enough to throw the rope. Then the deer suddenly disappeared—as suddenly as if the ground had opened and swallowed it. It dropped completely out of sight. The pony stopped so abruptly that Mr. James came near to plunging over its head, when he discovered that he was on the brink of another canyon with a precipitous bank of at least 100 feet. The pony stopped so close to the edge of the bank that the dirt under its front feet caved off and fell to the floor of the canyon below.

After recovering from his excitement, Mr. James rode a mile down the bank of the canyon, to a point where he found a trail leading down into the canyon. He then rode back up the floor of the valley and secured the deer.

JAMES D. REAM.—Custer county has no resident more widely known in either private or public life than the progressive farmer and public-spirited citizen whose name initiates this paragraph. Mr. Ream is a native of Newcastle, Pennsylvania, where he was born October 18, 1852. His parents were Benjamin and Elizabeth (Simpson) Ream and his paternal grandfather was John Ream—all influential and respected residents of Lawrence county, Pennsylvania.

Benjamin Ream was born in 1824 and in 1855 moved to Mahaska county, Iowa. Responding to the call of his country, he enlisted in 1861 for three years' service in the Civil war. He was second lieutenant of Company C, Seventh Iowa Volunteer Infantry. At the battle of Belmont, where he had command of his company, he was so severely wounded that he died seven days later. His death occurred at Cairo, Illinois. By trade he was a carpenter and cabinetmaker. Politically he was a Lincoln Republican. Both he and his wife were faithful members of the United Brethren church. His children were John T., Mrs. Anna E. Foster, Mrs. Louisa Thompson, Samuel, and James D.

James D. Ream remained at home with his mother until after he had reached his majority. He recalls the early days of his first introduction into the science of agriculture, when he was paid twenty-five cents a day for dropping corn in a field of long rows which were covered by hoe by a second laborer. No modern machinery made farm labor either light or delightful in those days. He attended school when opportunity presented itself and worked during all the spare time at farming, chopping wood, grubbing out stumps, or quarrying stone, as occasion required. In 1878 he came to Nebraska and bought eighty acres of land near Stromsburg, in Polk county.

In January, 1880, Mr. Ream came to Custer county and selected a homestead and timber claim five miles northwest of where Broken Bow now stands. Neither the town nor the postoffice was yet established when he came, he being the first settler in the little valley where he still resides. It was here that the real career of the man began. He here found an opportunity for the development of that

resourceful character and that public spirit which have given him a state-wide reputation as an enterprising, tireless worker along agricultural and educational lines. He was among the very first in the state to recognize that our little, inefficient rural-school districts were a positive hindrance to the establishment of adequate schools and ideal rural-life conditions, and if the future years bring enlarged or consolidated districts and adequate schools, with school buildings of such size and construction as will serve as community social and educational centers, thus providing an opportunity for the development of ideal rural-life conditions, he will be entitled to a fair share of the credit. He saw the opportunities of the west; he saw the possibilities of the agricultural development of Custer county; and likewise he saw the need of a community life that would help develop the latent social instincts and inspire the ambitions of the rising generation. He gave himself to the double task. He developed his farm. He experimented with many kinds of grain and trees. He became a careful student of agriculture and horticulture, and discovered some facts in relation to the Cedar apple fungus not previously known to the scientists.

In this connection it may consistently be stated that Mr. Ream was virtually deprived of the distinction that should be his in the matter of the discovery that it requires two years for the fungus to make its complete cycle from cedar apple to the cedar leaf and return again to the cedar tree to be there matured and made ready for a second onslaught, scientists having previously supposed that this complete cycle was completed in one year. A report of this discovery by Mr. Ream was published in the *Custer County Chief*, a year prior to the time when the botanist at the University of Nebraska effected the publication of the discovery in the *Smithsonian Report*. It may further be noted that at one time Mr. Ream had in Custer county the finest bearing-orchard in this section of the state. From lack of time properly to care for this orchard, it finally outgrew the supply of moisture and thus top-killed.

As a result of the investigations and experiments of Mr. Ream in methods of farming, his crops are usually above normal, and his farm is to-day one of the most attractive of the central west. The evergreen windbreaks, consisting of cedar and Black Hills spruce, are exceptionally fine. No distinguished visitor ever comes to Broken Bow with a desire to see what the country can produce, without being taken to the Ream farm, where he sees a

practical demonstration of what thrift, and skill, when applied in harmony with nature's laws, have been able to accomplish. His improvements are of the first order, and stand as a splendid monument to the profits of agriculture as conducted by Mr. Ream. He has been an able and consistent advocate of everything that would tend to better the social, educational, and material conditions of the community and the state. He helped organize the Nebraska Farmers Congress and the State Corn Improvers Association, and has served several years as master of the Nebraska State Grange. The Grange work furnished an ideal field of labor for him, as the Grange brings the people of the rural community together in a social way, which not only contributes entertainment but also stimulates the latent ambitions of the young people and inspires them to greater activities in all the commendable avenues of life's endeavors. It was this work that gave him the clear vision of the inefficiency of our school system, and the determination to correct it.

Politically, Mr. Ream is not classed as a partisan. He is, on the contrary, inclined to be independent and nonpartisan. Yet he is generally popular and has been the recipient of political honors at the hands of his fellow citizens. In 1901 he served in the lower house of the state legislature and made an honorable record. He has served also as county commissioner, making a splendid record for himself and serving to the best interests of the county. He has filled many minor offices in the local community and precinct. In farmers' institutes, held for the purpose of promoting agriculture and horticulture, Mr. Ream has always been active, and his addresses, papers, and advice have not only been much sought but have also been very valuable to the public generally. Progressive in spirit, born with an ability to lead, he stands in the first rank of public promoters and is willing and able to lead in every progressive movement that contributes to the public welfare. For seven years he was president of the Custer County Agricultural Society; he was the leading factor in the organization of the Farmers' Institute held at Broken Bow and for twenty-one years was chairman of the local organization. He has also been efficiently connected with the state board of agriculture, having served several years as a member of that body. He is widely known throughout the state as an agriculturist and horticulturist, and his name ranks high in agricultural and grange circles, as well in all farmers' movements.

February 11, 1883, in Mahaska county,



JAMES D. REAM



MRS. JAMES D. REAM

Iowa, Mr. Ream was joined in holy wedlock to Miss Anna E. Seevers, a daughter of Frank and Elizabeth Seevers. Further mention of Mrs. Ream's family is made in the sketch of Robert M. Seevers, on other pages of this volume. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Ream established, and have since maintained, an ideal home, to which every convenience and comfort of modern life has been contributed.

Mrs. Ream has proved herself a veritable helpmeet in all the activities of their married life, she having borne her full share of the trials of home-building in a sod house, and the privations and hardships generally due to pioneer life. Much of the credit is due to her for the the flowers that have bloomed so profusely in the door yard, and the order and neatness in which the grounds of the home have been kept.

To Mr. and Mrs. Ream the years have brought three children, all of whom are now grown to maturity and bid fair to continue the public services of their parents. The children are: Fred H., who is in business in Kansas City, Glen C., who resides at Broken Bow, and Loy G., who is pursuing a course in the University of Nebraska, at Lincoln.

PAUL G. KOLBO.—This begins the story of another young farmer of the Kolbo family. Mr. Kolbo, who is located near Lodi, is a farmer of careful and frugal habits, and he enjoys a splendid reputation in his community. He was born April 5, 1885, in Custer county, and is, therefore, in every sense of the term a Custer county product. He is a son of Oliver and Anna K. (Lee) Kolbo, who are mentioned elsewhere in the biographical department of this volume, and who became the parents of nine children—Melvin, Hilmer, Paul G., Julia, Olson, Oscar, Selmer, Rudolph, and Tim. Rudolph is in the service of his country, and at the time of this writing, he is somewhere in France. Oliver Kolbo came to Custer county at an early date and has always been counted as one of the pioneer spirits who did much to develop the resources of the county.

Young Paul Kolbo made his first money by carrying water to the harvest hands. He and his father and brothers farmed on a very extensive scale, and the labor of every member of the family was required to conduct the operations and make them profitable. Thus, early in life, Paul formed the industrious habits that have enabled him to make good in every farming or stock-raising undertaking with which he has identified himself.

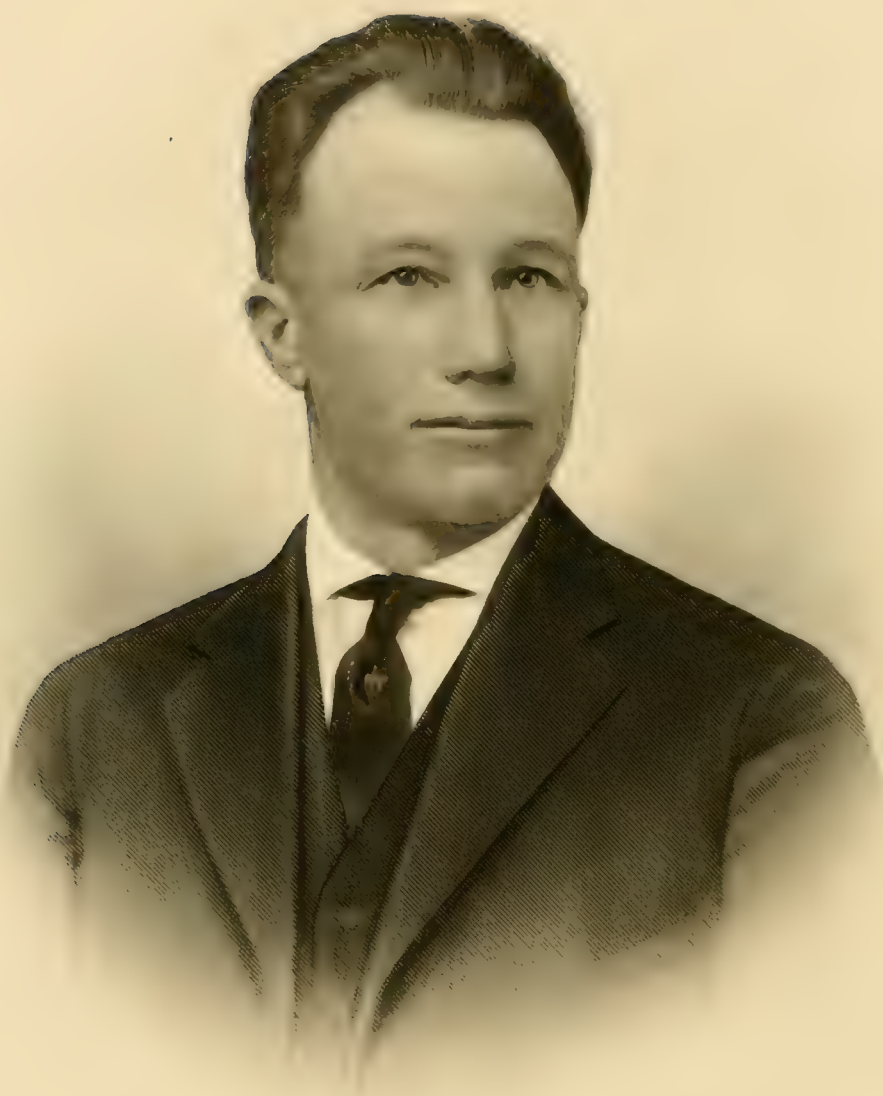
Like most farm boys, his services were demanded on the farm, but he ran the gamut of the common schools and received a fundamental education which places him at ease in all business transactions requiring judgment, and business acumen.

On the 24th of December, 1898, Mr. Kolbo married Miss Laurina Simonson, at Broken Bow. Mrs. Kolbo also is a native of Custer county, and this makes the entire household of Paul G. Kolbo a Custer county family. Mrs. Kolbo's parental home was in Rose valley. She is a daughter of James M. Simonson, who by occupation was a shoemaker, and who for some time followed his vocation in the city of Broken Bow. The maiden name of his wife was Anna C. Jensen, and both were born in Denmark; they are estimable people. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Simonson are eight in number—Peter J., Mrs. Mary J. Cunningham, Simon P., Mrs. Christina Cramer, Hans P., Julle, Mrs. Laurina Kolbo, and Mrs. Carrie M. Cantrell.

Mr. and Mrs. Kolbo have a happy and pleasant home, in which four children have come to share the blessings of their parental care, but one, the eldest, James O., has been taken from the parents into that heavenly home where he awaits the final reunion that time will bring. The living children are Pauline L., and Paul L. who are twins, six years of age, and the youngest, Jerold R., is a sweet little lad of two years, the pet of the home and the one who largely rules the affairs of the Kolbo household.

Mr. Kolbo, aside from being a painstaking and careful farmer, is a stock-raiser of no mean reputation. He likes stock, is counted a good hand with stock, knows how to handle it and succeeds in keeping his stock in good condition. He is a member of the Woodmen of the World, in which he takes a prominent part. Religiously the home is divided between the Methodists and the Lutherans, but so long as strict integrity and Christian character are concerned, denominationalism counts for little. Mr. Kolbo generally votes the Republican ticket.

ROSCOE R. BANGS is a veteran of the Civil war who has had experiences in the field of agriculture and merchandising, and whose successful and well directed operations have served to make him one of the leading business citizens of Broken Bow, where his activities have been centered since 1915. Mr. Bangs is one of the few men furnished this community by the state of Maine, for he was born there, at Farmington, March 18, 1843.



WALTER A.

a son of Richard and Isabelle (Clayton) Bangs.

Richard Bangs was born in October, 1809, at Gorham, Maine, and passed his life in the peaceful pursuits of farming. He died on his farm, in 1888, after an honorable and useful career. He was a Democrat but never entered actively into politics, preferring to give himself wholly to his farming operations, in which he was considered a successful man for his day. Mrs. Bangs, who was born at Farmington, Maine, in September, 1809, died in 1872, having become the mother of six children, of whom three still survive: Mrs. Anna C. Sprague, a widow residing at Farmington, Maine; Roscoe R., subject of this review; and Mrs. Annette B. Kendall, who resides at Springfield, Massachusetts, and whose husband is a fruit-grower and the owner of a chicken ranch.

Roscoe R. Bangs attended the public schools of Farmington and began life on the home farm. The peaceful routine of his life was interrupted by the outbreak of the Civil war, however, and September 5, 1862, he enlisted in Company L, First Maine Cavalry, with which he served two years and nine months, being a member of the Army of the Potomac and participating in such important engagements as Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg. He took part in the battle of the Wilderness, went with his company and took part in the engagement at Cold Harbor, and with his regiment participated in each consecutive battle in which it was involved up to the time when victory crowned the Union arms. He established a splendid record for bravery and faithful performance of duty, and when the war was closed and peace declared he returned to his home in Maine. His life was changed, however, and his views as well, and he soon left the parental home and went to Hartford, Connecticut, where for four years he was employed in a belt factory. While living there, in 1869, he married Miss Mary Baisley, who was born in Connecticut, and shortly after this event he returned to Maine and engaged in the clothing business. In this he continued with a measure of success for seven years, and thereafter he spent five years as the proprietor of a general store. Feeling that he could better his fortunes in the west, in 1882 Mr. Bangs came to Nebraska, and located at Ashland, where for one season he was the occupant of a farm. He also spent a like period in a shoe store, but in 1884, he came to Custer county, where he took up a homestead and proved up on it, and for four years thereafter continued to engage in farming. Eventually he rented his farm, although

he continued to live in the country, and finally he sold the property. Later he was in business at Wescott, and subsequently at Comstock, for thirteen years, and in April, 1915, he came to Broken Bow, where he established himself as the proprietor of a modern furniture business. While he is a practical newcomer to this community, he possesses the necessary business attributes and qualities and has already gained the confidence and patronage that go to make for success in a mercantile venture. He has been found a man of sound integrity, and the business done by his store has shown a consistent advancement.

Mr. and Mrs. Bangs became the parents of six children: Twins who were born in 1875 both died in infancy; Carrie J. is deceased; Georgia B. is the wife of Howard Savage, an insurance man of Everett, Washington; Lottie B. is the wife of E. C. Wescott, an automobile man of Chicago; and Ralph B. is on a ranch in Cherry county, Nebraska. Mrs. Bangs, who died in 1905, was a member of the Congregational church at Comstock, although she had formerly been a member of the South Baptist church of Hartford, Connecticut. Mr. Bangs is a Mason, and is a popular comrade of the Grand Army of the Republic, being past commander of C. C. Washburn Post, No. 98. The military honors of the family are being well upheld by two of his grandsons, Clarence J. Forte, and Roscoe E. Savage, who have been gallant young soldiers of the United States Army in connection with the nation's participation in the great world war. He is a Republican and interested in politics and public affairs, but his only official position has been that of town clerk.

WALTER WOOD. — A rancher and stockman whose field of operation is in the pioneer region of the South Loup river is Walter Wood. He is thirty-nine years of age, and is a descendant in the first generation from the pioneer, Joshua Wood, who was chosen as Custer county's first sheriff and was one of the early characters in pioneer days; further mention of his career is made in the life sketch of his son Frank, elsewhere in this volume, as well as in his personal sketch, which is accompanied by an excellent portrait of this sterling pioneer.

Walter Wood was born in 1879, in the Wood river district. February 18, 1918, he was united in marriage to Edna Downey, a very excellent young lady who by birth and life-residence is entirely a Custerite.

Walter Wood is the manager of part of the Wood ranch, on which stock-raising on a

large scale is conducted by him and his brother Frank. His cattle herds average about 900 head of high-grade Herefords, but of course the number fluctuates accordingly as sales are made. From 100 to 160 hogs are produced each year, which adds to the food stuff of the country very materially. A splendid Percheron stallion heads the stables, from which are produced fine horses. The farm is well improved, with stock-raising prominently featured. All kinds of farm machinery, and a splendid automobile contribute their share to making operations profitable and extensive. Mr. Wood and his wife are a splendid couple in good standing in the community and are rated always in the first class.

It might be said that no better stock-judge or ranch manager than Mr. Wood is to be found in the stock or ranch business to-day. Like his brother, he patriotically responds to all war appeals and is an ardent supporter of the government. The dependence of the country is upon such food-producers as the Woods Brothers.

JOHN HOTHEM, who is one of the sterling pioneers of the district about the town of Sumner and whose well improved farm estate lies across the line in Dawson county, has been closely and worthily identified with the civic and industrial development and progress of this favored part of the state and is specially entitled to recognition in this history.

Mr. Hothem was born in Ohio, and is a son of John and Christena (Bremer) Hothem, the former of whom attained to the patriarchal age of eighty-eight years and the latter of whom passed away at the age of seventy-eight years, they having become the parents of seven children, three of whom are living—the subject of this review and two of his sisters. Valentine died at the age of seventy-two years and Michael was seventy-one years of age at the time of his death; Catherine died at the age of eighty-two years, and Elizabeth at the age of eighty years. The two surviving daughters, in 1918, are Mary, aged seventy years, and Margaret, aged sixty-eight years. In 1840 John Hothem, Sr., immigrated to America from his native Germany, and he settled in the state of Ohio, where he became a substantial citizen and where his son John was born, as noted above.

He whose name introduces this article was reared in Ohio, where he received the advantages of the common schools, and as a young man his ambition prompted him to seek his fortunes in the progressive west. After leaving Ohio he was a resident of Indiana

for a period of six years, and the ensuing six years he passed in the state of Iowa. In 1879 he came from the Hawkeye state to Nebraska, in company with Wilson Hewett, whom he accompanied to Custer county, Mr. Hewett's name being prominently identified with the pioneer annals of this county. Mr. Hothem states that when he and Mr. Hewett were making their initial trip into Custer county and were proceeding up the course of Muddy creek, they became stranded, on account of lack of water for themselves and their teams, but they finally extricated themselves from this difficulty. Mr. Hothem has been actively associated with farm enterprise during the major part of the time since he came to this section of Nebraska, and he has won prosperity through earnest and well directed endeavors. He endured his full share of the hardships that marked the pioneer days, and he pressed forward to the goal of independence and definite success, all that he has in the line of worldly possessions to-day having been accumulated by him since he established his residence in this part of the state. When he arrived in Custer county he was fortified in the possession of two horses and a wagon, but his available cash was represented in the sum of only twenty dollars. He has been a productive worker and the passing years have brought to him a worthy success. He is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, including the Order of the Eastern Star.

In 1885 was recorded the marriage of Mr. Hothem to Miss Wilhelmina Lahm, and they have eight children: Jacob continues to reside in Custer county; Etta, Elizabeth, and Anna remain at the parental home; Wesley is out working for himself but still remains in Custer county; and Fern, William, and Minnie remain with their parents.

HARVEY S. WATERBURY, who has been a successful participant in both agricultural and mercantile lines at Berwyn and the surrounding vicinity for a number of years, is one of the contributions of the state of Indiana to the citizenship of Custer county. Mr. Waterbury was born at Logansport, Indiana, September 24, 1858, and is a son of Harvey M. and Louie (Calloway) Waterbury.

Harvey N. Waterbury, the paternal grandfather of Harvey S., was born at Waterbury, Connecticut, and at an early date removed to Michigan, where he passed the remainder of his life and where his death occurred when he was in advanced years. The maternal grandfather was Timothy Calloway, who was born

near Dover Bay, Delaware, and after his marriage he settled in Ohio, shortly following which he lost his wife, who had borne the maiden name of Jennie Olcar. Subsequently he became one of the early settlers of Indiana, and there his death occurred when he was seventy-seven years of age. Harvey M. Waterbury was born near the city of Kalamazoo, Michigan, in 1835, and as a young man he went to Indiana, where he met and married Louie Calloway, who was born at Lake Sicott, Indiana, in 1837. He was a farmer by vocation, was an energetic man who was making his mark in the world, and was a sincere member of the Christian church. He had been a strong Republican, and when the Civil war came on, it found him one with intense Union sympathies, so that at length he broke home ties, left his wife and five children, and enlisted in the Fifty-fourth Regiment of Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He met a soldier's death on the field of battle, during the second day's fighting in the siege of Vicksburg. Of the five children, Harvey S. is the only survivor. Later, Mrs. Waterbury, who died January 2, 1906, became the wife of John Robison, and they became the parents of seven children, of whom three survive: Mrs. May Harrington, whose husband is now a photographer at Logansport, Indiana; Mrs. Ruth Tiner, whose husband is identified with a laundry-machinery manufacturing company at Cincinnati, Ohio; and John, a farmer in the vicinity of Logansport, Indiana.

Harvey S. Waterbury received a limited education in the public schools of Burnettsville, Indiana, and when he was sixteen years of age he left the home of his guardian, after which he worked for farmers in the neighborhood until he had attained to his legal majority. At the age of twenty-one years he came to Nebraska and located in Howard county, where he found employment by the month, as a farm hand. About one year later, July 12, 1880, Mr. Waterbury came to Custer county and took up a homestead, his first vote being cast that fall, for James A. Garfield for president. In 1881 he further strengthened his position by forming a home of his own—through his marriage to Miss Carrie Sigourney, who was born near Sandusky, Ohio. Seven children came to this union, of whom six are living: Louie, who is the wife of Charles Betts, a farmer of Chappell, Nebraska; Jessie, who is the wife of Charles Wolford, a very successful jeweler at Gothenburg, Nebraska; Ray, who is in business at Litchfield, this state, the maiden name of his wife having been Mayme Garnett;

Lottie who is the wife of W. L. McCandless, cashier of the Berwyn State Bank; Harvey, who is his father's associate in the store business, and who married Ada Stark; and Veva Ruth, who is the wife of L. G. DeValt, connected with the State Bank of Berwyn.

In 1894, after about fourteen years of successful farming operations, Mr. Waterbury turned his attention to mercantile lines, and during the period that has followed he has built up a large, representative and lucrative business. He has also been interested in a blacksmithing business, and in each avenue of activity his abilities have served to bring him a full meed of prosperity. He bears the reputation of being a man of the strictest integrity, and this is evidenced by the confidence in which he is held by his associates and the public in general. A Republican in his political sympathies, he has always taken an interest in public matters, and has rendered his community valuable service in the offices of clerk and assessor. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and has not only been through the chairs of the local lodge but also those of the grand lodge, at Broken Bow. Both his sons are Masons, Ray having received the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite. Mr. Waterbury and the members of his family belong to the Methodist Episcopal church, and all have been earnest and generous supporters of all movements which have been made for better citizenship, better morality, and better education.

NORMAN E. BOYD is one of the pushing, energetic, and enterprising business men of Broken Bow, where he has built up a prosperous trade in the automobile-repair and general electrical business. Born in Dewitt county, Illinois, February 13, 1881, he is a son of Frank and Minerva (Waller) Boyd, and a grandson of David Boyd. Frank Boyd was an Illinois farmer until 1905, when he disposed of his interests in that state and came to Broken Bow, where he was variously employed for five years, then entering the city waterworks department, with which he has been identified for eight years. Mrs. Boyd died in Missouri, in 1896, leaving only one son, the subject of this review.

Norman E. Boyd was educated in the public schools of Illinois, and as a youth was engaged principally in assisting his father on the home farm. However, he had a natural bent toward mechanics and gradually mastered the trade of electrician, to which he devoted his attention for some years as a journeyman, both in Illinois and after coming to Custer

county. Realizing the opportunities offered by the growing automobile business, with Harry Hildebrandt as a partner, he established himself in business at Eighth and K Streets, Broken Bow, where he does a general automobile electrical-repair business, a special feature of which is the vulcanizing of old automobile tire casings, which process prolongs their life thousands of miles. He runs a battery, as a Willard service station, and now has an excellent patronage, not only among the people of Broken Bow but also among those who visit from other parts of the state, his accurate and expeditious workmanship and his natural courtesy and consideration having combined to make customers as well as friends. At the time of this writing Mr. Boyd's partner, Mr. Hildebrandt, is in the army, at Fort Funston, but retains his interest in the business.

Mr. Boyd was married in August, 1904, at Broken Bow, to Miss Minnie Boots, daughter of C. S. Boots, a Custer county farmer, and she died December 8, 1913, leaving two children: Frank and Iva K., who are attending the Broken Bow public schools. Mr. Boyd was again married, March 2, 1914, when he wedded Miss Mattie Gross, daughter of Charles and Mary (Gunn) Gross. Two children have been born to them: Paul and Lillian. Mr. and Mrs. Boyd are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

WILLIAM C. SCHAPER.—While he is one of the younger members of the legal fraternity of Broken Bow, the fact of his youth seems in no way to have affected the success of William C. Schaper, who is already accounted one of the rapidly rising attorneys of Custer county. Experiences have been numerous and varied in the life of Mr. Schaper, who was born October 4, 1890, at Mason City, Nebraska, a son of Henry E. and Louisa (Trobbe) Schaper, and a grandson of Chris Schaper.

Henry E. Schaper was born near Hanover, Germany, and came to the United States as a lad of fourteen years, locating at DeWitt, Nebraska. In 1888 he homesteaded southwest of Mason City, and in 1902 he went to Mason City, where he established himself in a mercantile business. There his career was rounded out. He was an Odd Fellow, was a Democrat in political belief, and he and Mrs. Schaper, who was born at Malvern, Iowa, were members of the Baptist church. William C. Schaper spent his boyhood on the home farm, and his first money was earned by pitching hay for a neighbor. He has a keen

recollection of how they praised his efforts, how his boyish pride caused him to outdo himself in the work accomplished, and how his strenuous labors incapacitated him for further work for a week. He attended the country schools until he was twelve years of age, at which time his father moved to Mason City, and there the youth divided his time between clerking in his father's store and going to the public school. However, he did not feel that he was getting proper educational advantages, and when he was sixteen years of age he ran away from home and went to Grand Island. He arrived at his destination with just twelve cents in his pocket, but, nothing daunted, sought and found work, and he was able to make his way through school by laboring industriously as a clerk in a shoe store, waiting on tables in a restaurant, and whatever other honorable employment presented itself or that he could ferret out. During the second year, Mr. Schaper secured a pass on a hog train going through to Seattle, Washington, a trip on which he was accompanied by a chum, Emory Runyan. The men in charge of the stock became drunk and remained so during the entire trip, and the two youths were not only compelled to unload the hogs at Alliance, Billings, and Spokane, but had to carry the feed from the cars to the stock yard, because of the fear of being left afoot and alone a long way from home. On reaching Spokane, young Runyan stopped off to see an uncle, but Mr. Schaper went on to Seattle, where he received a pass back as far as Billings. There he worked a week, earning just enough money to buy from a traveler a pass to Broken Bow, and after going two days without food he was extremely glad to get back to Custer county. He again began working his way through school and eventually finished a five-year course at Grand Island, during which time he attended two inter-collegiate oratorical meets, one at Orleans and one at Hastings, as a member of the staff of the *Volant*, the college newspaper, with which he was connected actively during the greater part of his college career. In the fall of 1911 Mr. Schaper entered the Nebraska State University, at Lincoln, where he took the full course in the law department and was graduated June 10, 1914, with his degree of Bachelor of Laws. He was admitted to the bar by the supreme court on the day of his graduation and to the federal courts on the same day.

One week after his graduation Mr. Schaper was married, at Wahoo, Nebraska, to Shirley M. Shires, a daughter of Millard Shires, and started for his home town of Mason City, where he arrived without a dollar. He en-

gaged in the practice of law there and was soon in sound financial circumstances, continuing at Mason City until October, 1916, when he came to Broken Bow. Here he has since carried on a general practice and has steadily advanced in patronage, in public confidence and in the ranks of his calling. He has been connected with much important litigation, and his success in several prominent cases has demonstrated his possession of marked talents. He belongs to the various organizations of his profession, is an active member of the Public Service Club, and is a Woodman, a Royal Highlander, a Mason, and a Shriner. His political inclinations cause him to support the Democratic party, and he and Mrs. Schaper hold membership in the Baptist church. They are the parents of two children: Carlos E. and Lucile.

DEWITT BOWLEY.—Among the young men of moral and material worth whose energetic labors are contributing to the business prestige of Broken Bow, one who is making rapid progress in the commercial world is Dewitt Bowley, who for several years has been the proprietor of a furniture business and also has other interests. He was born at New Helena, Nebraska, October 21, 1890, and is a son of William O. and Minerva (Hudleston) Bowley.

William O. Bowley was born in West Virginia and was an early immigrant to Custer county, settling in the vicinity of New Helena, where he established a home among the pioneers. He was a man of small capital when he came and this was soon swallowed up, his early experiences and those of his wife, particularly during the hard winter of 1880 and spring of 1881, including all the hardships and privations coincident with pioneer life on the western plains. He was compelled to haul his necessities of life from Grand Island and Kearney, and his wheat was laboriously ground in a coffee-mill, but his was the kind of courage that but grows stronger under adversity, and eventually he became one of the county's successful men and accumulated a large amount of property. He died, highly respected, April 6, 1913, at Anselmo, and his widow is now a resident of Merna, this county. There were six children in the family, as follows: James, the owner of two farms near Sargent, married Grace Rush, and has three sons and two daughters; Gallie is a farmer and stock-raiser near New Helena, and his wife is Josie, whose parents were from Virginia; John, who is engaged in farming and stock-raising on the old homestead, near

New Helena, married Ethel Smith, a daughter of Moses Smith, and has had three daughters; Oscar, who is a Custer county farmer, married Ora Flemmings and they have five daughters and one son; Annie is the wife of Bert Garrison, a farmer near New Helena, and they have two daughters and one son; and Dewitt is the subject of this sketch.

Dewitt Bowley attended the public schools in the vicinity of his home, and divided his boyhood and youth between working on the home place, for his brothers, or on the farms of the neighbors. He remained on the home farm until he reached his majority, at which time he entered upon his own career, his energies for a time being devoted to farming. In 1915, however, he became proprietor of a furniture business, which he has since built up to satisfying proportions, and in connection therewith he is conducting a rooming house. He is one of the alert and progressive young men of Broken Bow and is bringing himself rapidly forward by the exercise of industry and good management.

Mr. Bowley was married June 3, 1914, at Broken Bow, to Miss Grace Pernie, daughter of David and Eva (Albertson) Pernie, who for some years were engaged in agricultural pursuits near Anselmo but are now living in retirement at Broken Bow. Mr. Pernie is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge and is a Republican in his political views. He and his wife had seven children: Blanche, Clark, Grace, Ethel, Myrtle, Lucille, Eva, and William. Mr. and Mrs. Bowley are the parents of one son, William, born in 1915.

Fraternally, Mr. Bowley is affiliated with the Modern Brotherhood of America, in which he has numerous friends. He maintains an independent stand upon political questions.

FRANK DEVINE, who was born in 1872, is a son of John A. and Bridget A. (Sharp) Devine, very excellent people, of Irish extraction, who have given to this country the splendid contribution of their life effort and a family of children who are numbered among our best citizens. In the family of John A. Devine were eight children: Charles, the first son, lives in Illinois; the second son is Frank, the subject of this sketch; the third, James, is a banker and prominent citizen of Oconto, Custer county; Joseph, the fourth born, is a young farmer living with his mother and his brother Frank on the home place, where he assists in the farming operations; John, the youngest son, is a dentist by profession and is living at Cheyenne, Wyom-

ing; Martha is the widow of Joseph P. Berry and maintains her residence at Oconto, this county; Anna is the wife of James Noon, of Joliet, Illinois; and Mary, who has been popular and successful as a school teacher, resides at the old home, with her mother and two brothers.

As indicated above, Frank and Joseph Devine and their mother live on the old home place, and here the father died about nine years ago. The brothers are doing a general farming and stock-raising business, to which they devote the most of their time. They are energetic men of good judgment and of that business ability which insures success to every venture they undertake.

They have been very patriotic and ardent supporters of the government in the crisis entailed by the great world war. They responded liberally to every call and were glad to render whatever assistance lay in their power.

They are members of the Knights of Columbus, and to the splendid war work done by this organization, as well as the Red Cross and the Young Men's Christian Association, they have made their contributions. They are also substantial supporting members of the Catholic church.

MRS. ALBERT GUNDY.—Several of the valuable and highly improved farms of Custer county are owned and operated by women, and most of these are widows of former agriculturists, while most of them became well versed in the science of tilling the soil by reason of having assisted their respective husbands during their years of industrious labor. Under this classification is to be placed Mrs. Gundy, whose farm, six miles southeast of Broken Bow, comprises a tract of 160 acres, with good improvements. This property is owned by Mrs. Gundy, who has resided here for more than nine years.

The late Albert Gundy was born near the city of Berlin, Germany, September 25, 1832, and was a son of Frederick and Minnie Gundy, who brought their family to the United States in 1839 and settled in Ohio. Later they went to Illinois, where they engaged in agricultural pursuits, and where both parents passed away in the faith of the Lutheran church. They gave three sons to the Union cause during the Civil war—Fred, William, and Ed., the first-named of whom fell on the battlefield of Gettysburg.

Albert Gundy received his education in the public schools of Ohio, and as a young man he engaged in independent farming operations

in Illinois. He was an industrious man, with good, practical ideas, and did not lack the courage to adopt modern methods, so that he made a success of his operations. In 1892 he moved to Iowa, where he had just begun to repeat his Illinois success when he was called by death, April 22, 1894. Following his demise Mrs. Gundy disposed of the home farm in Iowa and came to Custer county, where she purchased 160 acres of land six miles southeast of Broken Bow, this place being her present home. Here she has developed a splendid farm, one of the most valuable in this part of the county, with substantial buildings and modern improvements of every character. She has numerous friends in the community, attracted to her by her many fine qualities of mind and heart, and she belongs to the Catholic church, attending services at St. Joseph's church, Broken Bow.

Mrs. Gundy, who married Mr. Gundy in 1869, bore the maiden name of Mary Lerette, and she was born in Illinois, a daughter of Louis and Eliza (Delill) Lerette, the former a native of France and the latter of Canada. There were eleven children in the Lerette family, of whom four survive—Mrs. Catherine Jones, of Chicago; Mrs. Margaret Fingure, of Joliet, Illinois; Nicholas, a retired farmer of Hancock, Iowa; and Mrs. Gundy. Of the thirteen children born to Mr. and Mrs. Gundy, ten attained to maturity: Henry, an Iowa farmer; Jessie, deceased wife of Louis Range, of Joliet, Illinois; Frank, farming in Custer county; Fred, a mail carrier at Minden, Iowa; May, the wife of Will Booth, a farmer near Broken Bow; Maggie, the wife of George Allard, proprietor of a garage at Crookston, Nebraska; Kate, the wife of Frank Coulter, of Custer county; Lewis, a carpenter of Lincoln; Lucy, the wife of James Roucis, a railroad man of Lincoln; and Andrew and George, at home, and assisting their mother in conducting the home farm.

HENRY SWEENEY.—In this brief memoir is given the life record of one of Custer county's early settlers—a man who contributed his full share to the upbuilding of his community.

Henry Sweeney was born in Roscommon county, Ireland, and when a young man of about eighteen years, having heard favorable reports concerning the opportunities to be found in America, he left his native land, and came to the United States, where he first found employment in New Jersey. It seems that he was not disappointed in the prospects which confronted him, for he sent for his par-

ents and had them join him, he making a home for them as long as they lived. They were Thomas and Ellen (Henry) Sweeney, and both passed away in New Jersey.

Henry Sweeney then went further west, and in Livingston county, Illinois, he established a home. There he married Bridget Harvey, who was born in County Leitrim, Ireland, August 24, 1840, a daughter of Daniel and Catherine (McGuire) Harvey, both of whom lived and died in their native land. Bridget Harvey was a girl of sixteen years when she came to America, with friends and neighbors who settled at Dwight, Illinois, where she met her future husband. The young couple continued to reside in Illinois until 1886, when they came to Custer county, Nebraska, and located in section 16, township 18, range 22. This being school land, it was not open for settlement, but Mr. Sweeney purchased 480 acres of it as soon as it was on the market for sale. Pioneer conditions were still in evidence on every hand, and a sod house served as the family home for many years. In 1908 Mr. Sweeney made arrangements to provide better quarters for the family, and the large frame house which adorns the place was erected that year. But the husband and father was not long permitted to enjoy the new home, as he was called from the scene of earthly activities in November of that year. His widow still makes her home on the old farm and is one of the Custer county pioneer women who shared in its pioneer hardships and who has been spared to view the changes that have taken place and share in the joys and pleasures of the present day. She became the mother of ten children: Thomas met accidental death at the age of nineteen years, in a sand bank caving at Ulysses, Nebraska; Catherine is the wife of Owen Gray, of Seward Nebraska; Harry is married and resides in Wyoming; George is a farmer of Custer county; Alice died at the age of four years and seven months; Arthur is a resident of Anselmo; Amrose resides at Merna; Ann is the wife of James D. McCarty; William lives at Merna; and Edward J. owns and operates the old home farm. The family are communicants of the Catholic church and are held in the highest respect.

JAMES FARRITOR.—Among the pioneers of Custer county who still reside within its borders mention should be made of James Farritor, who for thirty-eight years has been a resident of the county.

Mr. Farritor is a native of the Emerald Isle, born in County Kerry, Ireland, May 25,

1834. He was a babe in arms, only five weeks old, when his parents, John and Nora (Fitzgerald) Farritor emigrated from Ireland to the United States. They first settled in Boston, later living at Worcester, Massachusetts, then in Connecticut, and from the latter state they removed to Tioga county, Pennsylvania, where they spent the remainder of their lives.

James Farritor spent his boyhood days in the different places where his parents lived and when a young man he became a coal miner. He was still a young man when he went to Streator, Illinois, where he followed mining until 1880. In that year he came to Nebraska and secured a homestead on Victoria creek, Custer county. But few families were to be found in the county when he took up his residence here, and the work of development had only been begun. He built a sod house, began the task of conquering the wilderness, and in due time was planting and harvesting. Here he followed agricultural pursuits for many years. In the early days Kearney was the nearest trading and milling point, and Mr. Farritor made many trips there to get wheat ground and to secure provisions for the family.

At Elmira, New York, Mr. Farritor was united in marriage to Miss Ann McDonald, a native of Ireland, and she became one of Custer county's noble pioneer women. They became the parents of five children, as follows: The firstborn, a daughter, is now a Sister of Charity in a Catholic convent in Kansas; Mrs. H. G. Clark, Mrs. Joseph Moroney; and Mrs. Homer Hickman all reside in Custer county; and Julia, is deceased.

Mr. Farritor makes his home with Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Moroney, his wife having passed away. He is one of the venerable pioneers of Custer county and has reached the age of eighty-four years. He has been an eye-witness of the vast changes that have taken place in this section of Nebraska, and delights in recounting the experiences of those early days.

EDWARD J. SWEENEY.—The subject of this record is a worthy representative of the agricultural interests of Custer county, within whose borders he has resided since he was five years of age.

Edward James Sweeney was born in Butler county, Nebraska, March 16, 1880, and is a son of Henry and Bridget (Harvey) Sweeney, a record of whom appears on other pages of this volume. Reared on the farm, he wisely chose as a vocation the occupation with which he was familiar, and he is to-day the

owner of 320 acres of the old home place. It is one of the best improved farmsteads in the township, the buildings having been put here by his honored father.

Mr. Sweeney married Miss Delia Kaelin, a native of Custer county, and they are the proud parents of twin children, a boy and a girl, named Helen Eileen, and Henry Edward.

The family are members of the Catholic church and Mr. Sweeney votes the Democratic ticket. He is a progressive and up-to-date farmer, as well as a representative of one of the early families of Custer county.

GEORGE W. TRUEMAN is consistently given pioneer honors in Custer county, within whose borders he has maintained his residence for more than thirty years. He reclaimed and developed one of the excellent farms of the county and as an energetic and progressive business man he is now manager of the general merchandise store at Georgetown, where he also holds the office of post-master.

Mr. Trueman was born in Pennsylvania, in the year 1857, and is a son of John George Trueman and Caroline (Coleman) Trueman, who were folk of sterling character and who reared their children in such a way as admirably to fit them for the duties and responsibilities of later years. Of the four children the following brief record may consistently be entered: David L. is a resident of Camus Valley, Oregon; Martha is the wife of William Rollins and they reside on their farm north of Sumner, Dawson county; George W., of this review, was the next in order of birth; and William lives in Dawson county.

George W. Trueman acquired his early education in his native state and supplemented this by attending school after the family removal to Illinois, in which latter state he was reared to adult age. He continued his residence in Illinois until 1886, when he came with his family to Nebraska and established his permanent home in Custer county. Here he entered claim to a homestead of 160 acres, and in its development, improvement, and diversified activities he showed characteristic energy, thrift, and good judgment, with the result that he made the property one of the well equipped and valuable farms of the county. That the homestead was recently sold for \$4,000 gives tangible evidence of the fact that the property had received the best of management on the part of Mr. Trueman, who had incidentally made a record for vigorous and effective enterprise in connection with agricultural and live-stock industry. He now has

full charge of the general store of Georgetown, as representative of the owner, H. S. Clouse. In his present field of enterprise he is meeting with the same gratifying success that attended his activities as a farmer, the while his personal hold upon popular confidence and esteem inures to the success of the business with which he is now identified. In politics Mr. Trueman upholds the basic principles for which the Republican party stands sponsor, but he is not constrained by partisan dictates to the extent of feeling it necessary to vote for candidates who do not appeal to his judgment, even if they are advanced by his own party. He holds membership in the Christian church, of which his wife likewise was a devoted adherent, her death having occurred in 1897.

The year 1882 recorded the marriage of Mr. Trueman to Miss Mary Helen Hope, and the four children of this union are living: Carrie is the wife of Byron Morgan, of Custer county; John William conducts a garage and blacksmith shop at Cumro, this county; Martha is the wife of Dell Mason, their home being in Custer county; and Arthur S. resides at Fort Collins, Colorado.

JOHN TEAHON.—As we write of the early settlers of Custer county, giving each his meed of praise, the name of John Teahon should have a place in the front rank.

John Teahon is a native of the Emerald Isle, born in County Kerry, Ireland, where the days of his boyhood and youth were passed. In 1880, when a young man of twenty-one years, he came to America, and for one year he resided in Halifax. In 1881 he came west to Nebraska, and in the month of July, 1882, he drove a team and wagon to Custer county, where he pre-empted the northwest quarter of section 17, township 18, range 22. When asked if "Uncle Sam" had made any improvements, Mr. Teahon answered as only an Irishman could do, "No, that was left for your Uncle John to do."

Not a house was in sight in the valley on the west, and North Platte and Kearney were the nearest trading points when Mr. Teahon took up his residence here. He shared in all the trials and hardships of the pioneer days, but has been faithful to duty and has contributed his share toward the betterment of conditions.

At Milford, Massachusetts, Mr. Teahon married Miss Mary Ellen Teahon, a native of that place, and following is a brief record concerning their children: Mary E. and Lizzie were given special advantages in busi-

ness education, the former taking first prize in a contest given by the Remington Typewriter Company, and she now has a position at Grand Island, while her sister holds a similar position in Montana; Ella, John, Jr., William, Michael, and Maurice are all at home. The family are members of the Catholic church. When asked his political views, Mr. Teahon replied, "Put it in your book just as I tell it," and, pointing to a knoll where he slept under a wagon the first night after he came here, he said, "I have never missed an election and never voted a straight ticket."

Mr. Teahon has rendered valuable aid in promoting those measures that have had to do with the upbuilding of his part of the county. He is a friend of the public school and has always advocated the employment of efficient instructors, realizing that the boys and girls of to-day are to be the men and women of the future. He gave his time and influence to help establish rural free delivery in his community, sacrificed his own convenience to benefit the majority, and did all in his power to make possible the present system of parcel post service.

Mr. Teahon is possessed of an unusual amount of real Irish wit, is genial and optimistic, is well posted on current events, and is a fluent conversationalist. He is the owner of 240 acres of land, and what he has achieved is the result of his own and his family's hard work and good judgment.

Patrick and Elizabeth (O'Donohue) Teahon, parents of the subject of this sketch, were sent for by their son, and they spent their last days with their children in Custer county.

EDWIN A. BUTLER, a veteran business man of Ansley, who has constantly been connected with the mercantile interests of this place for thirty-two years, is accounted one of his community's progressive citizens and a prominent factor in the automobile industry as represented in Custer county. He entered his present business, as proprietor of a garage, after a quarter of a century's connection with the implement trade, and in his present field of endeavor he has equaled and added to the reputation which he gained in his former line.

Edwin Adams Butler was born on a farm in Knox county, Illinois, August 31, 1859, a son of Matthew and Louisa (Drake) Butler. His father, a native of Gardner, Maine, went as a young man to Ohio, where he was united in marriage with Miss Louisa Drake, who

was born in the city of Cincinnati, and shortly after their union they moved to Illinois. There Mr. Butler was able to purchase good government land for one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre, and on the home farm in Illinois Mrs. Butler passed away in 1862. Her husband continued to follow farming there with success until 1878, when he came to Seward, Nebraska, and bought land at seven dollars an acre. He became the owner of valuable farming land and much town property, and at the time of his death, which occurred in 1898, he was accounted one of his county's well-to-do citizens. He was a Republican in his political affiliation and wielded some influence in party circles, and his religious connection was with the Congregational church. He and Mrs. Butler were representative of the best element in community life. They were parents of six children: Samuel, who is a well known realty operator of Lincoln, Nebraska; Allen, who is engaged in the jewelry business at Ansley, Custer county; Edwin A., whose name introduces this sketch; and three who are deceased.

Edwin A. Butler received his early education in the public and district schools of Illinois, and when he was nineteen years of age he accompanied his father to Seward, Nebraska, where he gained his first knowledge of the implement business. For four or five years he was engaged in that business on his own account, at Seward, but in 1886 he removed to Ansley, where he established the business that he conducted for twenty-five years, with constantly increasing success. Mr. Butler displayed excellent ability in the handling of his affairs, which placed him among the town's leading business citizens, and in addition to this he traveled for six years for the International Harvester Company, in selling its widely known products. In 1913, recognizing an opportunity, he opened a modern garage at Ansley, and began doing a large business, not only with the automobilists of Ansley and the surrounding towns and countryside, but also with those traveling through this region from distant points. From the start he has handled Ford cars and various accessories, in addition to which he has done a large business in general repairing. By 1917 his business had grown to such proportions that he was obliged to secure larger quarters and better accommodations, and accordingly he built his present establishment, a building, modern in every way, and fifty by forty feet in dimensions. Mr. Butler is a man of the highest and strictest integrity—one whose reputation for solidity and sterling character has been built



JOHN STARR AND FAMILY

up through years of straightforward business transactions. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, the Odd Fellows, and the Modern Woodmen, is a Republican in politics, and has served efficiently and conscientiously as a member of the town board.

In 1882 Mr. Butler married Miss Clara Anderson, who was born in Pennsylvania, a daughter of Lewis Anderson, who settled, at a very early date, in Seward county, Nebraska, where he was a very successful farmer, and at his death left a handsome estate. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Butler, namely: Alice, who is the wife of Charles Chandler, engaged in the drug business at Ansley; Grace, who is the wife of Fred Maulick, engaged in the meat-market business at this place; Della, who is the wife of Ray Lockhart, of Broken Bow, who entered the United States army in June, 1918; Harry, who is engaged in the automobile business with his father, and is a thirty-second degree Mason; and Edwin, who resides with his parents and attends school. Mrs. Butler is a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

JOHN STAAB.—The financial stability and personal influence of John Staab, one of the foremost farmers and large landholders of Custer county, are the result of patient application to merchandising and farming, prudent investments, and industry and perseverance in whatever undertakings have occupied his attention. Mr. Staab was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, June 11, 1859, and is a son of Liborius and Louisa Pauline (Marold) Staab, both natives of Germany.

The parents of Mr. Staab were both young people when they immigrated to the United States, and they met and were married in Dane county, Wisconsin. In his native land the father had been a cabinetmaker, and in Wisconsin he followed carpentry and baking as occupations, but in 1870 he came to Platte county, Nebraska, where he secured a homestead and engaged in farming, a vocation which he followed during the rest of his life. He was a successful, self-made man and had the esteem and regard of his associates and neighbors in each of the communities in which he lived. He was reared as a Catholic, but later adopted the faith of the Lutheran church. Mr. and Mrs. Staab were the parents of nine children, of whom seven are living: Charles, who is living retired in the state of Washington; John, who is the subject of this sketch; Adam, who is a ranchman of Cherry county,

Nebraska; Louis, who conducts a meat market at Chicago, Illinois; Will, who is a dairyman in the state of Washington; Theodore, who is a turner by trade and at present employed at Chicago; and Otto, who drew a section of land in Arthur county, Nebraska, and has since purchased a like acreage.

The educational advantages of John Staab were limited in his youth to attendance at district schools of Dane county, Wisconsin, and Platte county, Nebraska, during three months of the year, and in the latter state he was forced to travel twelve miles to attend school. However, he has done much to educate himself, having been a close observer and a great reader, and he is now well informed in regard to a wide range of important subjects. As a youth he secured a position clerking in a general store at Columbus, Nebraska, and subsequently he ran a herd of cattle and hauled freight for a distance of twenty-six miles, his various activities combining to give him a start in life. His first property was secured in Platte county, when he traded a pair of ponies for a tract of eighty acres of land, and later he engaged in the general-store business at Lee, Nebraska, where he made a success of his undertaking, by reason of his ability and good management. In 1895 he secured another Platte county farm, on which he installed his family, and in 1898 he disposed of his store business at Lee, increasing his Platte county holdings to 200 acres and living on his farm there for about five years more. In 1903 Mr. Staab came to Custer county and bought 1,480 acres of land, and he gave his supervision to this property for another year before he returned to Platte county, where he sold his property, after which he brought his family back to Custer county. Here he has since resided and here he later added eighty acres to his holdings. There were no improvements on the Custer county property at the time of his arrival, but he at once began building operations, and he now has six complete sets of buildings, including residences, barns, and other structures. His sons now own their own places—land their father bought when he came here—and are doing well. Mr. Staab has always carried on general farming and has engaged in stock-raising, and his operations have been uniformly successful. A man of varied interests and keen and active mind, he has been more or less prominent in public affairs. In early life he was a Democrat, leaving that party to join the Populist movement and subsequently returning to the Democratic organization. At this time he is greatly interested in the work of the Non-Partisan League.

While residing at Lee, he was for a number of years a trustee of that town and was township clerk of Sherman township in Platte county. Since coming to Custer county he has been chairman of the township board of Berwyn town several years and a member of the school board during a long period. His official record is one which has been characterized by conscientious attention to duty and the same kind of energy and intelligent direction of affairs that have been noted in the handling of his personal enterprises.

In 1882 Mr. Staab married Miss Elizabeth Mayer, who was born in Schuylkill county, Pennsylvania, a daughter of Enoch and Rachel (Yoder) Mayer, the former born in 1831, in Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, and the latter in 1838, in Schuylkill county, that state. The marriage of the parents was solemnized in the Keystone state, and in 1868 they removed to Iowa, where Mr. Mayer purchased a homestead. He continued operations thereon until 1908, when he removed to Tipton, Iowa, and since then he has lived in retirement and in the devoted companionship of his wife. He is a son of John Mayer, a native of Pennsylvania. Mr. Mayer is a Democrat, and he and his wife are members of the German Reformed church. Their eight children are all living, but Mrs. Staab is the only one residing in Nebraska.

Mr. and Mrs. Staab are the parents of twelve children: John E., of Ansley; Aaron Clark, farming near his father's home; Anna, the wife of Harry J. Newman, a farmer at Guelph, North Dakota; George Enoch, farming near his father's home; Ida, the wife of Wesley Harris, operating one of Mr. Staab's farms; Arthur L., farming near his father's property; Madia A., the wife of Ray Hawk, a farmer near Ansley; Walter, his father's assistant on the home farm; and Reuben, Irena, Carlisle, and Zelma, all at home. The family belongs to the Baptist church.

ARCHIE L. LOWRY.—One of the newcomers who constitutes a valuable asset and has made Custer county the benefactor by his advance is Archie L. Lowry, who is a native of Hall county, Nebraska, in which county he was born September 4, 1884. He is a son of Clarence N. and Maggie (Dufford) Lowry. The father was born in Indiana, but the mother comes from the rugged hills of Pennsylvania. The father came to Nebraska when but seven years of age, with his widowed mother, and they made a home near Peru, Nemaha county. In 1871 they moved to Hall

county and settled near Doniphan, where the mother still resides.

Archie L. Lowry is a member of a family of seven children, and has two brothers and four sisters. Robert and Roland are substantial Hall county farmers. Della is the wife of M. J. Meserall, of Doniphan. Of the other children it may be recorded that Nettie is the wife of Thomas Herr, of Doniphan; Gertrude is the wife of Vern Crawford.

Archie L. Lowry was united in marriage, April 9, 1905, to Eva Gray, a fine young woman of Hall county, she being a daughter of Eugene and Ella (Hudson) Gray. Mr. and Mrs. Lowry have two children, Malcolm and Eva Jean, bright youngsters who contribute to the joy and satisfaction of the home.

Mr. and Mrs. Lowry came to Custer county in 1914 and bought land in section 25, township 20, range 21, north, and they are now the owners of 400 good acres, on which are fair buildings, a good farm home and everything to indicate without announcement that the owner is one of the prosperous farmers and ranchmen of the county.

In politics Mr. Lowry is a Republican, and fraternally he is a Mason and an Odd Fellow. Custer county has room for and can afford to pay a premium for more families like the Lowrys.

ENNIS SCOTT.—Custer county has had few citizens of finer fiber or more sterling worth than the late Ennis Scott, whose field of operation was the community northeast of Anselmo, where are located the farm he developed and the fine country home which he erected for himself and his family, and in which he expected to spend the years of his retirement.

Mr. Scott was born June 28, 1855, in Whiteside county, Illinois. His father was Edwin Scott and his mother Mary (Scott) Scott, both natives of the Buckeye state. An incident in the family history of Mrs. Scott is so remarkable that it is worthy of record in this column. Her parents moved from Ohio to Illinois in an early day, and to make the trip the father built a house-boat, loaded into it all his worldly goods and a family of thirteen children, and floated leisurely down the Ohio river to the Mississippi river, then up the Mississippi to Rock river, thence up the Rock river to Como, Illinois, which is near Sterling, that state. This was long before railroads were built, and the house-boat constituted an easy and economical mode of travel.

Ennis Scott availed himself of public-school

advantages, by which he qualified himself for useful citizenship and such public service as he was called upon to render. His life occupation by his own choosing was farming, in which he made a striking success. In 1884 he yielded to the call of the west and arrived in Antelope county, Nebraska, where he remained only a short time. In the fall of the same year he settled in Custer county, where he homesteaded 160 acres in section 26, township 20, range 22. His wife remained in Antelope county and continued teaching school, in order to supply the sinews of war by which the western claim could be improved and the primitive home established.

December 30, 1877, the same year in which Custer county was organized, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Scott to Miss Charity D. White, a daughter of Humphrey K. and Mary (Bumgardner) White. Her father, descended from an old English line, was born in 1798, in Virginia, and he died in Ohio, in 1883. The mother was born in Maine, in 1818, and she passed away in the same state and in the same year as her husband.

Mr. and Mrs. Ennis Scott established an almost ideal home, into which were born, in the course of years, four children, two of whom died in infancy, the other two are sons: Stanley B., who was born July 27, 1886, is now farming in Custer county; and Leon E., who was born June 11, 1894, is with his mother on the home place, but was in the draft for military service in the world war. It was arranged that when Leon was called to the service Stanley would take charge of the old home farm and conduct the extensive farming operations that his father maintained all through his active years.

In coming from Antelope county into Custer, Mr. and Mrs. Scott hauled their goods in a covered wagon, which was drawn by an ox team. They experienced many hardships, but their indomitable will conquered all obstacles.

Mr. Scott died July 9, 1916, having just completed a fine country home and having added to the farm equipment all necessary outbuildings, barns, and sheds. He and his good wife expected to pass their declining years in ease and comfort. They had passed the years of toil, they had reached the hilltop from which the prospect was pleasing and the road much easier, but the end of life had come to Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott was one of the most enterprising men in Custer county. He believed in public improvements for the community and comfort for his family, and both of these he did all in his power to provide. A generous spirit, Custer county is the richer for the years of

his residence within its confines. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and in politics was a stalwart and leading Republican. Mrs. Scott continues to reside in the beautiful home, surrounded by all the blessings and comforts of life except the companionship of the worthy husband whose life fortunes she shared so many years.

GEORGE E. RICHTMYER. — The community of Ansley records upon its roll of departed and honored citizens none who left behind more substantial and valued evidences of association with its affairs than the late George E. Richtmyer. As a banker, farmer, and stock-raiser, politician, and public-spirited citizen, he came and went among the people of the vicinity of Ansley from the time of his arrival in Custer county, in 1883, until the close of his life, October 1, 1917, and in connection with memories of him there remains an impression of practical usefulness and genuine, dependable character, traceable to his untiring zeal, persevering industry and ready recognition of opportunity.

Mr. Richtmyer was a native of the state of New York, where he was born in 1850, a son of William and Mary (Francher) Richtmyer. The family originated in Holland, and was early founded in New York state, where, at Gilboa, Schoharie county, William Richtmyer was born. He was a machinist and wagonmaker, trades which he followed for a number of years, but eventually he turned his attention to farming and completed his career as a tiller of the soil in his native state.

George E. Richtmyer was educated in the public schools, completing his studies in the high school at Windham, following which he entered upon his career as a school-teacher. However, he did not find the desired financial success in this field, and finally he concluded to try his fortune in the west—in the new country opening up in central Nebraska. Accordingly, he became a pioneer of Custer county, where, in 1883, he located on a homestead. He proved up on his claim, adding to his income by teaching in the pioneer country schools during the short winter terms. When he had established ownership of his land, he returned to New York, and in March, 1889, he there married Miss Sophia Decker, who was born in Schoharie county, New York, a daughter of George and Elizabeth (Vandevort) Decker, who spent their lives in New York, the former being a native of Conesville and the latter of Gilboa. There were six children in the Decker family, of whom three

survive: Elida D., the widow of William Berner, a farmer of Jefferson, New York; Sophia, now Mrs. Richtmyer; and Louie, the wife of John E. Martin, a farmer of Jefferson, New York.

Returning to Custer county with his bride, Mr. Richtmyer settled down to the business of cultivating and improving his property, and in the passing years became one of the leading and substantial men of his community, his management of his affairs being governed by an inherent ability, and his perseverance and industry being particularly strong points in his character. He became interested in public affairs, first as a Republican, but when the Populist movement suddenly became an important factor in national affairs, he joined that organization. In 1892 he was appointed deputy county clerk. In 1896 he was elected clerk of Custer county, by a large majority. While he traveled out of Omaha for almost two years, his main interests were confined to Custer county, and he had the utmost faith and confidence in this section. In 1903 he turned his attention to financial matters, by becoming the chief organizer of the Farmers State Bank of Ansley, of which he became cashier. Later he was president of this institution, the affairs of which he directed wisely and well, in a conservative though progressive manner, and he was president of this bank at the time of his death. The death of Mr. Richtmyer occurred October 1, 1917, and was of tragic order—he was run over by a wagon when he was returning to Ansley from a visit to the old homestead, and he did not recover from the injuries he received in this deplorable accident. He left many behind to mourn him—those who had known him best and who recognized his superior qualities of mind and heart. At the time of his death the *Ansley Herald* said: "He was the soul of honor and his friends and friendships once made were always sacred to him."

Mr. and Mrs. Richtmyer had one son: Louis D., who was born in 1890, and who was educated at Wesleyan University, Lincoln; the Nebraska State University; and Wentworth Institute, Boston, Massachusetts. In the last named institution he was graduated in 1915. Since the demise of his father, he has been operating the old homestead upon which his revered father first located in 1883. Mrs. Richtmyer, who survives her husband and resides in her pleasant home at Ansley, has in this community a wide circle of friends, and she is a member of the Christian Science church of Boston.

G. THOMAS HARTSON. — In this paragraph is an exhibition of young blood on the farm—blood that is as red and vigorous and floats as much iron as the blood that welled in the veins of the hardy pioneers forty years ago. There is an old and hackneyed phrase that "blood will tell," and it is probably true, but blood finds no better opportunity for telling than on a Custer county farm under present day conditions. Tom Hartson was born May 2, 1889, twenty-nine years ago, by which it is noted that he is on the morning side of thirty. For family history see sketch of James B. Hartson.

December 18, 1912, recorded the marriage of Mr. Hartson to Minnie Butcher, a young lady born and reared in this county, possessed of all the western graces that always impart life and vigor without taking toll of womanly virtues or gracious characteristics. The young people are now engaged in making their start. They have one child, Fern, four years of age—old enough and bright enough to direct the affairs of the household and to keep the fond parents dancing in attendance.

The farm operated by Mr. Hartson is rented from his father and consists of 160 acres of well cultivated land, with good buildings and general equipment. Tom Hartson owns his own implements and horse power, has a good line of live stock, and chances for success are very largely in his favor. He milks five cows and gives much care and attention to the profitable details of the farming game. He has been fifteen years a resident of the county, and within another fifteen years, with like diligence and economy, he and his good wife will have a comfortable home, "fronting on easy street."

Mrs. Hartson belongs to the Christian church. In politics Tom is independent. He votes the ticket as it suits his fancy, and no political boss cracks the lash above his back. A young family like this is part of the assets that insure the future prosperity of the county.

ALMER E. SPENCER. — One of the substantial men of the present day in Custer county is Almer E. Spencer, who has survived the many hardships the early settlers here had to contend with, and the story of his experiences is very interesting, as throwing a light upon the sturdy pioneers of 1880. He was born in Bremer county, Iowa, a son of Josiah W. and Margaret (Greenwood) Spencer, the latter of whom resides with her son Almer

E., of this review. Josiah W. Spencer served three years as a soldier in the Civil war, and at one time was captured by the enemy and incarcerated for three weeks in the prison pen at Andersonville, Georgia. His seven children all survive, namely: Almer E. is the immediate subject of this sketch; Addalaska G., who was born February 14, 1873, and who is a farmer near Broken Bow, married Sarah Story; Josiah L., who was born May 8, 1875, and who is a retired farmer living in Broken Bow, married Dora Mottinger; Alta, who was born November 14, 1877, is the wife of Rev. John W. Pirnie, pastor of the Church of God at Broken Bow; Katie F., who was born September 25, 1880, is the wife of John Holland, a farmer near Westerville; Lula D., who was born October 30, 1885, is the wife of Aaron Story, a farmer near Farley, Iowa; and Thomas L., who was born December 6, 1887, resides at home. Mr. Spencer brought his family to Valley county, Nebraska, in 1879, and in the following year homesteaded in Custer county. In order to secure provisions Mr. Spencer had to make a trip to Grand Island, leaving the family alone, and, with Indians still in the neighborhood and wild animals not entirely eliminated, Mrs. Spencer found many causes for anxiety. She relates that on one occasion when he was away, the children went out to gather wood and one of the sudden blizzards of snow came on and they were snowbound the entire night in the schoolhouse. Josiah W. Spencer was one of the venerable and honored pioneer citizens of Custer county at the time of his death, which occurred in February, 1908.

Almer E. Spencer accompanied his parents to Custer county in 1880 and still lives on his father's old homestead, where he carries on mixed farming and stock-raising, the former disadvantages of this section having been largely overcome by improved methods. July 1, 1894, he married Miss Carrie Bishop, who is a daughter of George and Emily (Hipsher) Bishop. Mrs. Spencer was the fourth in order of birth of her parents' family of children, the others being: Addie is the wife of Alfred Crowther, a fruit farmer in Tulare county, California; Charles, who also is a fruit farmer in Tulare county, married Mary Govier; David, who owns a fruit ranch in the above county, married Belle Sidwell; Nellie is the wife of Oscar Lindgren, a farmer in Hamilton county, Nebraska; and Nettie. Mr. and Mrs. Spencer have five children: Ralph, who was born August 8, 1895, and who is a farmer in Custer county, married Elsie Pirnie; Lela, who was born August 8, 1897, is the wife of John Piper, a farmer in Custer

county; Almer was born July 30, 1903; George was born September 10, 1907; and Alvin was born January 18, 1910. The three youngest children are all at home. Mr. Spencer is affiliated with the Berwyn camp of the Modern Woodmen of America.

AXEL E. ANDERSON, who is a farmer and stockman in Custer county, is also a public official and is well and favorably known. Mr. Anderson was born in the city of Stockholm, Sweden, March 29, 1870, one of a family of three children born to Augustus and Tilda (Larson) Anderson. The parents of Mr. Anderson came to the United States and in the spring of 1880 settled in Polk county, Nebraska, where the mother died thirty days afterward and the father some years later. Two of their three children are living — Axel E. and John E., the latter of whom married Alma Almberg, their home being at Stromsberg, Nebraska.

Axel E. Anderson obtained his early education in the public schools of Polk county, Nebraska, and supplemented this discipline by a course in a business college at Bushnell, Illinois. He then spent a year in Minnesota and from there went to Decatur, Illinois. From that place he came, in 1906, to Custer county, Nebraska, and this has been his home ever since. He owns a half-section of land, which is well improved and favorably located, and his industries include general farming and stock-raising.

Mr. Anderson was united in marriage, in December, 1898, to Jessie M. Hart, the eldest daughter of Sunderland and Mary (Briscoe) Hart, of Decatur, Illinois, where Mr. Hart was a retired farmer. Mrs. Anderson has two sisters and one brother — Lucy, who is the wife of Charles P. Maxwell, a musician, at Decatur, Illinois; Edith, who lives with her sister; and Edward C., who is a business man of Jennings, Louisiana. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have two children: Earl H., born December 15, 1899; and Horace W., born June 13, 1901. Both sons are at home and attending the Broken Bow high school. Mr. Anderson is somewhat prominent in Republican politics and for the past two years has been treasurer of Garfield township. He belongs to the Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America, still holding membership in Illinois.

JOHN GOVIER. — A practical representative of the agricultural interests of the Broken Bow community of Custer county is found in

the person of John Govier, who has an exceptionally well developed property, located in section 20, township 18, which has been his home since 1885. Mr. Govier, during the thirty-three and more years that he has carried on operations here has accomplished several objects, in that he has established a good home, contributed a prosperous farm to the development of the county, and established himself in a firm position as a substantial and esteemed citizen, thereby reaching a goal that many men might well envy.

John Govier was born near Wolverhampton, England, August 7, 1850, a son of James and Ann (Osborn) Govier. His parents came to the United States in 1864 and settled in the vicinity of Boscobel, Wisconsin, where James Govier was engaged in farming during a period of many years. He was a man of industry, held the good will and respect of his neighbors and the confidence of his associates, and was a staunch Republican in his political views. He and his wife were faithful members of the Church of God and died in Custer county, Nebraska, in that faith. They were the parents of thirteen children, of whom seven are living: John, who is the subject of this notice; Thomas, who is single and lives in Canada, where he follows farming; Charles, who married Addie Atkins, and is a farmer of the vicinity of Weissert, Nebraska; James, who is single and resides at Ansley, Nebraska; Annie, who is a resident of the locality of Knob, California; Albert, who married Margaret Mitcheson, and lives at Ansley; and Mary, who is the wife of Charles Bishop and makes her home in California.

John Govier was a lad when he accompanied his parents to the United States, and when he reached manhood he adopted the vocation of farming, in which he has been engaged ever since. After some years of operation in Wisconsin, during which he achieved only a measure of success, in 1885 he came to Nebraska, and on March 31st of that year he secured a homestead in section 20, township 18, Custer county. He has since resided on the same property, engaged in general farming and the raising of live stock, and has met with marked success in his efforts, being the owner of fine buildings, up-to-date equipment and a fine grade of stock. He maintains a high standing in the community, and while he has not been particularly active in local affairs, he has always shown his public spirit when measures of an important character have called for the support of progressive citizens.

Mr. Govier was married March 1, 1877, to Miss Rebecca M. Beamer, a daughter of John and Nancy M. (McKee) Beamer. To Mr.

and Mrs. Beamer there were born seven children, of whom five are living: Nancy J., of Broken Bow, is the widow of the late John Truitt; Angeline C. married Thomas Cook and lives on a farm near Cromwell, Iowa; Clark, who married Sadie Allen, is engaged in farming in Missouri; Hannah is the wife of James Derickson, a carpenter of Broken Bow; Rebecca M. is the wife of John Govier, of this sketch; and Ira Hopkins, a son of a later marriage of Mrs. Beamer, is a half-brother of Mrs. Govier. To Mr. and Mrs. Govier have been born eight children, and of these six survive: Harry E., who married Sadie Smith, is a farmer in the Round valley community of Custer county; Clarence E., who also farms in Round valley, married Coralee Govert; Mabel L. is the wife of Miller Peterson, a farmer near Weissert; Lulu P. is the wife of Alfred Larson, a farmer near Broken Bow; Thomas W. W., who married Emma Johnson, is a farmer of Round valley; and Nellie E. B. is single and resides with her parents. Mr. and Mrs. Govier also have an adopted son, Joseph T. Govier, who was born May 30, 1915.

WILLIAM T. S. LINE. — One of the best stock farms to be found in the southern part of Custer county figures as the home and the stage of the activities of Mr. Line, who is one of the progressive and representative citizens of the county. He claims Indiana as the place of his nativity and he celebrated his fifty-third birth anniversary in 1918. His wife, whose maiden name was Carrie Irene Spellmeyer, was born in the state of Illinois and is fifty-four years of age at the time of this writing. Mr. Line is a member of a family of eight children. Four of his brothers are living, and one of the number is a Nebraskan — Marshall Line, who resides near Burwell, Garfield county. Two brothers and one sister are deceased.

Concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Line brief record may consistently be entered at this juncture: Arthur and Ren S. are both associated with the work and management of their father's North ranch; Ivan J. remains at home and contributes his quota to the ranch operations; Claude represents the family and his native county as one of the gallant young men who became members of the national military forces when the country became involved in the great European war, and he was stationed at Camp Funston, Kansas, at the time when the war came to a close; Laura Lomas is living at home; Eva and Dennis B. are students in the high school at Eddyville,

Dawson county, a place not far distant from the home ranch; and Blanche also is attending the public schools of that village.

The Line landed estate comprises 1,600 broad acres, and 400 acres are maintained in a splendid state of cultivation. Mr. Line came into possession of this fine property by purchase. The permanent improvements are of excellent order and the property constitutes one of the best and most profitable stock farms in Custer county. The farm machinery is of the most modern and approved type and in itself constitutes a splendid asset, the while its utilization, as well as the general appearance of the farm, clearly indicates the progressiveness and good judgment of the owner of this valuable landed estate.

In the past years Mr. Line has bought cattle and fattened them for the market, and he has made the enterprise profitable, as has he also that of raising and handling hogs. However, in later years Mr. Line has given special attention to the dairy department of his farm activities, and at the present time he maintains a fine herd of thirty-five milch cows. The prevailing high prices for dairy products have made dairying very profitable to Mr. Line, especially during the period of the great world war, and he has been progressive in the handling of all details of this line of enterprise.

Mr. Line was reared and educated principally in Illinois, to which state his parents removed when he was about twelve years of age, and there he continued to maintain his home until 1884, when he became a pioneer settler in Dawson county, Nebraska, whence he later came to Custer county. He remained in this county about five years and then returned to Dawson county, but he has owned and resided upon his present Custer county farm since 1896, this being one of the best properties in the fertile region in the southern part of Custer county. The Line family is one of prominence and influence in this community and its members enjoy unqualified popular confidence and esteem.

ALBERT BAYNE. — "The responsibilities of present-day activities rest heavily upon the men and women living. Albert Bayne, who lives down in the Georgetown section of the South Loup, belongs to this class, and is a man who is well able to share the responsibility and discharge individually all obligations, public and private, resting upon him. He was one of the homesteaders of 1886, and has been since that time one of the improvers,

contributing to county development in his modest yet appreciable way.

He is a son of Lee George Bayne and Lyza (Richmond) Bayne, both of whom were natives of Ohio, in which state both of them passed from the activities of this world. The subject whom these lines concern passed his early days in the Buckeye state, where public-school opportunities were afforded, and there he qualified himself for good citizenship and for business transactions as they arise to-day in general country life.

In the home established by Mr. and Mrs. Bayne six children have been born: Hattie Johnson, who lives on a farm in Dawson county; Mattie, who died in Iowa, several years ago; Charlie, who is a Dawson county farmer; Jennie Line, who lives near Burwell, on a farm; Harry, who is the youngest, and who is married and living on a farm near O'Neill, Nebraska, his one child being but twenty months old at the time of this writing, in the autumn of 1918.

On the homestead where the Baynes live are to be found fairly good improvements, which meet the requirements of the operations as Mr. Bayne conducts them. He has been, withal, a successful farmer and stockman, and merits the good reputation he sustains in the immediate circle of his acquaintance.

LINCOLN G. SELL. — This title line introduces a man with a history, a man who has gone through various and varied experiences in the western country, and who to-day is one of the constituents of community enterprise and country prosperity. Mr. Sell was born in the state of Michigan, December 24, 1869, and is a son of John G. and Sylvia (Smith) Sell. In his father's family were three children, the other two being Mrs. Anna Robertson and Mrs. Minnie Hudson.

Lincoln G. Sell received his early education in his native state, where he attended the public schools and supported himself in the meantime by cutting cordwood. It was probably here that he learned to "saw wood," a characteristic which has stood him in good stead during all his life.

On the 10th day of December, 1901, the matrimonial career of Mr. Sell began, when he led to the marriage altar Miss Annie Mutchie, a splendid young lady of Lexington, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Sell became the parents of five children, all of whom are living and doing honor to their parents — Maggie, Mabel, Francis, Peter, and Charles. All of the children are still at home and are engaged

in useful service in connection with the household and the farm.

Mr. Sell arrived in Nebraska November 10, 1887, about one month prior to his eighteenth birthday anniversary. Like most of the settlers, his parents came with little of this world's goods and some of the hardest experiences of the pioneer days fell to their lot, the father having taken up a homestead. The father froze to death, fifteen years ago, in a canyon north of the Sells home place, and this tragedy shocked and grieved the entire community. Lincoln G. then took a homestead and to-day he has a half-section of well improved land.

Concerning his early life, Mr. Sells says that in 1890 he went into McPherson county, where he stayed a short time, and later he engaged in railroading. From there he went to Omaha, where he was employed for a time in the Union Stockyards, which yards he helped to build. While working there he contracted typhoid fever, and he came home. After recovering he returned to Omaha and went into the army, with which he participated in one of the engagements during the Indian trouble. His company took an active part in the battle of Wounded Knee, on December 27th. After leaving the army he returned to McPherson county, where he ran wild horses for a time. In this enterprise he had the misfortune to have his left hand badly crippled. While in McPherson county at that time he took hay contracts and put up a large amount of prairie hay. He then moved back to his home, where he has since resided and where he enjoys the comforts of farm life under most favorable circumstances. He belongs to the Republican party, to whose principles he has long given a faithful adherence.

ROBERT B. WALKER.—More than a quarter of a century's connection with the banking interests of Mason City, during which time he has risen from a clerkship to the presidency of the Mason City Banking Company, has made Robert B. Walker one of the best known figures in financial circles of central Nebraska. He is a native of Canada, and was born January 29, 1867, a son of Robert and Margaret (Baird) Walker.

Robert Walker, the paternal grandfather of Robert B. Walker, was born in Ireland, and was a young man when he immigrated to Canada with his wife and infant children, the rest of his life being passed in farming in that dominion. John Baird, the maternal grandfather of Mr. Walker, was likewise a native of the Emerald Isle and was an early

settler and farmer of Canada. Robert Walker, father of Robert B. Walker, was born in Ireland, and was a child when taken by his parents to Canada, where he was reared and educated. Following his marriage to Margaret Baird, a native of Canada, he continued farming in that country until 1884, when he came to Custer county, Nebraska, and secured a homestead. He was an agriculturist on that property for some years, then moving to Gibbon, Buffalo county, where he established himself in the hardware business, with his son. He is now retired, at the age of eighty years. He has been a Mason for many years and he and Mrs. Walker are members of the Presbyterian church. They have had ten children, of whom two reside in Custer county: John, who is a supervisor of Custer county and engaged in farming near Mason City; and Robert B., who is the subject of this review.

Robert B. Walker was educated in the public schools of Canada and was seventeen years of age when he accompanied his parents to Custer county. For two years he lived and farmed on the family homestead, but in 1886 he came to Mason City, where he clerked for two years, and then was variously employed until entering the Bank of Mason City, in the capacity of bookkeeper. From that time to the present he has been identified with banking matters, always advancing, and to-day he is president of the Mason City Banking Company, one of the strong institutions of this part of the state, with a capital of \$25,000, surplus of \$5,000, and average deposits of \$275,000. Mr. Walker is considered one of the capable, careful, and conservative bankers of Custer county, and is a man whose personal integrity and probity have done much to conserve the interests of his institution and to gain and hold the confidence of the public. He is a Republican in his political views, and is well known in Masonry, having attained Scottish Rite degrees, having been master of his lodge at Mason City, and holding membership as a noble of the Mystic Shrine. As a citizen he has been public-spirited and constructive in his assistance of worthy movements for the general welfare.

October 22, 1891, recorded the marriage of Mr. Walker to Miss Maude Hill, who was born in Wisconsin, daughter of L. B. Hill, who came to Mason City in 1888 and for a time was the incumbent of the postmastership. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Walker: Harold, twenty-six years of age, is a graduate of the medical department of the University of Nebraska, at Omaha, and enlisted in the United States Medical Reserve, in which connection he has been assigned to

the general hospital at Kansas City, as a medical interne; Mildred, a graduate of Kearney Normal school, is now a teacher in the public schools of Mason City; Marion resides at home and is a high-school student; and Paul, aged seven years, is attending school. The family belongs to the Baptist church.

CARL HOLCOMB, who is favorably known in business circles of Broken Bow as one of the proprietors of Holcomb Brothers' garage, has resided in Custer county practically all of his life, and in his career he has demonstrated the possession of abilities of a superior order. This enterprising business man was born November 20, 1882, in Gibson county, Indiana, a son of Monroe C. and Amanda (Vickers) Holcomb. His father migrated from Indiana to Grand Island in 1883, and about 1885 homesteaded northeast of Broken Bow, in what is known as the Holcomb neighborhood, there passing the remaining years of his active life. His death occurred at Broken Bow, January 13, 1900, and Mrs. Holcomb survived until February 11, 1912. They were faithful members of the Baptist church, and parents of three sons: Carl, Floyd, and Ray.

At the time of the death of their father, the Holcomb brothers inherited the old homestead, which is now being operated by the youngest of the three, Ray, a skilled and thorough agriculturist who is securing excellent results. In addition the brothers own 640 acres of land adjoining, and have the best of equipment and buildings—three complete sets of improvements. Ray Holcomb is a Democrat, affiliates with the Woodmen, and has numerous warm and appreciative friends. Floyd Holcomb, who is now a member of the firm of Holcomb Brothers, proprietors of the garage at Broken Bow, was brought up as a farmer and that was his vocation until entering business life, in 1918. He is a member of the Baptist church and votes the Democratic ticket, while his fraternal relations are with the Masons, the Odd Fellows, and the Woodmen. He is accounted an alert and hustling business man whose standing has been gained through marked ability and individual effort. Mr. Holcomb married Ruby Baker, and they have four children: Margaret, Monroe, Donald, and Gifford.

Carl Holcomb was brought up on the home farm, assisting his father during the summer months and attending the district schools in the country in the winter terms, and his first money was earned by plowing corn with an old "walking" cultivator, for Mr. John

Smalley. After his father's death, he remained on the homestead and continued his activities as a farmer until 1918, in which year he and his brother Floyd bought the garage at Broken Bow, from Martin & Son, located the first block east of the Farmers' co-operative store. An excellent business has been developed, and in addition to conducting a general agency for Dodge Brothers cars, a general line of repair work is done and all manner of tires and accessories are handled. Mr. Holcomb has firmly established himself as a reputable man of business, of much ability, and of strict integrity. While residing in the country he was called upon to fill public offices, being school director for six years and township clerk two years, and he discharged his duties in an entirely satisfactory and efficient manner. He belongs to the Odd Fellows and the Woodmen, and he and Mrs. Holcomb are members of the Baptist church.

Mr. Holcomb was married March 22, 1906, near Broken Bow, to Miss Rose Triplett, a daughter of Clark S. and Ruth (Holman) Triplett, farming people of Custer county. Mr. Triplett was a Democrat and he and his wife belonged to the United Brethren church. They had the following children: Inman, John, Jesse, Earl, Rose, Ida, Ada, Maud, and Goldie. Mr. and Mrs. Holcomb have one son: Carl, Jr.

SAMUEL T. KEARNEY.—Down in the south part of the county, so far that Sumner is the nearest town, on a farm of 240 acres, is the home domicile of Samuel Tilden Kearney, who was born in Greene county, Illinois, in 1873. His wife, Lizzie (Boyer) Kearney, was born in the same year, in the Buckeye state. The father of Mr. Kearney was Henry C. Kearney, who was born on the high seas, and who departed this life in the sixty-eighth year of his age. The mother was Mary Ann (Jones) Kearney, a native of Greene county, Illinois, and she was sixty-one years of age at the time of her death. In the family of the senior Kearney were five children: W. T., who lives near Lomax; Frances Orr, who is living at Sigourney, Iowa; Samuel T., who is the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Anna Wellett, of Sheridan, Wyoming; and Nettie Boyer, of Aitkin, Minnesota.

In the family of Samuel T. Kearney are four bright children, who do credit to himself and his wife and make happy and enjoyable their farm home: Esther Viola and Adah Hazel are both attending the high school at Overton, Nebraska; and Mary and Merle are attending school at Sumner.

The Kearney place consists of 240 acres of good land, and the farm is well improved, 100 acres being under cultivation and very productive. All kinds of farm machinery, out-buildings, etc., make up the farm equipment. Stock-raising is one of the sources of profit and income followed by Mr. Kearney. The development of the place has been brought about under many difficulties and early-day experiences. Lumber for the buildings was freighted in the early days from Kearney. Sumner is the nearest town. The spring wagon and the lumber wagon of the early day are no longer used as the vehicles of conveyance, but the family ride in a motor car and are farming with modern-day implements.

Mr. Kearney is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, in which order he takes a prominent part. The family stand high is the community and are worthy of the rating accorded them.

CHARLES E. SHEPPARD.—The life of Charles E. Sheppard, of Broken Bow, is an illustration of the possible control over early limitations and the wise utilization of ordinary opportunities. His career has been identified with Custer county from 1889, since which year he has engaged in several business ventures, but for the past seventeen years he has been proprietor of the elevator of the Central Granaries Company. Mr. Sheppard was born January 19, 1851, near Springfield, Illinois, a son of Franklin Bullock. He was about one year old when his parents died, within a month of one another, and he was adopted by and taken into the home of Ira S. and Marjorie (Van Vleet) Sheppard.

Ira S. Sheppard was born in the state of New York, and as a young man removed to Minnesota, where he was engaged in the boot and shoe business until reaching the age of thirty-five years, when he turned his attention to farming. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity and was a strict Prohibitionist. He died in 1917, Mrs. Sheppard passing away in October, 1908, both in Moon Lake township. Their own children were a daughter who died when young; and Joseph P., Cyrus R., Prosper E., Benjamin F., and Fred.

Charles E. Sheppard was sent to the district schools in Minnesota, and spent the summer months in working on his foster father's farm. He remembers well the first money he ever made, the sum of ten cents, which was given him for handing bundles of wheat on a stack to Elder Kern, a Methodist Episcopal minister. The incident remained in

his memory because of something that followed. In the evening, with the other youngsters, he went out to the old log barn to look at some newly-arrived puppies, and when the jealous and irritable mother dog charged him he nearly lost his hard-earned dime as he fled to safety. Mr. Sheppard remained on the home place until he was twenty-two years of age, and then founded a home of his own when he married, April 18, 1873, at Linden, Minnesota, Miss Mary E. Warner, daughter of Captain Luther and Jennie (Goodwin) Warner. Her father was a native of New York and was captain of a canal boat, and her mother was born in England. Mr. and Mrs. Sheppard became the parents of eight children, of whom five are living. Franklin Luther, the eldest son, is a member of the Broken Bow grocery firm of Sheppard & Burk, located in the Dierks Block, and is a Mason and Highlander, a Republican in politics, and a member of the Episcopal church. He was first married to Grace Kennedy, daughter of Charles Kennedy, and they had one child, Stella. Mr. Sheppard married, second, Marion Vanderburg, and they have a son, J. Luther. Charles A. Sheppard, second son of Charles E., follows the trade of mason at Broken Bow, and is a Republican. He married Mary Carr, daughter of George Carr, a pioneer farmer of Custer county, and they have two sons and three daughters. Mabel, the elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Sheppard, is the wife of John Myrick, a farmer in the vicinity of Sherman, Pennsylvania, and has three daughters. R. J. Sheppard, youngest son of Charles E., is a musician of Beloit, Kansas, and is a Republican voter. He married Eva McCall. Pearl, the youngest child of Charles E. and Mrs. Sheppard, is a graduate nurse from Green Gables Sanitarium, Lincoln, as is her husband, George Minor, and for the past several years they have been conducting the Broken Bow Hospital. They are members of the Episcopal church and Mr. Minor is a Republican.

Charles E. Sheppard came to Custer county in 1889 and took up his residence at Broken Bow, where he embarked in the ice business. This he conducted for seven years, when he disposed of his interests and for some time thereafter applied himself to carpentry, a trade which he had mastered in his youth, but in 1901 he became the manager of the elevator known at Broken Bow as the Central Granaries Company, of which he has made a substantial success. He is one of the progressive business men of his community and a citizen who supports actively and generously all movements which promise advancement.



E. J. Boblitz

PETER W. MULLEN.—The qualities of adaptability, common sense, persistence, and good judgment have prevailed in the energetic life of Peter W. Mullen, winning for him enviable rank in business circles of Broken Bow, where since 1908 he has been a member of the firm of Mullen Brothers, operators in real estate, loans, and insurance. Mr. Mullen is a product of the agricultural region of Harrison county, Iowa, having been born at Missouri Valley, July 6, 1878, a son of Peter R. and Ellen M. (Rourke) Mullen. His parents were natives of Dubuque county, Iowa, and his grandparents on both sides were born in Ireland.

Peter R. Mullen passed his entire life as an agriculturist in Iowa, where he was known in several communities as a capable and industrious man, a stanch member of the Democratic party and a faithful Catholic. He died January 16, 1918, at Missouri Valley, Iowa, where his widow still resides, in the home of her son-in-law, Frank McBride. There were nine children in the family, as follows: John is deceased; James P., a ranchman of Broken Bow, Democrat and Catholic, married Rose Sweeney, daughter of Michael Sweeney, and has had five children, of whom four are living—James, Joseph, Charles, and Thomas; Peter W. is the immediate subject of this review; Mary A., who died in November, 1916, was the wife of George P. Sweeney, owner of a garage at Neola, Iowa, and a member of the Catholic church and the Knights of Columbus, with four children—Francis, Ellen, James, and Eileen; Charles M., a Custer county farmer, Democrat voter, Catholic, and a member of the Knights of Columbus, married Catherine Ryan, daughter of Edward Ryan, and has five children—Loretta, Catherine, Bernard, Carmelita, and Joseph; Ellen M., wife of John J. Ryan, a farmer of Broken Bow, Catholic, Democrat, and Knight of Columbus, has five children—Leona, Celestine, Joseph, Ellen, and Richard; Catherine is a member of the Dominican Sisters at Omaha; Genevieve, wife of Frank McBride, of Missouri Valley, in the United States post-office department, a Democrat, and member of the Knights of Columbus, has two children—Geraldine and Lucille; and Cecelia is the wife of John Doyle, a farmer near Neola, Iowa, a Democrat, Catholic, and Knight of Columbus, with one child—Clair.

Peter W. Mullen received his education in the public schools of Harrison county, and until he was thirty years of age he worked on his father's farm with his brother Charles. When he was a lad his father was greatly

troubled by gophers. In order to stimulate his sons' energy in getting rid of these pests he made them an offer of three cents for each animal, and in case its head possessed gray hairs the reward was five cents. It is to be supposed that a thorough search was made on each little rodent by the sharp-eyed youths, to see that no gray hairs escaped them. While residing in Iowa Mr. Mullen took some interest in real-estate matters, but this was only as a side line, and it was not until he came to Broken Bow, in November, 1908, that he engaged in the business seriously. Here he joined his brother James, who had preceded him by about one year, and the firm of Mullen Brothers, real estate, loans, and insurance, was formed, the business having since been developed to large and important proportions. The brothers have won universal confidence and respect because of their straightforward manner of conducting their transactions, and their business standing is excellent.

On October 5, 1909, Peter W. Mullen was married, at Missouri Valley, Iowa, to Miss Anastasia J. Ryan, daughter of John and Julia (Senat) Ryan, farming people of that community and devout members of the Catholic church. Mr. Ryan was a Democrat and belonged to the Knights of Columbus. In the Ryan family there were the following children: Edward, Richard, Timothy, Mary, Patrick, James, Bridget, Malachi, Margaret, Johanna, and Anastasia. Mr. and Mrs. Mullen are the parents of four children: Angela, born in 1910; Patricia, born in 1912; Mary, born in 1914; and John, born in 1916.

EUGENE J. BOBLITS.—In Eugene J. Boblits, one of Custer county's best known citizens, is found a leader in the cattle industry on the South Loup river, and he is also an honored veteran of the great Civil war. Mr. Boblits was born December 21, 1846, in Frederick county, Maryland. His father, Jacob Boblits, was likewise born in Frederick county, where he became a man of considerable prominence. He was influential in the Masonic fraternity, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Knights of Pythias; was an elder in the Moravian church, and was a tanner by occupation. He married Josephine Gernand, who was a daughter of Jacob Gernand, a weaver, and of the eight children born to them the following are living: Eugene J. is the subject of this review; Alice is the widow of Eugene Willard, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and she has four children; and Ida is

the wife of Henry C. Stuckey, a retired ranchman now residing at Lexington, Nebraska, and they have three sons and two daughters.

Eugene J. Boblits lived at home and assisted his father until July 7, 1862, when he enlisted for service in the Civil war, entering Company H, One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. He was so severely wounded at the battle of Antietam, September 17, 1862, that he was confined in a hospital for three months, at the expiration of which he was honorably discharged, December 8, 1862. Of his bravery and the quality of his service no better testimony can be produced than the following lines, which may be found on page 74 of the history of the regiment: "In the retreat from the said West Woods, the regimental colors of the One Hundred and Twenty-fifth were saved through bravery worthy of special mention. The color sergeant, George A. Simpson, was shot down and instantly killed, and five of the color guard went down. Then Eugene Boblits, of Company H, rescued and carried them for some distance, and when he was badly wounded, he threw them to Sergeant Walter W. Greenland, of Company C (afterward adjutant general), from whom Captain Wallace received them and carried them to the rear of the battery we were ordered to support. In the meanwhile men were falling thick and fast, like leaves in autumn, and out of the 150,000 soldiers engaged on both sides in this great battle, 40,000 men were killed and wounded between sunup and sundown."

Home care and nursing brought about Mr. Boblits' partial recovery, so that, in 1863, he was able to enter Millwood Academy, at Shad Gap, Huntington county, Pennsylvania, where he continued for three years and completed his education. By that time he had so far recovered from his wounds that he was able to learn the tanning business under his father, and he became so expert that he was engaged by James B. Reese to operate the latter's large steam tannery at New Creek, West Virginia, where he remained for four years. In the meanwhile he married, and in 1874, with his father's assistance, he went into the cattle business on the South Loup river, having come to Custer county in the fall of 1873. He has witnessed many changes in this field of enterprise, as in every other industry, during these forty-four years, but he has always maintained that Nebraska is the natural stage for cattle-raising. Mr. Boblits has tender recollections of his childhood home and of his loving parents, who taught him habits of industry and instilled ideas of thrift. He tells an amusing

story of what was probably his first business transaction, when he was yet a little boy. His mother prevailed upon him to keep the cow-yard clean, and encouraged him by the payment of three cents a week. He carefully saved his pennies until he had accumulated eighty-five cents, when, unknown to his mother, he planned to spend his entire fortune on a valentine for a little neighbor maiden and awaited the coming of the good saint's day to purchase and send the heart missive. It was but a short time before this that his dear mother came to him and, patting him on the shoulder as good mothers do, she said to his dismay: "Eugene, you have been a good little boy and I am going to take your saved-up pennies and put enough more with them to buy you a pair of red-top boots with copper toes."

Mr. Boblits was married October 3, 1871, to Mrs. Harriet E. McNeill, of New Creek, West Virginia. She had one daughter by her first marriage, and this daughter is now Mrs. Jennie B. Allcar, a resident of Keyser, West Virginia. Mrs. Boblits' maiden name was Harriet E. Duling. Her father, William A. Duling, was born near Bull Run, Virginia, and before the Civil war, was a slave-owner and planter. Her mother, Harriet (Cluter) Duling, was a native of Hampshire county, West Virginia. Mr. and Mrs. Boblits have three children—James J., who operates the home ranch, four and one-half miles north of Oconto; Mary J., who is at home; and Harriet A., who is the wife of Frank A. Tierney, a ranchman near Oconto.

FLOYD HOLCOMB.—In the thriving community of Broken Bow, one of the live and enterprising business men is Floyd Holcomb, who, with his brother, Carl Holcomb, is actively engaged in the conducting of an automobile garage. He has been a resident of Custer county since 1885, in which year he came to this community from his birthplace, Hamilton county, Nebraska, where he was born November 9, 1874, a son of John Monroe Holcomb and Amanda (Vickers) Holcomb. There were three sons in the family: Carl, Floyd, and Ray, of whom the last-named is looking after the brothers' large and valuable agricultural interests in Custer county.

Floyd Holcomb started to attend the district schools of Custer county, he having been still a boy when he accompanied his parents to Custer county, in 1885, the family settling nine miles northeast of Broken Bow, in a locality which subsequently became known as

the Holcomb neighborhood. He earned his first money working for his father, with whom he remained until the latter's death, in 1900, when he removed to other land, which he and his brothers had purchased. In 1917 Mr. Holcomb and his brother Carl decided to enter business at Broken Bow, and accordingly they here bought the old Martin garage, which they have since conducted with great success. Mr. Holcomb is known as a business man of superior ability, and in addition to executive capacity possesses much mechanical skill and ingenuity. He is interested in fraternal affairs, being a member of the Masons, the Odd Fellows, and the Woodmen, and his political faith is that of the Democratic party. He and his family belong to the Baptist church.

Mr. Holcomb was married, May 16, 1908, to Miss Ruby Baker, daughter of Rolland T. and Margaret J. (McClain) Baker, former farming people of this county and now retired residents of Broken Bow. To this union there have been born four children: Marguerite T., John M., Donald R., and Gifford F.

RASMUS ANDERSON.—The career of Rasmus Anderson, a pioneer of Custer county, and now one of the successful business men of Broken Bow, has been one in which interesting incidents have occurred from his early boyhood, and in which he has worked his way from obscurity to prominence and from poverty to affluence. He is a native son of Denmark, and was born July 11, 1863, his parents being Niels and Marie (Rasmussen) Anderson, natives of that country.

Mr. Anderson's father was a sea captain who owned his own vessel and did a general commercial business, both at home and abroad, frequently conveying cargoes of grain to England, where he would take on coal as cargo for the return trip. Mr. Anderson vividly remembers one trip which he took with his father when he was about twelve years old, to Iceland, carrying a load of provisions and returning with wool and woolen goods. He was very greatly interested in the Hekla geyser, near Mount Hekla and the famous volcano of that name, the geyser throwing a stream some fifty feet in height. The return journey was delayed through various reasons and it was not until late in the fall that the sturdy little vessel again put to sea, so that it was twice necessary on its voyage to run out into the Gulf Stream, where the warm waters would melt the great cakes of ice that had formed on the vessel's sides and threatened to sink it. There were eight

children in the Anderson family, of whom seven are living, five in Denmark, and Mr. Anderson and one sister in the United States. This sister is now Mrs. Marie Winters and resides at Norman, Nebraska.

Rasmus Anderson received a public-school education, and when a lad of seven years began to think of going to foreign lands, eagerly listening to the stories of the sailors from whom he occasionally secured employment at cleaning their nets and knocking the barnacles from the bottoms of their boats. He was but seventeen years of age when he left the parental roof and shipped on a three-masted schooner, "The Sun," bound for England, with a cargo of barley. When he arrived in the latter country, stories that he heard in America fired his imagination with a desire to visit this country, and March 10, 1880, he embarked on a tramp steamer, "The Marathon," and set sail for the United States. As it was still early in the spring the sea was rough and the weather stormy, but after a voyage of twenty-two days the steamer made port at New York city and young Anderson thereafter arrived in Boston with only five cents in his pocket. In addition to this financial handicap, he had no working knowledge of the English language, but he soon secured employment in helping to unload cargoes from the incoming vessels, and he continued to be thus employed until he had enough money to buy a ticket to Niles, Michigan. There he obtained work on a farm and remained for a few months, following which he moved on to Omaha, Nebraska, and was given free transportation to Grand Island, to work with a surface gang on the Union Pacific Railroad. After one day's work he graduated from that position, for which he had little liking after his blankets had been stolen by some of the gang, and he accordingly made his way to a farm in Hamilton county, where he worked for a short period. In 1883 Mr. Anderson came to Custer county and settled on a homestead in the Dutchman's valley, six miles east of Broken Bow, where he made his real start toward success.

On May 13, 1886, about three years after his arrival, Mr. Anderson was married, at the home of the bride's parents, near Berwyn, to Louisa E. Barnes, daughter of Peter M. and Eunice (Rodan) Barnes, farming people, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Kentucky. Mr. and Mrs. Barnes had three sons and three daughters. They were devout members of the Methodist church, and Mr. Barnes was a Republican. Mr. Anderson remained on his farm about fifteen years, and each year he was increasingly successful as

a farmer and stock-raiser. Eventually he became interested in real estate, and finally he moved to Broken Bow, to devote all of his time to this business, in which he has made a marked success. His office is located over the postoffice, he being the owner of the building, in addition to which he has various other interests and holdings. He has an excellent reputation in business circles, as he has also as a citizen. He is a member of the Masons and is a Republican in politics.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have had six children, as follows: Ray R., a graduate of Broken Bow High school and Broken Bow Commercial College, is now municipal-court judge and United States commissioner at Billings, Montana; Nels M. is a salesman of automobile accessories, at Portland, Oregon; Omer K., who is a resident of Broken Bow, and who is a salesman for Swift & Company, of Omaha, married Anna Eddy, and has one son, Omer K., Jr.; Lee I. is a student at the Bailey Sanitarium, Lincoln; Eunice I. is a teacher in the public schools of Broken Bow; and Florence is the wife of Lieutenant Warde Cousin, a member of the United States Tank Corps, stationed with his regiment at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, at the time of this writing.

GUY E. LIVERMORE.—The life of a professional or literary man seldom exhibits any of those exciting or striking incidents that seize upon public feeling and fix attention upon himself. His character is generally made up of the aggregate of the qualities and qualifications he may possess and as these may be elicited by the exercise of the duties of his vocation or the particular profession to which he may belong. Guy E. Livermore, editor of the *Sargent Leader*, may not form an exception to this general rule, but since maturity his life has been one of constant professional duty, and the distinction he has attained in the journalistic circles of Custer county is evidence enough that these qualities have not been planted on barren soil.

Mr. Livermore was born in Ringgold county, Iowa, October 17, 1875, and is a son of M. F. and Sophia E. (Hatch) Livermore. His father was born in Louisa county, Iowa, where he was united in marriage with Sophia E. Hatch, born near Canton, Ohio, in 1854. In his native state, where he was born in 1850, Mr. Livermore followed farming and school teaching in the vicinity of Mount Ayr until 1879, in which year he moved to Kansas, where he engaged in farming a homestead for four years. The buffaloes had disappeared

from the plains of Kansas a number of years previously, but Mr. Livermore added to his income through the former presence of this noble animal, by collecting bones from the prairies and hauling them forty miles to market. In 1883 he came to Custer county and settled on a homestead, and here he continued to be engaged in farming until his death, in 1892. He and Mrs. Livermore were the parents of seven children: Guy E., whose name initiates this article; Weldon, of Sargent; Floy, who is engaged in teaching school in Custer county; Mrs. R. W. Hicks, whose husband is a Sargent druggist; Mrs. Rae Hicks, whose husband has the star mail route from Ansley to Sargent; Fay, who is farming near Burwell; and Harrison B., who, as a member of the national army, in France, and in a medical corps at the time of this writing. Mrs. Livermore, who is a resident of Sargent, belongs to the Christian church, and her husband held the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church. He was a Republican in politics and served on the county board of supervisors about 1886 or 1887.

Guy E. Livermore attended the graded schools of Sargent and the high school at Broken Bow, graduating from the latter, in 1900, as a valedictorian of his class. He began teaching in 1894, and continued to be thus engaged for twenty-two years, being one of the best known and most popular teachers in Custer county. In 1908 he took a course in the University of Nebraska, attending summer school courses. He made good advancement in his profession, and during the last eight years of his pedagogic labors he was principal of the school at Comstock, which, during his regime, increased from three to six rooms. He was a general favorite with pupils, teachers, and his other co-workers, and was acknowledged a man of particular efficiency in his field. In 1916 Mr. Livermore turned his attention from this kind of educational work to another field, the instruction of the public through the columns of a newspaper. He purchased the *Sargent Leader*, which now has a circulation of nearly 1000 copies in Custer county and which has been a success under his management. It is bright, clean, enterprising and wholesome, and it has made many lasting friends among the reading public, being also well deserving of the support it receives as an advertising medium. In connection with the paper Mr. Livermore conducts an up-to-date job printing office.

September 1, 1908 Mr. Livermore was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Miller, daughter of the Hon. E. Miller, who represented his district in the state legislature. Mr.

Miller was a pioneer farmer of Sargent and was a well known real-estate man, but he is now living a retired life at Hastings, Nebraska. Of the seven children born to Mr. and Mrs. Livermore, four are living — Leland C., nine years of age (1918); Clarice, six years old; Roscoe, aged four years; and Wanda, two and one-half years of age. The family belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Livermore is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he has passed the official chairs, and in politics he is independent.

CLARK H. FENSTERMACHER, M. D.
— Standing among the highest in his profession in Custer county, and enjoying a not less exalted position in the estimation of his friends, whose name is legion, Dr. Clark H. Fenstermacher, of Sargent, is likewise deserving of more than passing mention because of his accomplishments in the field of surgery. He is a native of Cass county, Michigan, and was born March 2, 1873, a son of C. A. and Margaret (Hill) Fenstermacher.

C. A. Fenstermacher was born in Pennsylvania, where he was educated and reared as a farmer, a vocation which he adopted and followed in Michigan. He was married in Cass county, that state, to which his wife had come as a young woman, from her native New Jersey, and there Mr. Fenstermacher continued to be engaged in agricultural pursuits until his retirement, several years prior to his death. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which his widow, who is a resident of Michigan, also belongs. They were the parents of five children: Dr. C. C. is engaged in practicing medicine; Dr. Clark H. is the subject of this notice; Abbie is the wife of Clarence Metcalf, an implement dealer of Sargent, Nebraska; Maggie, twin of Abbie, is single and is a resident of Michigan; and Verna is a teacher in the public schools of that state.

Dr. Clark H. Fenstermacher received his early education in the public schools of Michigan and spent his boyhood on the home farm. An agricultural life, however, did not appeal to him and after some preparation he entered the University of Louisville, Kentucky, from which he was duly graduated in 1900, in which year he began practice at Sargent. He has continued here with constantly increasing success, and now has a large and lucrative practice of a general character, although he specializes to some extent in surgery, a branch in which he has met with particularly gratifying success. He has given much study and

thought to this department of his profession, has kept fully abreast of the great advancements being constantly made, and perhaps no practitioner in Custer county has had more experience in this direction. For a number of years he has been local surgeon for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad at Sargent. He holds membership in the various medical organizations, and is affiliated with the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His political beliefs cause him to maintain an independent stand in regard to public matters. Gifted with a love for his chosen profession, quick of intuition, and generous and sympathetic in his work, he has won the respect and esteem of the citizens of Sargent, and by his courteous manner and genial nature, as well as acknowledged ability, has won an enviable practice and surrounded himself with a circle of warm friends.

Dr. Fenstermacher was united in marriage in November, 1913, at Sargent, to Miss Olive Griffith, who was born in Custer county, a daughter of George Griffith, who is engaged in farming near Callaway, this county. Dr. and Mrs. Fenstermacher are the parents of one child, Inez.

ALLIE L. MORGAN.— Down on the South Loup, on the same quarter-section upon which is located the Cumro store and post-office, in a region noted for its pioneers, lives one of the staunch, reliable characters who helped to make the history of the early day. This was none other than Allie Levi Morgan, who was born in Aurora, Illinois, in 1858.

He is a son of Levi and Sarah (Satterfield) Morgan. Levi Morgan served as a member of an Illinois regiment during the Civil war, and, like many another gallant soldier of the Union, he came home but to die—a martyr to a noble cause.

Allie L. Morgan came to Nebraska in 1879, from Aurora, Illinois. He landed at Lexington and made his way into Custer county in 1880. Here, one year later, he homesteaded on the South Loup—the place he now owns and upon which he maintains his splendid farm home, which is known throughout the south part of the county as the "Pioneer's Rest." During those early days, he worked first on one ranch and then on another, sometimes for L. D. George and sometimes for John George, sometimes for Andy Pancake. But no matter where his operations were exerted, he made good and managed to cultivate his own land, put on substantial improvements, cultivate a tree claim and keep

things going; and all this without much to start on. When he filed on his tree claim, it took every cent he had in the world.

In 1882 Mr. Morgan was united in marriage to Miss Cora George, a member of the widely known George family, and she did well her part in making the home and accumulating their possessions. A lady of refinement and a splendid mother, she bequeathed her characteristics to her children and leaves in her home the monument of her life. She died in August, 1918, at the age of fifty-eight years. During her life time she and her husband maintained an open, hospitable home, characteristic of the South Loup country. Their union was blessed by the birth of three sons: Byron is married and lives on the home place; Ne G. operates the Cumro store and is the community postmaster; Fletcher is married and also lives on the home place. During his life time Mr. Morgan has been connoisseur of Indian relics, and he has on hand to-day a larger and perhaps more valuable collection than any other collector of relics in the county. Many of the arrowheads, spearheads, stone knives, battle-axes, stone hammers, etc., described and illustrated in the historical pages of this volume, belong to him. These he has preserved at great pains and much expense, and some day his collection will be a great asset to some museum or historical society. Historians of the state are indebted to Mr. Morgan for much valuable information gleaned from the relics he has collected.

The Morgans are highly esteemed in the community, are promoters of all progressive movements and, withal, are influential citizens. During her lifetime, Mrs. Morgan was a member of the Baptist church.

Anent the experiences through which Mr. and Mrs. Morgan passed, we submit the following lines, written by Mr. Morgan himself, and addressed to his wife. These lines describe the passing of the old sod house in which their children were born and where so many experiences incidental to pioneer times took place.

Well, Cora, I've torn down the old sod house, and as
I pause a moment to rest,
My thoughts go wandering backward to the early
days in the west.

Full twenty years and five have passed away since I
felled the giant tree
That helped to build the cabin and make a home for
you and me.

Don't you remember, we were sweethearts then?
Our paths were still untrod,
But many and many are the happy years we spent
in that house of sod.

Together we rocked the cradle upon its earthen
floor,
Together we fought the famine, when the wolf was
at the door,

And our children grew to manhood beneath the fam-
ily tree
And through many a storm and blizzard it sheltered
you and me.

But the wheels of time turn onward and its walls
were in the way;
To make room for better improvements, I tore them
down to-day.

Now our acres are numbered by the hundreds, our
cattle by the score,
Our granaries are bursting with a thousand bushels
or more.

But better than all the riches which we toiled for
years to get,
And the sweetest of all God's blessings, is this, we
are sweethearts yet.

ROBERT A. HUNTER.—Industry in labor, and faith in his community have been contributing factors in the success of Robert A. Hunter, who, after years of participation in farming, stock-raising, and ranching in Custer county, is now residing in comparative retirement at Broken Bow. Mr. Hunter was born February 25, 1855, at St. Louis, Missouri, a son of Robert and Elizabeth (Anderson) Hunter, natives of Scotland.

Robert Hunter came to the United States when thirty years of age, and shortly after his arrival he married Miss Elizabeth Anderson, whose mother was a member of the famous Scotch publishing-house family of McMillan. She was eighteen years old when she came to this country, and after their marriage she and Mr. Hunter located near Litchfield, Illinois, where they engaged in farming and stock-raising, accumulating large holdings in land and stock. They were faithful members of the Presbyterian church, in the faith of which Mr. Hunter died in 1890, at Walshville, Illinois. Mrs. Hunter survived until 1903 and passed away at the home of her son Robert A., at Broken Bow. They are survived by four children: Mary J. is the wife of Peter W. Davenport, a veteran of the Civil war, a Republican, and a member of the Christian church and the Woodmen's lodge; Robert A. is the subject of this sketch; James A., a retired ranchman of Alliance, Nebraska, is a Woodman and a Republican; and Martha is the wife of A. L. McPhail, a farmer near Litchfield, Illinois.

Robert A. Hunter attended the public schools and Lebanon (Illinois) College, and he remained on the home farm until his marriage, March 14, 1877, at Walshville, Illinois, to Martha A. Beck, a daughter of Moses and

Emily C. (Barlow) Beck. Mr. Beck, who was a pioneer farmer of Illinois, was an elder in the Presbyterian church, belonged to the Odd Fellows, and was a Republican. Not long after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Hunter came to Custer county and located six miles north of Broken Bow, on an undeveloped ranch, which Mr. Hunter named Sunny Dell. They lived in a little sod house and their early struggles for a start were ones that taxed their energies to the full, but both possessed determination and persistence and in the end they triumphed over all obstacles. Mr. Hunter had the utmost faith in the community which he had selected as his home, and during the drouth years of 1890 and 1894, when other settlers were discouraged and were leaving for their former homes in the east, he bought all the land adjoining his own. When his small capital was exhausted he borrowed money, often paying as high as three per cent. a month interest, but his faith was vindicated, and he has lived to reap the reward of his confidence. He still owns his original homestead in Custer county, besides other property, and while he is now partly retired and living in his comfortable home at Broken Bow he still supervises the operations on much of this land.

For many years Mrs. Hunter has been one of the most prominent women in Custer county. During the early days, when her husband was struggling hard to make ends meet, she secured a position teaching school, and for five years, during nine months out of the year, drove daily from five to seven miles to take care of her classes, taking with her her two daughters. In addition to this service she did all of her own housework at the ranch, and did not think it any hardship. Even when prosperity came, and the family moved to Broken Bow, she continued for a time to teach in the public schools here. For many years she taught a young men's Bible class in the Sunday school of the Presbyterian church, and she has always been active in the work of religion and temperance. She was the first president of the Custer county Women's Christian Temperance Union, has given numerous lectures at public meetings in behalf of temperance, and was a charter member of Chapter S, P. E. O., subsequently serving as vice-president of the Nebraska grand chapter of the P. E. O. She was a member also of the women's board at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition, held at Omaha in 1898. In 1915 she published the "Story of the Four Gospels," for boys and girls, and a temperance drama entitled "Weighed in the Balance," both of which met with immediate favor. She

has contributed numerous short stories and other articles to different periodicals. A woman of splendid talents and utmost sincerity, it is her wish to serve her day and generation and to merit her Master's: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

JAMES N. PEALE.—Of the men who have lent dignity of character, excellence of labor and largeness of general co-operation to affairs in Custer county for a considerable period, none is held in greater esteem than is James N. Peale, the proprietor of a grocery, fruit, and feed business and a creamery station at Broken Bow.

Mr. Peale was born November 4, 1863, at Harrisonburg, Rockingham county, Virginia, a son of Anderson N. and Martha (Bushnell) Peale. Anderson N. Peale was born at Cross Roads, Rockingham county, Virginia, a son of Jonathan Peale, the original ancestors having come from England, and for many years Anderson N. Peale was a school teacher in the Old Dominion state. In 1883 he came to Custer county, Nebraska, where he located near New Helena and began to teach school, but after a few years he located at Westerville and established himself in the hotel and meat-market business. His death occurred at Colorado Springs, Colorado, in 1896, he having removed to that city several years prior to his demise. He was a Presbyterian and in politics was a Democrat. Mrs. Peale was born at Reidsville, North Carolina, a daughter of Henry Bushnell, a leading civil engineer and during his day considered one of the best mathematicians of the south. He was a Democrat and a member of the Baptist church.

The mother of James N. Peale died when he was fourteen years of age, near Harrisonburg, Virginia, and following that he had no real home. He managed to earn small amounts of money by collecting bones, which were ground into fertilizer, and by selling such old iron as he could find, but he did not make much progress until the spring of 1880, when he came to the west, in company with E. N. Bishop, their destination being Grundy county, Iowa, a community which they eventually reached. One month later, with a pair of plug horses and an emigrant wagon, they came to Gates, Custer county, Nebraska, taking sixteen days to make the journey, and young Peale hired out to James L. Oxford, who was proprietor of the Oxford ranch, on Lillian creek. He worked there about four years, attending the district schools in the winter months, and subsequently he went to Wes-

terville, where for three or four years he clerked in mercantile establishments. During President Cleveland's first administration he was appointed postmaster at Westerville, and he also conducted a mercantile business at that point. From that time to the present there has not been a period of more than several months' duration that he has not been actively engaged in mercantile pursuits. His talents seem to be naturally adapted to barter and trade, and at the present time he is the proprietor of a splendidly successful enterprise on the north side of the Public Square at Broken Bow, handling staple and fancy groceries, fresh fruit, feed, etc., and conducting a creamery station, under the style of J. N. Peale & Company. Mr. Peale has an excellent reputation in business circles—a man of industry and energy, enterprise and spirit, and he is noted for his strict integrity and the manner in which he lives up to his business obligations.

Mr. Peale was married July 4, 1888, at Broken Bow, to Miss Mattie S. Bond, daughter of Benjamin Bond, a farmer of this community, and of the children born to this union, two are living,—Sherman C., who is the proprietor of a feed and fuel business at Los Angeles, California; and Walter N., who is telephone-order clerk for the great wholesale grocery house of H. Jevne Company, at Los Angeles. Mr. Peale is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and is a staunch Democrat in politics. He is fraternally affiliated with the Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias.

WILLIAM BOEKING.—Numbered among the homesteaders of 1882 in Custer county who are still the owners of their original properties, although now retired from active labor, is found William Boeking. Mr. Boeking was for years a successful farmer and stock-raiser of Custer county, but in the spring of 1916 he took up his residence at Litchfield, where he is the proprietor of an implement business.

Mr. Boeking was born in Westphalia, Germany, January 15, 1860, and is a son of Henry and Kathryn (Krum) Boeking, the former born in Germany in 1837, and the latter on January 16th of that year. They were married in their native land and resided in Westphalia until coming to the United States, in 1868, in which year they settled in Livingston county, Illinois. During the next eleven years they were engaged in farming in that county, and then, in 1879, they started out in a wagon for Nebraska. After a long and

tedious journey they arrived at their destination, in Sherman county, where the father filed on a homestead. Through his industry and good management he became well-to-do, and when he died, on his homestead, in 1885, he was one of the substantial and highly respected men of his community. He was a Republican in politics, and he and his wife were faithful members of the Evangelical church. They were the parents of five children: William of this sketch; Henry, who died at Grand Junction, Colorado; Albert, of Strathcona, Alberta, Canada; Mary, the widow of William Ruland, and a resident of Litchfield; and John, on the old home farm in Sherman county.

William Boeking was given his education in the public schools of Illinois, to which state he had been taken as a lad of eight years, and he accompanied his parents to Sherman county, Nebraska, in 1879. He resided there three years, and then, with his possessions, which consisted of a team of horses, a wagon, and two dollars in cash, he came to Custer county and settled on a homestead. When others, less determined and sturdy, gave up their land under discouraging conditions, he held grimly on to his property, and in the end his perseverance was rewarded, for his property developed productiveness and value and its ownership eventually made him a wealthy man. He carried on general farming, in addition to doing considerable stock-raising, and from time to time he added to his holdings, until he had 560 acres. In the spring of 1916 he turned over the strenuous labor of the farm to younger hands, although retaining its ownership, and removed to Litchfield, where he engaged in the hardware and implement business. In 1918 he traded the hardware store for a farm in Sherman county, but he still owns the implement business. Mr. Boeking has made a decided success of his career, during which his transactions have always been honorable, fair, square, and above-board. He has served as assessor of his county three years and has always discharged the duties of citizenship in a conscientious and creditable manner. His political support is given to the Democratic party, and his religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which the members of his family also belong.

In 1883, the year following his arrival in Custer county, Mr. Boeking was united in marriage with Miss Emma Fienhold, who was born at Peru, Illinois, and they became the parents of twelve children, of whom nine survive: Albert, who carries on operations on his father's farm in Sherman county, Nebraska; Mary, who married Harry Douglass,

of Custer county; Kate, the wife of Ned Perry, a farmer of Buffalo county, Nebraska; Ed, who entered the United States army in 1917, and later entered active service in France; Bertha, who married George Paterson, a farmer of Custer county; Harve, a student of the State University, at Lincoln, where at the time of this writing he is taking a course in radio work, having enlisted in the United States service; and George, Mildred, and Grace, who remain with their parents.

SYLVESTER McWORTHY was born in Carroll county, Illinois, July 21, 1854. His father, Peter McWorthy, was born in one of the eastern states, of Irish descent, though for many years the family had been residents of the United States. When a young man Peter McWorthy settled near Quincy, Illinois, where he became a farmer and where his marriage occurred, the maiden name of his wife having been Hicks, and she having been born near Quincy, Illinois. From that locality they moved to Carroll county, Illinois, becoming early settlers there, and in that county they spent the remainder of their days.

Sylvester McWorthy, the subject of this record, was reared on a farm in Illinois and in 1883 he came to Custer county, Nebraska, where his boyhood friends, the Thomas boys, had settled but a short time before. Mr. McWorthy secured a homestead of 160 acres—the southwest quarter of section 19, township 18, range 21. He had the usual experiences of the early settlers of Custer county, and a sod house was his home until six years ago, when he erected the present frame structure. This farm has always been his home since he came here, thirty-six years ago, and for many years he carried on general farming, though he now rents his land and practically lives retired. Mr. McWorthy has a host of friends in the community, though he has not a relative in the state, and he has chosen to live in single blessedness, as one of the popular bachelors of the county in which he has long lived and labored and of which he is a sterling pioneer citizen.

HENRY T. BARRETT. — Among the early settlers of Custer county who have helped to bring about present-day conditions, mention should be made of Mr. and Mrs. Henry T. Barrett.

Henry T. Barrett was born in Jackson county, Iowa, October 20, 1860. His parents, Hercules and Susan (Hawke) Barrett, were natives of Cornwall, England, where they

were born within six miles of Land's End. While still young people they came to America, and they lived in turn in Wisconsin, in Illinois, and in Jackson county, Iowa, their last days having been spent in Cass county, that state, where both passed away, he at the age of seventy and she at the age of seventy-six years.

Henry T. Barrett was reared in his native state and when a young man came to Custer county and took a somestead of 160 acres, in section 22, townssip 17, range 22. He built a sod house, proved up on the claim, and recently he deeded the farm to one of his sons.

In 1885, in Custer county, was solemnized the marriage of Henry T. Barrett to Sarah E. M. Cass, who was born in Jackson county, Iowa, and who is a daughter of John and Orpha (Hill) Cass, natives of New York state and early pioneers of Jackson county, Iowa, where they passed away.

In 1884 Mrs. Barrett, before her marriage, came to Custer county and secured a homestead in section 22, township 18, range 22. Here she was married and since that event she and her husband have made this their home. They occupy a nice frame house, and the improvements are in keeping with present-day development.

Mr. and Mrs. Barrett have two sons: Alonzo, who was graduated in the Merna high school, as a member of the class of 1912, is at home and is assisting in the operation of the farm. He recently married Miss Minnie Foerst. Grant, who was graduated in the Merna high school, class of 1915, was a member of the United States Army in France at the time when the great war came to a close.

Mr. and Mrs. Barrett are among the pioneer settlers of Custer county, have contributed their full share to the progress and development of the community in which they live, and are people of genuine worth.

AMOS O. ALEXANDER was born February 27, 1871, in Nebraska City, and he is a son of James O. and Sarah E. (Standley) Alexander, who were honored pioneers of Nebraska, and from whom Amos O. inherited the characteristic traits that have made his life career very successful. There were these children in the family of James O. and Sarah E. Alexander—Phineas W., Sarah J., Finley, James M., Luella A. Spegal (deceased), Addie E. Flower (deceased), Amos O., (the farmer and business man of whom this sketch is written), and Lillian M. Andry. Through the mother, this family was connected with the Methodist church. The father was a stock

raiser and farmer by occupation, and his farm was situated seven miles northwest of Nebraska City, where he died when his son Amos was but five years old. It should be made a matter of record that the late James O. Alexander was one of the valiant band of territorial pioneers in Nebraska. He came to Nebraska Territory in 1855, prior to the time when railroads had been constructed through this section of our national domain, and he lived up to the full tension of frontier life during the period of his early residence in the now prosperous and opulent commonwealth of Nebraska. He was a man of strong character, commanded unequivocal confidence and esteem and was affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

At an early age Amos O. Alexander began looking for ways by which he could earn money. When eleven years of age he worked for his brother. His brother permitted him to plant a small tract of ground with corn, and when, at maturity, the product was sold, it brought five dollars. This first five dollars looked bigger to Amos than many times that amount would to-day. He worked at home and went to school whenever opportunity offered until he was thirteen years of age. By this time his older brothers and sisters had married, and this left him at home with his mother and a younger sister. The situation challenged his strength and manhood. He must contribute to his mother's support. This he did by working on the farm, and from that time until the day of her death he charged himself with the care and support of his mother, who passed to the life eternal on March 29, 1918. The mother's farm was sold in 1892 and with her two younger children she came to Custer county and bought 160 acres, southwest of Arnold. As soon as Amos O. was of age he took a homestead on the same table, nine miles southwest of Arnold, where he made his home until he moved to Arnold, three years ago.

July 11, 1894, at North Platte, Nebraska, Mr. Alexander married Cora A. Dourte, of Nebraska City. Mrs. Alexander is a daughter of John and Cordelia (Barnum) Dourte. In her father's family she was the only daughter. She had three brothers, Edward J., Sanford B., and Myron J., and also three half-brothers, LeRoy G., Carl P., and Harley O.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander was enlivened, as the years went by, with five children—four boys and one girl. Warren, at the time of this writing, is somewhere in France, as a member of a supply company of the Fourth Infantry, American Expeditionary Forces. He is a graduate of the Arnold

high school. H. Nolan is a graduate of the Arnold high school and is now teaching near Arnold. He makes his home with his parents. Alva H. also is a graduate of the Arnold high school, is a mechanic by occupation and is working at home with his father. Ralph E. is a freshman in the high school. Constance, six years of age, is the pampered idol of the home. The home farm of the Alexanders, on Garfield Table, comprises 480 acres, with all necessary equipment and improvements. At the present time they have retired from the farm and have a comfortable home in Arnold, where Mr. Alexander is building a new garage and machine shop, of brick and cement. The dimensions of the new building are 60 by 112 feet, with an upper story 60 by 60 feet. This gives over 10,000 square feet of floor space and when it is finished the commodious building should insure a profitable business. Mr. Alexander is considered one of the "live wires" of the community, is an Odd Fellow by social connections and his high standing in the community will insure him a splendid business in his new enterprise. His wife enjoys the same distinction and esteem in the community.

WILLIAM R. YOUNG, M. D.—The career of Dr. William R. Young is strongly entrenched in the history of the medical profession in Custer county. The thriving community of Ansley, to which he came in 1897, offered a promising field for the young physician, and the citizens who have watched his uprising have never had cause to regret the faith they placed in his energy, enthusiasm, and ability. He has grown into his opportunities, has fashioned his resources to his needs, and has reflected dignity, sincerity, and genuine worth upon a profession for which he is singularly and admirably equipped.

Dr. William R. Young was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, September 8, 1868, a son of Thomas and Jane E. (Rutherford) Young. His parents were natives of England, his father immigrating to the United States alone, in young manhood, and his mother coming with her parents when a child. Thomas S. Young was a farmer by vocation, an occupation which he followed for a number of years in Pennsylvania, but later he moved to the vicinity of Williamsburg, Iowa, where he passed the rest of his life in agricultural pursuits, his death occurring there in January, 1917, when he was eighty-three years of age. Mr. Young was a Republican in his political views and for a number of years served as postmaster at a country office. He was a

Mason and was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as was also Mrs. Young, who died in 1913, when sixty-four years of age. They were people who were highly esteemed in their community, noted for their charities and their unfailing kindness and hospitality. They had four children: William R., of this notice; and Mary, Nellie, and Jennie, all of whom reside at Williamsburg, Iowa.

After completing his preliminary educational training in the public schools of the country community in which his father's farm was located, William R. Young began his professional studies in the medical department of the University of Iowa, in which institution he was duly graduated after a creditable college career. He thus received his degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1893. At that time he began his professional work at Marengo, Iowa, but after four years there came, in 1897, to Ansley, which has since been his home, the center of professional activities, and the scene of his rise and success. Through ability and splendid professional equipment he has steadily advanced in his profession and has built up a name for himself, while acquiring a large patronage. While the Doctor has been a general practitioner, being equally at home in the various branches of medical and surgical science, he has nevertheless specialized to some extent in the treatment and cure of diseases of the eye, ear, nose, and throat. Always a close and careful student, with a receptive mind, he has continued his studies and has taken several post-graduate courses—in New York, in 1907; three months in Chicago, in 1917; and two months in the latter city in 1918. He is a valued member of the Custer County Medical Society, of which he was formerly president for several terms; the Nebraska State Medical Society; the Missouri Valley Medical Society; and the American Medical Association.

On August 22, 1894, Dr. Young was united in marriage to Miss Mae Roloson, who was born near Williamsburg, Iowa. They have no children. Dr. and Mrs. Young are members of the Christian church and are interested practically in religious, charitable, and educational work and movements. He is a prominent Mason, having attained Scottish Rite degrees, and politically he is a Republican, although close application to the duties of his profession has kept him from active participation in political affairs.

SAMUEL O. STERNER, who is one of the enterprising and progressive farmers of

Custer county and a well known and respected citizen, has spent almost his entire life in this county, for he was only one year old when his parents, James and Amelia (Shaw) Sterner, here established their home. He was born in Appanoose county, Iowa, March 28, 1883, and is one of the seven survivors of a family of ten children, the others being: Mrs. Alice C. Ireland, Mrs. Flora Johnson, Mrs. Nevada Doggett, Charles W., George C., and Robert J. James Sterner was born in Ohio and his wife was born in Indiana. In politics he was a Republican, and his religious membership was in the United Brethren church. He brought his family to Custer county in 1884 and died here in 1891.

Samuel O. Sterner was only eight years old when his father died, and his boyhood memories all linger about the first home, especially when pioneer hardships in Nebraska are the subject of conversation. His father located on Cliff Table and when the dry season came on, the lack of water became a very serious matter, as it had to be hauled from the Loup river, which was twelve miles distant. The family lived on Cliff Table for nine years, during a part of the time being able to secure water from the old Caswell place, which was distant less than a mile. Purchase was then made of the present homestead, which belongs to Samuel O. Sterner and which is situated on Spring creek, six miles northeast of Callaway. This fine property has been managed by Mr. Sterner and its industries successfully carried on by him ever since he was sixteen years of age. Under the circumstances, this was a heavy responsibility, but anyone who can visit Mr. Sterner's well improved estate of 280 acres and see his ripening crops of grain—175 acres under cultivation, eighty being in corn and the rest in oats, wheat, and rye—will readily assert that good judgment regulated his activities and that he has been well rewarded for his years of industry. Until 1911 Mr. Sterner's mother resided with him on the homestead, and she then purchased property at Callaway, where she has a very comfortable home.

Mr. Sterner was married September 21, 1904, at Broken Bow, Nebraska, to Miss Clara Knudsen, who was born in Custer county, and is a daughter of Nels and Anna (Tower) Knudsen, who were born in Denmark. Mrs. Sterner has one brother and one sister—Alphone and Mrs. Anna Reeder. Mr. and Mrs. Sterner have three children: Myrle, Orval, and Aunno, all of whom have been given good school advantages. Mr. Sterner has always voted the Democratic ticket. He is affiliated with the Brotherhood, with the

Masonic fraternity and with the order of American Yeomen. As may be imagined, he has always been a man of activity and energy, and that these traits characterized him when he was still a boy may be illustrated by a story that Mr. Sterner sometimes tells of the first piece of money he earned. This was paid to him by David Moses, as a reward for sitting perfectly quiet on a chair for a period of ten minutes.

MRS. STELLA WATKINS.—The pioneers of Custer county of the year 1885 included numerous emigrants from Illinois, many of whom settled permanently and assisted materially in the development of the agricultural and other interests of the county. Among these was the William family, whose members subsequently became well known and highly respected here, and among whom was a daughter, Stella, who is now Mrs. Stella Drum Watkins, and who for the past twenty-six years has been a resident of the northern part of Callaway, where she is widely known and has many sincere friends.

Stella William was born in Grundy county, Illinois, February 20, 1869, a daughter of Richard E. and Anna R. (Teeter) William. The father was a native of Wales, his parents coming to the United States when he was five years of age, and having settled in Illinois, where he was reared to manhood and where he married Anna R. Teeter, a native of Indiana. They became the parents of nine children, of whom seven are living: John T., Walter J., Ida (the wife of Henry Wheeler), Anna (the wife of Grant Patterson), Blanche (the wife of Zearl Ramzey), Gertrude (the wife of Roy Hussey), and Stella (Mrs. Watkins). Richard E. William was engaged in farming in Grundy county, Illinois, until 1885, in which year he brought his family to Custer county, Nebraska, and settled on Red Fern Table, twelve miles south of Callaway, where he and his wife still make their home. Mr. William, a man of remarkable energy, still oversees the operations on his 300 acres of crop-bearing land, although he has reached the age of eighty-one years, and his devoted wife, although past seventy-two years of age in 1918, is likewise alert in mind and active in body and performs all her own work, disdaining assistance. These sterling pioneers are greatly honored and respected in the community in which they have lived so long, and in which they have displayed those excellencies of heart and mind that have endeared them to many friends.

When she accompanied her parents to Cus-

ter county Stella William was a young lady of sixteen years and was a graduate of the high school at Braidwood, Illinois. Subsequently she attended the Custer County Teachers' Institute for six weeks, and she obtained her first certificate from Superintendent D. M. Amsberry. She began to teach on Red Fern Table, where she continued her effective services two years. She was married August 25, 1887, to Charles B. Drum, a son of Delavan Drum. His business was the sinking of hydraulic wells, a vocation in which he was successfully engaged until his death, November 26, 1907. Four children were born to this union: Delavan C., who is clerk of the Midway Hotel, Kearney, Nebraska, married Gertrude Bainbridge, daughter of Emmett Bainbridge, and has a son and a daughter; Harry E. ("Bud") lives with his mother and stepfather; Erwin G., nineteen years of age, is a member of Battery E, One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Artillery, stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, at the time of this writing; and Stella May, who is residing with her mother and stepfather, and who is a graduate of Callaway high school, class of 1917, taught one term of school and is now a clerk in the postoffice at Callaway.

November 28, 1909, Mrs. Drum became the wife of Richard Watkins, a son of George and Lucy Watkins, and to this union there has been born one son: Richard W. Mr. Watkins has successfully followed the well-construction business in Custer county during a period of sixteen years, but is now engaged in farming in a successful way, on the property, north of Callaway, on which Mrs. Watkins has made her home for the past twenty-six years. They are the owners of 520 acres of good Custer county soil, which has been brought to a high state of productiveness and improved with modern buildings and the latest equipment of all kinds. Mr. and Mrs. Watkins are widely known in this community and are as widely respected. They are leading and consistent members of the Evangelical church, and politically Mr. Watkins is a Democrat.

OTIS H. MOOMEY, one of the substantial merchants of Broken Bow, and senior member of the grocery and market firm of O. H. Moomey & Son, has been a resident of Custer county since 1892, and during the quarter of a century that has intervened he has been variously connected with the rising industrial and commercial interests of this section, always to the benefit of himself and his community.

Mr. Moomey was born on a farm near Iowa City, Johnson county, Iowa, on a property which belonged to his father, Peter Moomey, who had inherited it from grandfather Jacob Moomey, the original holder of the land from the United States government, from which he had secured it on a soldier's land warrant, as a veteran of the War of 1812. Jacob Moomey was a son of John Moomey, who was not only a veteran of the Revolutionary war but also a member of the body-guard of General Washington. In this connection Jacob Moomey was distinguished by the following incident: Close students of Revolutionary history will remember, as related, that on one occasion a British officer through some means slipped through the American lines, rode up to the side of General Washington, and, raising his sabre, was intent upon the death of the patriots' commander. He was prevented from the deed by the prompt action of a private who thrust up his gun and received the blow, which was delivered with such force that it cleft the gun barrel nearly in two, broke the sabre in three pieces and split the private's thumb to the bone, but saved the General's life. This private was O. H. Moomey's great-grandfather.

Mr. Moomey remained on the home farm with his parents until reaching the age of nine years, at which time his father, partly because of the death of a son and a daughter, his only other children at that time, sold his home and moved to Wilton Junction, Iowa, where he was engaged in the butcher business for two or three years. At the end of this period he moved to Keokuk county, Iowa, where he again engaged in mercantile lines, but, meeting with business reverses, he lost all that he had, and his son, Otis, then a lad of sixteen years, was thrown upon the world to make his own way. The manner in which he earned his first dollar is well remembered by him. It was in the fall of 1876 that he hired out to one Amos Quinn to work on what was then known as a "blind" or "mole" ditcher, at the then highest wage known, eighteen dollars per month. They used two yoke of oxen for the propelling power, and on the first morning Mr. Quinn asked the youth if he had any experience in driving cattle. On being answered in the negative, the employer said: "Well, here is the best trained two yoke of oxen anybody ever had," and, handing the whip to the lad, continued, "Now, as you have had no experience with cattle, I will give you a lesson in driving here in the yard before we go to work. Now the names of these cattle are, Buck and Bill, the leaders, and John and Red, the wheelers. You always want to stand on the left side of cattle when commanding them and when you

want to start say: 'Git up, Buck-Bill-John-Red,' and when you want them to stop say: 'Whoa.' If you want them to turn to the right say: 'Gee,' and to the left say: 'Whoa-ha buck.'" After a few lessons of this kind the employer said: "You see how good they are to mind. Now, boy, I want you to remember I won't have you whipping these cattle, for they do not need it, and if I catch you at it I will fire you." After loading the beam on to the capstan, Mr. Quinn and the expectant, but by no means confident youth, started to the field, but before reaching their objective point they had to cross a large, muddy slough, in which they nearly mired down. Remarking that it was pulling the cattle too hard, Mr. Quinn threw off the beam, drove the capstan over where they were ready to start, and while he was setting it in place he sent the youth back with the cattle after the beam. The return trip was made in safety, but in turning the cattle around young Moomey got into trouble, for he picked up the whip and went to the wrong side of the cattle, with disastrous results. When he shouted: "Git up Buck-Bill-John-Red," the oxen began pulling first one way and then the other, and when he gave the command: "Whoa-ha buck," the cattle backed up and turned around, the youth having to run for his life to keep them from trampling him in the mud. However, some way in the scramble he happened to get on the right side again, when the cattle righted up and he was able to deliver the beam to his employer in proper fashion.

This was the first and last work young Moomey did by the month. He conceived the idea that he would rather be his own employer and accordingly he rented a farm the next year and employed his parents to keep house for him. There he afterward met and married Ella, the second daughter of Lafayette Strickland, who, during those days, was what was known as a "handy man," being a carpenter and wagonmaker by trade, but later in life conducting a hardware and grocery store. To this union there were born two children: Forrest Beryl and Ferne, the latter of whom was called to the Heavenly Father when only two and one-half years of age. Worry over the loss of this child, and hard work in helping her husband to get a start in life, caused the mother to break down physically and, after a long siege of illness, when she was reduced almost to the point of being an invalid, Mr. Moomey decided to come to Custer county. Here he arrived in the fall of 1892, and here Mrs. Moomey soon regained her former health. She engaged in the millinery business at Mason City, occupying a portion of the

room where Mr. Moomey conducted and owned a general store. After about nine years of prosperous business in these lines, they sold out and moved to a farm of one-half section, which they purchased and improved and which they later sold. Finding this profitable, Mr. Moomey engaged in the business of buying town lots and pieces of unimproved land, building houses on them, and then selling. He operated principally, around Ansley, and was making a success of his ventures, but, as he himself puts it, "Like the story of the Indian: you may educate him and he will wear a plug hat and kid gloves for a while, but turn him loose and he will go back to the wigwam." So with Mr. Moomey. Upon being notified of the sudden death of Mr. Morrison, at Broken Bow, who had been engaged in the butcher business, Mr. Moomey and his son, familiarly known as Beryl, purchased the establishment from the widow, and after a year or two merged it into the present meat and grocery business, located on the west side of the Public Square, where they are doing a splendid business, under the firm name of O. H. Moomey & Son.

JOHN MARK SENNETT.—This is a story of a Pennsylvanian who transferred his activities to the central west, where he has made a record of which any man might well be proud.

John Mark Sennett was born on St. Valentine's day of the year 1859, in the good old state of Pennsylvania. His parents, James B. and Ruth Ann (Hall) Sennett, were both native Pennsylvanians and were very excellent people of good standing in their home state, whence they eventually removed to Lawrence county, Indiana, where, on a rented farm, the father conducted farming operations a few years. He then moved further west, and located near Hoopston, Illinois, where he continued farming activities, on rented land, until the day of his death.

In the family circle of this worthy couple were nine children, eight of whom are still living: Edward, who lives on a farm in Custer county; John Mark, who is the subject of this narrative, Frank, who is still a resident of Illinois, Mary, who is the wife of Richard Parks and whose home is in Illinois; Lizzie, who is the wife of Patrick O'Conner, living in Illinois; Belle, a widow, whose home is at Hoopston, Illinois; Adeline, who is deceased; Harry, who is living at Hoopston, Illinois, as is also Charles, the youngest member of the family.

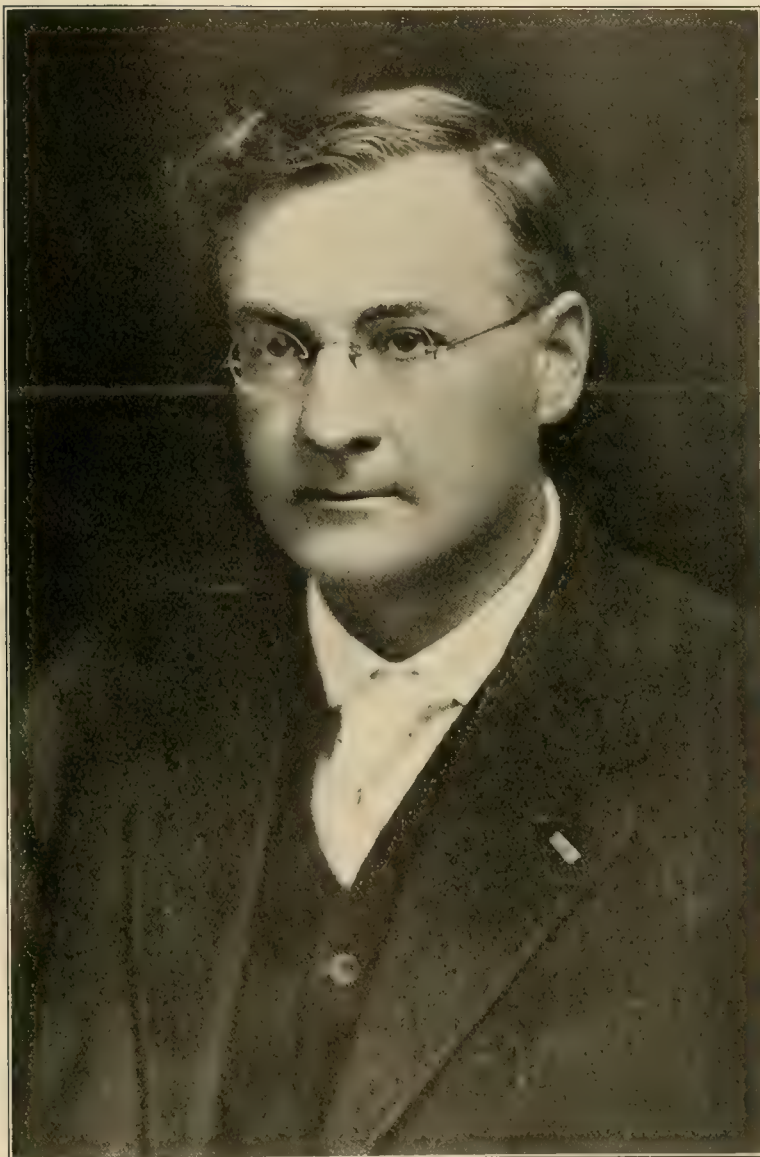
Before the arrival of John Mark Sennett in Custer county, he had received his educa-

tion in the Hoosier state and had been well fitted for the business transactions incident to a farmer's career. In 1870 he left Indiana and journeyed as far west as Illinois, where he established himself upon a farm. He came to Custer county in 1884, when the county was but seven years old, and when pioneer conditions prevailed everywhere. He homesteaded a good quarter-section of land, began at once its improvement and by frugal habits succeeded in making his way and adding to his possessions. It seems that Hoopston, Illinois, still had attractions for him, for in 1893 he there led to the marriage altar Mollie Adeline Arihood, a young woman who was born in Tipacone county, Indiana, and who is a daughter of William Lawson Arihood and Almira (Peterson) Arihood, the father a native of Ohio and the mother of Indiana. Mrs. Sennett's parents came to Nebraska in 1906, and here the father died May 19, 1917, his widow now making her home with Mr. and Mrs. Sennett.

Mr. and Mrs. John Mark Sennett have four children—Ruby, and Jessie are popular teachers, having received their education in the Nebraska public schools and the State Normal School at Kearney; Harry and Harley are twins and are pursuing their studies in the home school. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

The first land Mr. Sennett owned was a Custer county farm. This he purchased and to the same he has added until to-day his land holdings in Custer county constitute a rounded section of 640 acres, providing for retirement in old age. Twenty-two town lots are to be marked down in the inventory of this successful farmer. Every dollar of the Sennett possessions has been made by Mr. Sennett and his wife. In addition to the land owned in this county they have sixty-two acres in the coast region of Texas—a property that is very valuable and that is rapidly increasing in value as that country is developed. A large circle of friends in the entire community hold Mr. and Mrs. Sennett in high esteem and applaud the success which they have achieved during their years of residence in Custer county.

EDWIN E. SQUIRES.—Among the firms who have contributed to the prestige of Custer county as the home of able and learned representatives of the profession of law, one which is generally acknowledged to be a leader, and particularly in the field of criminal procedure, is that of Sullivan, Squires & Johnson. A member of this firm who has played a prom-



EDWIN E. SQUIRES

inent part in its success is Edwin E. Squires, who has taken advantage of his opportunities, fashioned his resources to his needs, and reflected dignity, sincerity, and genuine worth upon a profession for which he is singularly and even admirably equipped.

Mr. Squires was born on a farm in Delaware county, Iowa, August 29, 1867, and is a son of James H. and Mary A. (Eberhart) Squires. His paternal grandfather, John A. Squires, was a native of New York, and in his later years moved to Iowa, where he met an accidental death, at a Fourth of July celebration. James H. Squires was born near Cortland, New York, in 1842, and was seven years of age when taken by his parents to Iowa. For a number of years he was engaged in farming in Delaware county, that state, and he also had some experience in selling insurance and in the drug business, finally locating at Lawrence, Kansas, where he lived while his children were being educated. His death occurred at Kearney, Nebraska, in 1893. Mr. Squires, who had been a successful farmer and business man, was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Ancient Order of United Workmen, was a Republican in politics, and belonged to the Congregational church. He married Mary A. Eberhart, who was born in 1848, in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, a daughter of Hiram B. Eberhart. Mr. Eberhart brought his family to the west some time during the Civil war period, and he died in Iowa. Mrs. Squires survives her husband, is a resident of Kearney, Nebraska, and is the mother of two children: Edwin E., whose name initiates this review, and Maude, who was educated in the normal school at Lawrence, Kansas, and was a teacher until her marriage to Logan Sammons, a farmer of the neighborhood of Axtell, Nebraska.

Edwin E. Squires received his early educational training in an academy at Manchester, Iowa, and a high school at Monticello, that state, and he then entered the literary department of the Kansas State University, at Lawrence, from which he was graduated in 1889. At this time his finances were at a somewhat low ebb, but he was determined upon completing his professional training, and by working during the summer months he was able to earn sufficient funds to carry him through a complete course in the legal department of the University of Nebraska, in which he was duly graduated in 1893, with his degree of Bachelor of Laws. He at once began practice at Kearney, where he was located until 1907, and within this time he served one term, of two years, as county attorney of Buffalo county. Likewise

he became known, somewhat more than locally, for his ability in criminal cases, a notorious manslaughter case, in particular, attracting attention and giving Mr. Squires recognition when he won a victory for his client. Thus it was that when he came to Broken Bow, in 1907, he found that his reputation had preceded him, as he was almost immediately the recipient of professional business of the most desirable kind. Soon after his arrival he formed a partnership with Homer M. Sullivan, under the style of Sullivan & Squires, and since then Albert P. Johnson has joined the combination, which is now known as Sullivan, Squires & Johnson. This association of able legists now does the largest and most important business in Custer county, the two original members making a specialty of criminal law. Mr. Squires has been counsel in six murder cases, representing the defendant in four, and has been the winner in all save one of the six. He has been successful in a material way and is the holder of much valuable land in Custer county. A Republican in politics, he has taken an active part in local affairs, and in 1913 he was elected mayor of Broken Bow, a capacity in which he gave his fellow townsmen an excellent administration.

In 1898 Mr. Squires wedded Miss Annie Finch, who was born at Dallas, Illinois, a daughter of John A. and Elizabeth Finch. Mr. Finch, a native of Pennsylvania, was a pioneer of Dallas, Illinois, where he settled in 1846, and where he was a merchant and shipped goods down the Mississippi river. The family moved to Kearney, Nebraska, about 1886, and there he and his wife passed away. Mrs. Squires died in 1907, having been the mother of one child, Mary Elizabeth, who is a senior at the Kearney high school. The mother was a devoted member of the Congregational church, to which Mr. Squires also belongs.

THOMAS J. GILLIGAN. — Anywhere within the fine Middle Loup region of Custer county can be found no better ranchman than the sterling citizen whose name initiates this paragraph and who is well entitled to recognition in this history. Everybody calls Mr. Gilligan "Tom," and this fact offers indubitable testimony to his personal popularity. For many years he has held precedence as one of the extensive and successful stockmen of the northern part of Custer county, and a residence of more than thirty years in the county marks him as entitled to pioneer honors.

Thomas J. Gilligan was born in Essex

county, New York, on the 4th of March, 1860, and is a son of John and Eliza (O'Donnell) Gilligan, who were representative of fine old Irish stock and from whom the subject of this review received the inherent attributes that have made for strong manhood and the thrift that is born of energy and mature judgment. John Gilligan was born and reared in the fine old Emerald Isle and was a young man when he came to America, in company with one of his brothers who was a sailor by occupation. He landed in the city of Boston, and within a short time thereafter he made his way to Wisconsin, where he found employment as driver in the transportation of the United States mail. He gained pioneer experience in the Badger state, where he remained several years, and in 1854 he established his residence in Essex county, New York, where he turned his attention to agricultural enterprise. There, in 1865, was solemnized his marriage to Miss Eliza O'Donnell, who was born in Ireland and who was but ten years old when her parents immigrated to America and established their home in the state of New York. John Gilligan passed the remainder of his life in the Empire state, where his death occurred in 1880, and his venerable widow still maintains her home in that state. They became the parents of seven children, of whom five are living, two of the number becoming residents of Nebraska—Thomas J., of this review, and Dr. J. P. Gilligan, who established himself in the practice of his profession at O'Neill, Holt county.

Thomas F. Gilligan was reared and educated in his native state, where also he gained his initial experience in connection with the basic industries of agriculture and stock-raising. In 1882 he came to Nebraska, as a sturdy and ambitious young man of about twenty-two years, and he passed the first two years in Gage county, where he was employed by the late Nathan Blakely, one of the most honored and influential pioneers of that county. In 1884 Mr. Gilligan came to Custer county, where he entered claim to a homestead in section 24, township 20, range 22, and where he girded himself for the responsibilities and exactions of pioneer life. By hard work and good management he forged forward toward the goal of success and prosperity, and he has long been numbered among the substantial and representative exponents of agricultural and live-stock industry in this county. He has followed agricultural enterprise on an extensive scale, with large holdings of land, but his major success has been gained in connection with the raising of live stock.

Loyal and progressive as a citizen, Mr. Gil-

ligan has contributed his full quota to civic and material advancement in Custer county, and has taken lively interest in all things touching the communal welfare. In politics he has been independent, and he now maintains a non-partisan attitude, in which connection he gives his support to men and measures meeting the approval of his judgment. He is a communicant and liberal supporter of the Catholic church.

In the year 1899 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Gilligan to Miss Nora Calkins, a daughter of William Calkins, and of this union were born six children—Eleanor, Marie, Peter, Thomas, Jennie, and Nicholas. All of the children are living except Thomas, who died at the age of four years, the mother also having passed away. By careful providing of ways and means Mr. Gilligan kept his children well provided for, and all still remain with him except Jennie, who resides with an aunt in the state of New York, she being fourteen years of age at the time of this writing. In 1908, after the death of their mother, Eleanor and Marie Gilligan went to the home of their uncle, Dr. J. P. Gilligan, where they remained five years and in the meanwhile attended an academy school. At the expiration of the period noted, they returned to the paternal home, where they have since had charge of its domestic economics and have proved themselves most competent housekeepers, besides which they are popular factors in the social activities of their home community.

WALTER A. BENCE, who is one of the prominent and thrifty farmers of Custer county, has been a continuous resident of the county for the past thirty-five years. He was born in Harrison county, Indiana, November 18, 1859, and is the eldest son of Socrates and Ambrosia (Nelson) Bence. Socrates Bence belonged to a pioneer family of Indiana and was born and died on a claim that his father had pre-empted. He was a man of public influence, a Democrat in politics, and for four years, 1884-1888, he served as sheriff of Harrison county. Both he and his wife spent their lives in Indiana. They had six children and five survive, namely: Walter A. is the subject of this sketch; Mary is the wife of Charles Hurst and they live on the old homestead; Jennie is the wife of Benjamin Chickering, of Louisville, Kentucky; Charles, who lives in California, married Mary Denbow, now deceased. The mother of the above children was a member of the Presbyterian church.

Walter A. Bence grew to manhood on the

old family homestead in Harrison county and attended the public schools. He immigrated with his family to Nebraska and drove his team of horses, with his covered wagon, into York county, February 24, 1882. In March, 1883, he came on into Custer county, where he has lived ever since, engaging very successfully in mixed farming and stock-raising. He owns a historic tract of land, known as the Lone Tree country, it being where the desperate horse thieves who ravaged Brown county met just judicial punishment in the summer of 1884.

In August, 1880, Mr. Bence married Miss Catherine Walter, a daughter of John and Catherine (Kiefer) Walter, who became the parents of fifteen children. Of these children the following survive: John, who lives in Harrison county, Indiana, married Ann Fleischman; Caroline is the widow of George Dahl, of Louisville Kentucky; Mary is the wife of Casper Zeiler, of Louisville; Henry, who is a resident of Los Angeles, California, married Tena Hemple; Margaret, who married, first, John Hart, and, second, George W. McRae, lives at Berwyn, Custer county; Catherine is the wife of Walter A. Bence, of this review; Sarah is the widow of William Hart, of Louisville; Louis, of Harrison county, Indiana, married Caroline Bruch; Jacob, of Custer county, married Minnie Cudmore; Anna is the widow of John Steller, of Los Angeles; and Barbara is the wife of Andrew Barber, of Brith, Iowa.

ALEXANDER PIRNIE, who is one of Custer county's representative citizens, resides on his well improved farm, in section 12, which he took up as a homestead claim thirty-nine years ago. He was born in Perthshire, Scotland, July 16, 1853. His parents were Alexander and Janet (Morris) Pirnie, who came from Scotland to the United States in 1879. Their objective point was Nebraska and the father took up a homestead in Custer county, where he passed the remainder of his life. The death of the mother occurred at Buffalo, Kansas, but the burial of both was in Lone Tree cemetery, Custer county. They were strong and vigorous people and nine of their family of ten children are still living, as follows: Alexander, whose name introduces this paragraph; John, who is a farmer and dairyman, living at Merna, Custer county; Jessie, whose home is in Buffalo, Kansas; Peter, who is a gravel contractor in Kansas City, Kansas; James, who is a miner at Dawson City, Alaska; Mrs. Elizabeth Stoeker, who lives at Broken Bow; Mrs. Catherine Parson,

whose home is at Aspen, Colorado; Mitchel, who is in business in Scotland; and William, who is a farmer near Escondido, California.

Alexander Pirnie had excellent school advantages in his native land. With other members of his family he came to the United States in 1876 and located first in Poweshiek county, Iowa. Securing work with farmers, he remained in that section for three years and then came to Nebraska. For about a year he remained in York county but late in 1879 he came to Custer county and secured the homestead on which he has lived ever since, following general farming and stock-raising. From the first Mr. Pirnie has been a prominent and useful citizen of his community and he has been identified with much of the wonderful progress made here in the last quarter of a century or more. He served as a juror in the first regular term of the district court ever held in Custer county and is one of only two surviving members of that body, the other being Edwin McClure, of Broken Bow. The presiding judge, who came through by team from Kearney to hold court, was Judge Gaslin. In politics Mr. Pirnie is a Democrat. He served nine years on the town board, was a justice of the peace for the same length of time and for twelve years has been a director in his school district.

September 1, 1881, Mr. Pirnie married Miss Lucina Powell, of Custer county, a daughter of John and Maria Powell, formerly of Crawford county, Wisconsin. Ten of the twelve children of Mr. and Mrs. Pirnie yet survive, namely: Earl is a merchant and also postmaster at Weissert; David M., who is a farmer, lives at Weissert; John W., who is a minister of the Church of God, on the Berwyn circuit, lives at Broken Bow; Mrs. Lucy Cooksley lives at Weissert; Mrs. Amy Leck lives five miles east of Weissert; Mrs. Mira Cooksley lives on a farm near Weissert; Richard is a farmer near Comstock; George and Otis both remain at the parental home; and Mrs. Elsie Spencer lives at Rose Valley postoffice, Broken Bow.

WILLIAM U. UHLMAN, whose well improved farm and comfortable surroundings indicate efficiency as a farmer and a measure of personal pride in the home that he has acquired through his own industry, is well known in Custer county, where he is respected and esteemed. He was born in Switzerland, near the city of Zurich, February 2, 1881. His parents were Ulrich and Lesetta (Schutz) Uhlman, who immigrated to the United States in 1883. They had four

children, namely: Fritz, who is a farmer and carpenter residing near Broken Bow, Nebraska, married Victoria Smets; William Ulrich Uhlman is the subject of this sketch; Mary, who is the widow of Charles Myers, resides at Broken Bow; and Rosa is the wife of Wilbur Osborn, who follows the carpenter trade at Broken Bow.

William Ulrich Uhlman was two years old when the family came to the United States and located in Clermont county, Iowa. The father engaged in farming there for one year and then came to Custer county, Nebraska, and homesteaded. Thus this has been the section in which all the children grew up. William U. obtained his education in the public schools of Custer county and had practical training on the farm in preparing for his chosen vocation. Every section of the country presents disadvantages together with opportunities, and there have been seasons in the past history of Custer county when agricultural operations failed because of natural causes, but in later times, since farming and stock-raising have come largely into the hands of well informed and experienced men like Mr. Uhlman, little complaint is ever heard of lack of fine crops in this beautiful section. Mr. Uhlman's experience has led him to adopt dry-farming methods and he has been very successful.

Mr. Uhlman was married March 8, 1905, to Miss Marie Smets, who is now deceased. She left three children—Avis, who was born March 29, 1906; Bernice, who was born February 22, 1909; and Inez, who was born April 19, 1912. Mr. Uhlman is a member of the Swedish Lutheran church. In politics he is a Republican and he belongs to the fraternal order of Modern Woodmen of America. His farm lies in section 9, township 18, range 19,—in Round valley, Custer county.

NELS A. HALL.—For forty-two busy years Nels A. Hall, one of Custer county's best known farmers and stock-raisers, had his home in this section of the great state of Nebraska. He has seen wonderful changes of all kinds since he came to this section and has done his share in the development of the county's agricultural resources and in establishing such necessities of civilization as good roads, schools, and churches. When a community can claim a majority of such stable and dependable men as Mr. Hall its permanence and progress are assured. It was a matter of genuine regret to the many Custer county friends of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson when, on the 24th of September, 1918, they left their

old home near Round Valley and removed to Marion county, Oregon, where Mr. Hall purchased an attractive place, two miles distant from Silverton, and where he and his wife intend to pass the remainder of their lives.

Nels A. Hall is a native of Norway and was born near Gjövik, November 15, 1854. His parents were Andreas and Annie (Nelson) Hall, who had four children, namely: Nels A., Peter, Halldora, and Bertha. The father was a carpenter by trade. In 1874 Nels A. Hall came to the United States. He was then twenty years old and had attended the common schools and probably had, to some extent, learned his father's trade. At that time America called young men from many parts of the world, freely offering opportunities that older countries could no longer give. Ownership of land and a home of one's own attracted many to the western states, and in 1874, among the others who settled in Dane county, Wisconsin, many from Norway, was Nels A. Hall. That was but a step on the way, but Mr. Hall remained there two years and he came to Nebraska in the year 1884. He pre-empted land in Custer county, and on this he continued to reside until his removal to Oregon, as noted above. His well improved Custer county farm is situated in section 34, township 19, in the vicinity of Round Valley. The years that followed settlement were years of hard work, but diligence and perseverance in time brought rewards in peace and plenty. Mr. Hall followed methods which have been proved best in this climate and was exceedingly successful as a farmer and stock-raiser.

Mr. Hall was married, at Boscobel, Grant county, Wisconsin, April 9, 1879, to Miss Bell Olson, a daughter of Ingebret and Anna (Anderson) Olson, and the following named children have been born to them: Egbert, Anna, Helen, Peter, Lewis, and Andrew. All of the children have been given good educational advantages. Mr. Hall and his family belong to the Lutheran church, to which his parents also belonged. He has long been a loyal and appreciative citizen of the United States and is a Republican in politics.

MARK O. AND WILL N. BOOTS.—One of the splendidly developed farming properties lying in Custer county in the vicinity of Broken Bow is that which belongs to Mark O. and Will N. Boots—a tract of 320 acres, on which are to be found the latest improvements. These brothers are accounted among the self-made men of their locality, as they started out in life with only their am-

bitions and abilities as their capital, and what they have achieved has been through their own unaided efforts.

Mark O. Boots was born August 19, 1870, and Will N. Boots March 17, 1872, their place of nativity having been a farm in Carroll county, Iowa. They are sons of C. S. and Sarah A. (Prettyman) Boots. Their paternal grandfather, John O. Boots, was an early settler of Miami county, Indiana, in which state he passed the greater part of his life in agricultural pursuits, and on the maternal side their grandfather was James Prettyman, a native of Delaware, who early became a farmer of Indiana, but spent his last years in the state of Washington. C. S. Boots was born August 31, 1842, in Grant county, Indiana, and in 1865, in the Hoosier state, he married Miss Sarah A. Prettyman, who had been born in Starke county, Indiana, April 2, 1849. Not long after their marriage they removed to Iowa, where, in Carroll county, Mr. Boots was engaged in farming as a renter. In 1889 he came to Nebraska and located in Custer county, where he found the medium through which to gain success, as he is now one of the well-to-do and substantial men of his community. Mr. Boots is a Democrat in politics and he and his wife belong to the Christian church. They became the parents of thirteen children, of whom nine survive: Mary, the wife of A. B. Miley, a Custer county farmer; Mark O. and Will N., whose names introduce this review; Jenetta, the widow of J. F. Line; Bertha, the wife of Martin A. Almandinger, a farmer of Lakeside, Washington; Nellie, the wife of Fred E. Conley, who is working in a shipyard at Portland, Oregon; T. A., engaged in farming in Grant county, Nebraska; and Misses Kate and Alta, on the home place with their parents.

Mark O. and Will N. Boots received their education in the public schools of Iowa and accompanied their parents to Nebraska in 1889. While the former remained on the home place, Will N. worked out among the neighboring agriculturists for several years, and the boys then rented land together. This they cultivated until they could get sufficient capital to set them up as proprietors. Eventually they were able to purchase 160 acres, in the Broken Bow neighborhood, and to this they have since added a like acreage, and their land is now all under a high state of cultivation, producing the standard crops in abundance, under their skilled management and treatment of the soil. In addition to general farming they have experimented successfully in raising all kinds of live stock, and in both

departments have shown themselves capable and resourceful.

Neither of the Boots brothers is married, but they keep "bachelors' hall" on their farm, where they have a pleasant home and commodious buildings for the housing of their stock, grain, and equipment. They are members of the Highlanders, and Mark O. Boots also belongs to the Knights of Pythias.

JOHN M. KRAMER is one of the late homesteaders of Custer county, and he lives in the Anselmo region, in which locality government land was last taken. The story that is about to be related proves, however, that the late-comers, if they possessed the same indomitable traits, made good almost as readily as did those of early days, when the best of land was open for homestead entry.

John M. Kramer was born forty-five years ago and is a son of Adam and Margaret (Kopp) Kramer, natives of Germany, who came to America when quite young, here passing the remainder of their lives. The father died at the age of thirty-nine years, and the mother at the age of forty-seven years. In their family were four children: Mrs. Minnie Simmons lives in Council Bluffs, Iowa, where her husband is a railroad employe; Mrs. Tillie Cathro is the wife of an Omaha contractor; Mrs. Nellie Allen lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, where her husband is employed as a salesman; the fourth is the subject of this sketch.

During his childhood and youth the educational advantages of Mr. Kramer were limited, but he possessed that spirit which is determined to overcome all handicaps and to attain the object to which it aspires. Accordingly, while working in a candy kitchen in Omaha, he attended a night school, and thus he secured for himself a fundamental education which stands him well in hand as a business man and a qualified, progressive citizen.

In 1894 Mr. Kramer married Cora Pearl, who has been a faithful co-helper in all his farming and stock-raising enterprises. In the Kramer family are seven children: Armand Kellogg is married and is a progressive young farmer in Custer county, the other children being Charles, Tillie, Leona, Margaret, Rosemond, and Josephine, all of whom are at home, and those who are old enough are pursuing a course of fundamental instruction in the district school. The children are full of energy and give much promise for future years.

When Mr. Kramer landed in Anselmo he had three cents in his pocket, but he had

grit, energy, and determination, three things more valuable than money, and with these he backed his capital of three cents and filed on a homestead, northeast of Anselmo, in the hill country where the grass was good and cattle-raising an easy thing for the man who had the energy and ability to provide winter forage. Accordingly he has succeeded. He now owns his land, has fine improvements, and has a good start in stock of all kinds. His horses, cattle, and hogs grade well to the best blood, and, withal, he is a citizen who enjoys the respect and confidence of the community.

Mr. Kramer has entered fraternal circles and is a member of the Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen, the Royal Neighbors. In these organizations he takes active part, having been clerk of the Woodmen lodge for the last twenty years. Both he and his wife belong to the Milburn Christian church.

WILLIAM G. DAILY.—This story epitomizes the record of eighty-five years. It pertains to one of the unique characters of Custer county—a man of years and of varied experiences; a man who has tried the fortunes and opportunities of most of the states between New York and the Rocky Mountains; a man whose name is well and favorably known throughout Custer county; a man who, together with his good wife, has reared a family of children, all of whom are splendid citizens, prominent in present-day affairs and reflecting credit not only upon their parents and the home from which they came, but also constituting a valued asset to the community of which they are a part.

William Grant Daily was born in the state of New York, in 1833, and has traveled the road of many hills and deep waters during the eighty-five years that have succeeded that date. He himself constitutes the initial point from which this family record starts. His father's name and nativity are not given. Mr. Daily, the venerable citizen of Milburn, the vicinity in which the last twenty-six years of his life have been passed, was united in marriage, in 1862, to Phoebe Helen Howe, a refined and cultured lady who exemplified many of the excellent traits of her husband. She left this world in 1915, having rounded out full four-score years. In their family were six children: Alvin Daily is one of the prominent men of Custer county, well and favorably known throughout all the western and northern part of the county. He is one of the successful farmers in the Milburn region, and at present is manager of the farmers' co-operative store in Anselmo. He and his wife, a

very intelligent lady, maintain a splendid home and are rated as leaders in every community proposition. Leon is an Iowa farmer at the present time. He was previously a resident of Custer county, and while here he contributed to the good reputation of the entire Daily family. Ellen Books lives on the home farm. Sarah Morgan is a farmer's wife and lives in Iowa. Marion Stephen is a prominent farmer and operates land adjoining his father's place. Extended notice of his life and farm operations are noted elsewhere in this volume. Rose Athey lives on a ranch in Brown county. All of these are men and women of affairs and are highly respected by all who know them.

Record concerning the operations of Mr. Daily during former years may be briefly noted at this juncture. At the age of twenty-one years he left New York and journeyed as far west as Illinois, where he stayed eight months, and he then returned to his native state. After three years he again faced the west, and he reached Iowa on this trip. In the fall of 1860 he again returned to New York, where he voted for Abraham Lincoln for president. He worked the home farm this time for two years. He traded Iowa land for New York land and lived on the latter for four years, after which he bought a rake and cradle factory, of which he was manager for another period of four years. During this time his residence was in Otsego county of the Empire state. After selling the factory he worked as a carpenter for two years; and he then went again to Knox county, Illinois, where he worked two years at the carpenter's trade. He then went to Iowa, where he devoted the next sixteen years to farming. From there he went to Colorado, located near Sterling and went into the cattle business. It was from this place that he came to Custer county, Nebraska, twenty-six years ago. The shifting years of his life, his travels to and fro, found for him no better place than the Milburn district in Custer county, where he has his present home and where for years he has maintained an elegant country place. His sub-irrigated land was a great producer of alfalfa, which contributed to himself and wife a splendid support. By thrift and good management he accumulated three and one-half sections of land, which in part he has sold and in part divided among his children.

A strange nemesis of accidents entailing physical injury seems to have followed Mr. Daily. Notwithstanding he has weathered the storms and ills of eighty-five years, he has been the victim of many accidents, and it is almost a miracle that he has attained this ripe old

age. He has catalogued his recurrent afflictions of this order, and the record reads somewhat like this: He has had a broken leg, broken wrist, broken arm, shot in the arm, neck out of joint, one knuckle from left hand gone, was struck by lightning, had stroke of paralysis, lost the hearing of one ear, was bitten by a rattlesnake, and has been in many runaways. Yet none of these things launched in his direction the fatal shaft.

This venerable gentleman is a very amiable and upright citizen, is a member of the Methodist church, is an independent voter, and he prides himself on having cast his first vote for John C. Fremont, first presidential candidate of the Republican party.

PIUS CHRISTEN.—One of the very substantial homes in the New Helena district, and one that is unusually well improved, belongs to Pius Christen, who is one of the staunch farmers of the county and who came into the world in the empire of Austria, in 1861. He is a son of Pius and Mary (Cerven) Christen to whom were born three sons—David Christen, a banker in Anslemo; Frank a farmer residing in this county; and Pius, the subject of this sketch. The estimable parents died some time since, the father at the age of eighty-one, and the mother at the age of eighty-two years.

Pius Christen, Jr., chose as his wife Miss Hattie Pole, who, like her husband, was born in Europe, and whose advent occurred in 1867. To this union four children were born: Theodore, who is a young Custer county farmer; Theodore P., who, at the time of this writing, is in the National army, at Camp Grant; Cenia Thomas, who lives on a farm in the vicinity of Dale church; and Irene Duschek, who likewise lives on a farm in this county.

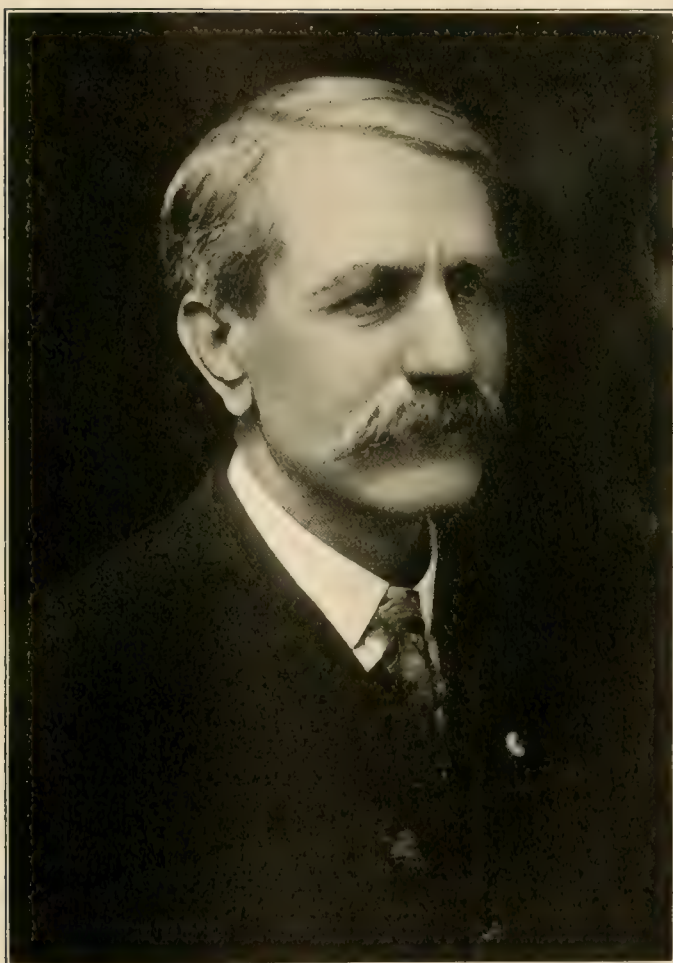
In coming from Austria to the United States Mr. Christen felt that here he could better his condition; that here young men had opportunity, and, notwithstanding the handicap of poverty, if they possessed genius and energy they could make a place for themselves in the world and accumulate a competence for themselves and their families. He first settled in Iowa, where he stayed eight years. Still feeling that the opportunities of a new country would be better for him, he came to Nebraska and located in Custer county. Since that time he has been an example of industry and thrift in the neighborhood where he is located. Today his large holdings attest the financial success he has achieved. His farm consists of 1,300 acres. He has 100 head of cattle which

grade high to white Herefords. It would be hard to find a classier bunch of Duroc-Jersey hogs than are found in his yards. The horses are good. The implements are the latest and of the most approved pattern. Everything on the Christen farm is strictly first class and up-to-date.

The loyalty of Mr. Christen has never been questioned. He has been generous in his donation to war work and liberal in his purchase of government securities. He is proud of the fact that he has one son in the service of his adopted country. In the community he and his wife enjoy a reputation for honesty and integrity and moral uprightness that would be hard for any one to surpass. Both he and his wife are members of the Catholic church and are liberal supporters of the same. He belongs to the Woodmen of the World, is independent in politics and is one of those men whom every candidate delights to ally among his forces. Pius Christen has made good in America and is an honor to both the state and county in which he claims citizenship.

CHARLES W. BEAL.—In the various activities to which men devote their energies, there are certain vocations which seem to go hand in hand, so that an individual may be found engaged in both at the same time. But it is only the ones who possess superior ability who can attain to success in three separate fields of endeavor, and it is for this reason that more than passing mention should be extended to the accomplishments of Hon. Charles W. Beal, of Broken Bow, a leading member of the Custer county bar, a veteran newspaper man of brilliance and influence, and a leading figure in the political and public life of his section for many years.

Senator Beal was born April 25, 1860, in Audrian county, Missouri, and is a son of William H. and Jane (Stout) Beal. His grandfather, Lewis W. Beal, was an early settler of Indiana and died in Missouri. William H. Beal was born in Switzerland county, Indiana, January 28, 1828, and was married at Vevay, that state, to Jane Stout, who was born at Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1838. In 1856, one year after their marriage, they migrated to Missouri, settling in Audrian county, where Mr. Beal paid the government twelve and one-half cents an acre for his homestead. He proved up on his property, passed many years in agricultural pursuits, and finally retired from active labors. He died at Mexico, Missouri, February 12, 1917, his wife having passed away at Laddonia, Missouri, February 3, 1903. They



CHARLES W. BEAL

were the parents of five sons, of whom two are living: John, who publishes the newspaper known as the *Mexico Message*, at Mexico, Missouri; and Charles W., who is the subject of this sketch. William H. Beal was a member of the Free Will Baptist church and his wife a devout Methodist. Both took an active part in religious work. He belonged to the Masonic fraternity, in the work of which he always evinced a keen interest, and as a voter he supported the candidates of the Republican party. During the Civil war he was a strong Union man, and for a time was a member of the state militia.

The public schools of Missouri furnished Charles W. Beal with his early education, following which he spent three years in Hillsdale College, at Hillsdale, Michigan. He then returned to his Missouri home, where he spent one year in teaching school, and March 31, 1886, he came to Custer county, Nebraska, and obtained a school, which he taught for three years. Newspaper work has always held out attractions for Mr. Beal, and at Broken Bow he found the opportunity to satisfy his inclinations in this direction. For nearly twenty years he was the editor and publisher of the *Custer County Beacon*, a journal of which he made a great success. In various ways he came prominently before the public, and in 1892 he was elected to the Nebraska state legislature, in which he served one term. Later he served a term in the state senate, starting in 1897. In the meantime he had become interested in the study of law, and he completed his course in the law school at Lincoln, from which he was duly graduated in 1899, being admitted to the bar the same year. From that time to the present he has been engaged in practice, and he has built up a splendid practice and a reputation among his fellow-practitioners for ability, forensic skill, and deep knowledge of the principles of law and jurisprudence. After practicing at the bar for some time he was elected county attorney, an office in which he made a splendid record, and in 1915 he was again sent to the state senate, to which he was re-elected in 1917. He has been one of the hardest-working members of that honored body, and after taking an active part on the committee (of which he was chairman) which drafted the prohibition bill, he was made chairman of the legislation to enforce prohibition, this being in the senate's last term. Likewise he was a member of the judiciary and constitutional committees. Senator Beal is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he has passed through the chairs, and of the

Knights of Pythias, in which he is past chancellor. He has been interested in politics and active therein for thirty years, and has been a staunch and unwavering Democrat all this time. With his family, he belongs to the Christian church.

Senator Beal was married January 1, 1896, to Miss Kate Willis, who was born at Ottumwa, Iowa, a daughter of John and Caroline Willis, who came to Custer county in 1884 and homesteaded land, both passing away here. To this union there have been born two children: Anna Belle, who resides with her parents, is a graduate of the Broken Bow high school; and Franklin C. is attending school.

CHARLES S. TOOLEY.—Through the business ability, consideration and courtesy of its proprietor, the hardware establishment of Charles S. Tooley has become an important source of supply to the people of Broken Bow and the surrounding community, and has placed the owner among the substantial business men of the county seat. Mr. Tooley was born in Warrick county, Indiana, March 10, 1871, and is a son of W. W. and Lucy A. (Parker) Tooley.

The parents of Mr. Tooley were born in Kentucky, and were children at the time of the removal of their respective parents to Indiana. They met and were married in Warrick county, where W. W. Tooley was engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1885, that year marking his removal further west and his settlement in Custer county. Here he met with success in his farm enterprise and brought his property to a high state of development. Some time after the death of his wife he retired from active affairs and since then has been living quietly in Broken Bow. Mr. Tooley is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which his wife also belonged. They were the parents of nine children, of whom seven survive. Politically a Democrat, he has wielded some influence in the ranks of his party in Custer county, and at various times has been chosen by his fellow citizens to represent them in public positions of responsibility and trust.

The early education of Charles S. Tooley was secured in the public schools of Warrick county, Indiana, where he made his home until he was fourteen years of age, and after the family settled in Nebraska he was a student in the schools of Broken Bow. He began his career as a public-school teacher, and for four years was engaged in instructing the young in the rural districts, in addition to which he was for some time interested, as a proprietor,

in farming ventures. In 1909, however, he entered mercantile affairs, when he purchased a hardware store at Broken Bow, and since that time he has been adding to his patronage each year. He carries a full, modern stock of heavy and shelf hardware, stoves, etc., and the success which is his — and it is not inconsiderable — has been self-gained. His achievement is illustrative of the rewards obtainable through intelligently directed industry.

In 1897 Mr. Tooley married Miss Harriet S. Chrisman, a daughter of Joseph M. and Lucy B. (Richardson) Chrisman, the former of whom was born in Virginia, in 1833, and the latter in 1840. Mrs. Tooley's parents were married in Virginia, lived many years in Missouri, and both died in Nebraska, the mother in 1890 and the father in 1913. In 1883 the Chrisman family came to Nebraska and homesteaded in Custer county. The parents were members of the Presbyterian church, to which Mrs. Tooley belongs. Mr. Tooley is a member of the Masonic blue lodge, in which he has passed the various official chairs and is now master, and in his chapter of royal-arch Masonry he has also passed the official chairs, besides which he is eminent commander of the Knights Templars, and is affiliated with Scottish Rite bodies of the time-honored fraternity and also with the Mystic Shrine. In politics he is a Democrat. He served four or five years as a member of the city council of Broken Bow, his conduct in that body showing his desire to discharge his important duties in an entirely conscientious manner. In various other ways he has shown his public spirit, and at this writing he is one of the active and valued members of the Public Service Club.

MARION S. DAILY.—Milburn is a region of substantial farmers. In the sub-irrigated region of Milburn, where they raise alfalfa and where live-stock operations are extensive and profitable, there you will find the subject of this sketch and will soon learn that he is one of the men who have helped to make the reputation of the locality.

Mr. Daily was born in Louisa county, Iowa, in 1877, and is a son of William G. and Phoebe Helen (Howe) Daily, all of whose six children are splendid citizens and valuable adjuncts to the communities in which their respective homes are located. Marion S. Daily received a liberal education and very early in life put into practice the principles of industry and economy which, as applied to agricultural pursuits, always insure success. He has

been a farmer practically all his life and in his chosen profession is rated "A No. 1."

The year 1901 recorded the marriage of Mr. Daily to Miss Gertrude Farley, a daughter of Robert Farley, who is an estimable pioneer and citizen of Custer county, and who is at the present time a member of the county board of supervisors. Into the home of Mr. and Mrs. Daily have come nine children, any one of whom is able to drive away the blues and prevent lonesomeness: Merle, seventeen years of age (1918), is attending school in Anselmo; and Marion, fifteen years; Verne, fourteen; Walter, thirteen; Theodore, eleven; Seth, seven; Irene, six; Steven, two; and Alvin, two months, are all at home and are a fine family of bright, healthy children.

In the early days Mr. Daily proved up on a homestead, but this he sold, and he then purchased the farm he now owns and upon which he has his home. This ranch consists of 430 acres, of which 300 acres are under cultivation. The improvements are good, the equipments modern, the house lighted by electricity, and everything arranged so that farm life is made exceedingly enjoyable. The live stock on the place is of best quality. The cattle run to roan Durhams of high degree. In the pork line, Mr. Daily fancies red hair and breeds splendid specimens of Duroc-Jerseys. With his general farming and stock-raising he combines dairying, and milks, on an average, about fifteen cows the year round. This latter enterprise, owing to the splendid alfalfa on the Daily ranch, is a very profitable business, but it spells hard work and long hours—"good and plenty." But it insures the status of after years, and the man who gives faithful heed and tireless effort to such industries in his middle life will, in the years of his retirement, occupy a Fifth avenue home, ride in a family limousine and eat pie for breakfast.

The Dailys are succeeding. They belong to a family that have succeeded. They have the inborn characteristics of people who succeed, and accordingly they are entitled to rate among our first citizens.

Mr. Daily is independent in politics, but it can be said of him that he is a wide reader, well informed in all public affairs and casts always an intelligent vote. He and his wife are members of the Christian church. They are hospitable, generous and, withal, are courteous and obliging neighbors.

AMOS W. GANDY.—Among the residents of Custer county who came here in the pioneer days and remained to assist in the

development and progress that followed their coming, a place of honor must be accorded to the late Amos W. Gandy, who established a record for industry and good citizenship and whose death occurred at Broken Bow, on the 30th of July, 1899.

Mr. Gandy was born at Preston, near Cheat Mountain, Wayne county, West Virginia, on the 12th of January, 1837, at which time his native state was still a part of Virginia. He was a son of Samuel and Catherine (Mathew) Gandy and his mother was of German descent. In 1851 Samuel Gandy removed with his family to Davis county, Iowa, where he became a pioneer farmer and where he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives. They became the parents of twelve children, namely: Rollo, Amos W., William, Lemuel, Caroline, Ellis, Asher, Elizabeth, Jesse, James, Mary, and John. Samuel Gandy gave his political allegiance to the Republican party, was affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and he and his wife were earnest members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Amos W. Gandy was fourteen years of age at the time of the family removal to Iowa, where he was accorded the advantages of the pioneer schools and where he earned his first wages by splitting hickory sticks for making the bottoms of splint-bottom chairs. For this service he received two and one-half cents for each bottom—or about thirty-five cents a day. The principal work of his boyhood and youth, however, was that connected with his father's farm, and when he attained to maturity he chose farming as his vocation. At Troy, Davis county, Iowa, on the 21st of July, 1859, Mr. Gandy wedded Miss Mary E. Phelps, a daughter of Harrison O. and Eliza (Dodds) Phelps, and a granddaughter of William Phelps. Of a family of eleven children she is the younger of the two now living, the elder being Alfred H., who is a farmer by vocation and who married Mary Hall, daughter of George and Nancy (Gandy) Hall, the children of this union being three in number.

Mr. and Mrs. Gandy were living on their Iowa farm when the Civil war broke out, and five of the sons of Samuel Gandy tendered their services in defense of the Union, all being accepted. Amos W., the subject of this memoir, enlisted in the Third Iowa Cavalry, with which gallant command he served until the close of the war and with which he made a splendid record for valiant and faithful service. He participated in the Wilson raid, which started from Gravelly Springs; he went with his regiment to Jackson, Mississippi, and he fought at Columbus and Baton Rouge, be-

sides taking part in many skirmishes and other minor engagements. He was finally mustered out of the service, at Louisville, Kentucky, and duly received his honorable discharge. In connection with the Civil war few of the pioneer families of Custer county can boast of a record equal to that of Mrs. Amos W. Gandy. In the service of the Union during this climacteric conflict were her father, her husband, three uncles and nine cousins. Among these William Vermilliar was a captain in the Thirty-third Iowa Infantry; Burr Vermilliar held the rank of lieutenant; her uncle, DeWitt Thomas, was colonel of the Ninety-third Indiana Infantry; and Charles Thomas, a cousin, was taken prisoner at Look-out Mountain, after which he was held by the enemy about one and one-half years, having been confined in Andersonville, Belle Isle, Libby, and Macon prisons. After the war one of the soldier cousins of Mrs. Gandy's served as United States marshal in Iowa, and he resigned at the time when Grover Cleveland was elected president.

At the close of the Civil war Amos W. Gandy returned to Iowa, where he continued his active association with agricultural pursuits until 1875, when he came to Nebraska and settled in York county. There he remained until the early '80s, when he came with his family to Custer county. Here he continued to be engaged in agricultural and stock-growing enterprise with marked success, the while he was closely identified with the best civic activities of the community, in which connection he became well known for his impregnable integrity and the public spirit which he displayed in supporting movements for the general good of the community.

Amos W. and Mary E. (Phelps) Gandy became the parents of nine children, and concerning the seven now living, the following brief record is given: Amanda E. is the wife of Lucian McCandless, who is a farmer near Broken Bow and a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America; they have five children. Jessie is the wife of George Spurgeon, a farmer in the state of Montana, and they have three children, one of whom, Paul, is at the time of this writing a member of the United States Marines, stationed at Key Point. Bertha M. is the wife of William L. Graham, who was formerly a prosperous merchant of Broken Bow but who is now a resident of the state of Washington, their children being two in number. Mary A. is the widow of James Preston, who died at Somers, Montana, and who is survived by four children. Clara Bell is the wife of William Blackwell, a prominent

banker at Bucklin, Kansas, and she has one daughter by a former marriage — Pauline Taylor. Frank O., who is engaged in the lumber business at Twin Falls, Idaho, married Ida Griswold and they have five children. Clinton E., who upheld the military honors of the family name by gallant service in the Philippine Islands at the time of the Spanish-American war, is now the proprietor of an automobile garage at Blackfoot, Idaho.

Practically all of the men connected with the Gandy family give allegiance to the Republican party, and without exception the members of the family belong to the Methodist Episcopal church. Mrs. Mary E. Gandy survives her husband and resides in Broken Bow, where she is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in the work of which she is deeply interested and in the support of which she makes liberal contributions. She has a wide acquaintanceship among the pioneers of Custer county and can relate many interesting reminiscences concerning the days when conditions here were still crude and primitive and when settlements were practically in the initiative stage. Her original American ancestors, who came in an early day, were from England, and the Phelps family has given in each successive generation a valuable element of citizenship.

MALCOLM D. STONE, an experienced farmer and respected citizen of Custer county, is not a native of the section in which he is well and favorably known, but the greater part of his life has been spent here and he knows whereof he speaks when he calls Custer county a fine farming territory.

Malcolm D. Stone was born at Grand Haven, Michigan, May 31, 1873, the only child of Lafayette and Imogene (Van Brunt) Stone. His father, who was probably born in Canada, died in 1885, in Michigan, where he was engaged in practice as a veterinary surgeon. The mother was born in Michigan and was a daughter of Leander Van Brunt. Mr. Stone does not remember very much about Michigan, as he was only four years old when the family moved to Ottawa, Illinois, but he remembers being on a big asparagus farm near there when he was six years old. Later he earned a dollar by working for a week cutting asparagus for market. When seven years old he was sent into a glass factory at Ottawa, where bottles and glass chimneys were manufactured, and he worked there until he was eleven and then accompanied his parents to Washington, Iowa. The death of his father made it necessary for him

to find a home for himself, and when fourteen years old he came to Custer county and was bound out to C. C. Biggerstaff, with whom he remained until he was twenty-one, in the meanwhile becoming a first-class, practical farmer. At present he is operating the farm of Mrs. Jennie Biggerstaff, which is situated north of Broken Bow.

Mr. Stone was married January 31, 1905, at Kearney, Nebraska to Miss Minnie A. Eagle, who is a daughter of Rev. Peter and Jane (McCurdy) Eagle, the ancestry being German on the father's side and Irish on the mother's. Rev. Peter Eagle was educated in Germany and is a clergyman of the Methodist Episcopal church, a circuit rider. Mr. and Mrs. Stone have three children: Dorris I., Leo M., and Eleanor M. Mr. Stone votes independently but his father was a Republican in politics.

ELLIS HANSON. — In the life record of Mr. Hanson are clearly set forth the advantages that America holds out to young men who, with nothing save their own industry, integrity, and self-reliance, set forth to face the world, with determination to gain a livelihood and eventually to build a home.

Ellis Hanson is a scion of sterling English ancestry. He was born in Keighley, Yorkshire, England, on the 9th of June, 1859, and his parents, Jonas and Sarah E. (Scaife) Hanson, were born and reared in that same locality. Jonas Hanson, who was an iron molder, worked diligently at his trade and was compelled to practice strict frugality in order to make the desired provision for the support of his family and for the proper rearing of his children. Of the four children, Ellis, the immediate subject of this review, was the firstborn; Mary is deceased; Mrs. Emma (Hanson) Thurman was the next in order of birth; and William is the youngest of the number. When Ellis Hanson was a youth of seventeen years his father brought the family to America and settled at Oelwein, Iowa, and at this point it may consistently be noted that eventually the father and son came to Custer county, Nebraska, in 1883, and took a homestead about three and one-half miles northwest of Oconto, the other members of the family coming to the new home in the following year. Thus this family is one that is entitled to pioneer distinction in the annals of Custer county history.

While Ellis Hanson was growing up in his English home, the needs of the family required that he contribute his quota to its support. Accordingly, when he was but seven

years of age, he began to work one-half of each day in a spinning factory, while for the other half-day he attended school. For one year he received only twenty-five cents a week for his services, and when he was thirteen years of age he was receiving the munificent sum of one dollar and twenty-five cents a week. It was at this age that he entered upon an apprenticeship to the trade of molder in an iron foundry that was one of the great industrial establishments of England, his apprenticeship and service covering a period of five years, during which his wages ranged from two to three dollars a week. Mr. Hanson has appreciatively stated that at the time of his parents' marriage his father was working as an apprentice and his mother was employed in a factory, where she received wages of one dollar and seventy-five cents a week. Mr. Hanson thinks that young people of the present day would hardly chance the responsibilities of matrimony on salaries of such diminutive proportions.

Ellis Hanson bore his full share of the burdens that fell upon the pioneers of Custer county, and here he has so ordered his affairs as to have attained large and worthy success. He and his wife have weathered the storms and endured the trials and hardships of the formative period in the county's history. They have emphatically "made good," and they now have a beautiful home, with all the appurtenances that make for comfort and well-being. They have 1,280 acres of land, and every cent of the purchase price of this extensive landed estate was obtained as the result of well directed agricultural and stock-raising enterprise in this county. Mr. and Mrs. Hanson are out of debt, and they have shown their patriotism and loyalty by investing twelve thousand dollars in Liberty bonds and thrift stamps within the period of the great world war. They have been glad to lend their money to their country, and were ready, if occasion required, to send their sons to the firing line — and that without murmur or protest — in order that militarism and autocracy, as exemplified by Germany, might be overcome for all time.

On the 1st of November, 1886, at Lexington, Custer county, was recorded the marriage of Ellis Hanson to Miss Ida J. Simmons, who was born at Bonaparte, Van Buren county, Iowa, a daughter of Michael and Mary E. (Dorsey) Simmons, both natives of Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Hanson have four fine children, in whom they have every reason to take pride. The eldest is Mrs. Cora Buckner. Harley E., the elder son, was in the last selective draft and prior to the close of the war had been

called into the nation's service. At the time when he was thus called to the colors he had \$1,000 in cash, and he invested the full amount in war-savings stamps. In addition to this he has purchased and paid for the old homestead of his paternal grandfather, this land adjoining that of his father. The younger daughter is Mrs. Annie L. Savage. Thomas S., the younger son, was placed in class 1, division 1 of the last selective draft, and had been called into service shortly before the great European conflict came to a close.

JAMES W. HUFFAKER. — All of the early settlers of Custer county did not come from the east or the north. Once in a while Missouri made Custer county a contribution. It was Missouri that gave James W. Huffaker to the major county of Nebraska. Mr. Huffaker was born in Missouri, in 1856, and is a son of Walter and Minerva (Bartee) Huffaker, in whose family circle were eight children: Elick, Payton, and Sallie are deceased; Mose, who is living at Garden Home, Oregon, has retired from active life, in the seventy-third year of his age; and Columbus, Nancy, James W., and Walter are the others who make up the family circle.

On the 25th day of January, 1884, James W. Huffaker married Miss Anna George, and their union has been blessed with eleven children, ten of whom are still living: Clarence, who married Dulcie Wolf, is a farmer and stock-raiser near Wild Horse, Colorado; Alice lives at the parental home but at present is teaching school at Lillian; Bertha lives in Colorado; Walter, at the time of this writing, is in Camp Funston, a member of the medical corps; James also is at Camp Funston and in the same corps with his brother; Erma lives at home; Leota is teaching school at Walworth; Connie is at home; Frank died in March, 1918, in the nineteenth year of his age; and Ted and Claud are at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Huffaker have been in Custer county ever since 1886, and in this period they have traveled the road of Custer county pioneers. They have had their difficulties, they have encountered their storms and have now come to the calm of riper years and rewarded toil. They were homesteaders of the early day and began with practically nothing, as compared with the property which surrounds them at the present time. To-day their place is well improved and their home is one of the monuments of the county's development. They have reared a family of whom they can justly be proud. With two of their sons in active service in connection with

the nation's participation in the world war, their daughter Bertha offered herself for service in the Red Cross, as army nurse, and all the other children are likewise a credit to the parental home and influence. This is a splendid family of good, substantial citizens. Mrs. Huffaker and some of her children are connected with the Methodist church.

JESSE F. SHOEMAKER, who is one of the substantial farmers and representative citizens of the Oconto section, was born at Lancaster, Iowa, on the 11th of September, 1861, and he is a son of Jacob and Sarah A. (Brunt) Shoemaker. Jacob Shoemaker was a contractor and builder, and in addition to following his trade in this way, he also gave his attention to farm enterprise. The maternal grandfather of Jesse F. Shoemaker was a clergyman and he continued earnestly in the work of his high calling until he was a veritable patriarch—he continued to serve in the pulpit until he was past ninety years of age, and it is worthy of note that during his entire ministerial career he never accepted remuneration for his services, preferring to devote his life gratuitously to service in consonance with his religious convictions. He officiated at a greater number of marriages than did any other six or eight men in his community. Jacob and Sarah A. (Brunt) Shoemaker became the parents of twelve children, all of whom are living except Mary E. and Dewitt, the latter having been drowned when he was fourteen years of age. The surviving children are as here noted: William B., Mrs. Clara Kellogg, Albert E., Belle (who remains with her mother), Jesse F., Samuel, George, Mrs. Elva Cavender, Mrs. Anna Rathman, and Mrs. Edna Lennon.

In the spring of 1871 Jacob Shoemaker came with his family to Nebraska and located in Mary, Brown county, but one year later he removed to Grand Island, Hall county. In the following year he established his residence on a pioneer farm three miles west of Grand Island, and there his death occurred in 1896, his widow still remaining on the old homestead, with her unmarried son and daughter. She and her husband bore the full weight of the burdens and trials incidental to the pioneer days, and endured the hardships incidental to the scourge of grasshoppers.

Jesse F. Shoemaker recalls that as a boy he earned his first money by dropping corn for his grandfather. He received five cents a day for this service and was very proud of the money he thus earned. He acquired his preliminary education in the pioneer schools of

Iowa, and was a lad of ten years at the time of the family removal to Nebraska, so that he well remembers the conditions and incidents that marked the pioneer period of the history of this state. The major part of his active career has been one of close identification with the basic industries of agriculture and stock-raising, and through his well ordered endeavors he has gained substantial success.

Mr. and Mrs. Shoemaker came to Custer county in August, 1904, and purchased 160 acres of land, four miles northwest of Oconto. Here he has since continued to reside, and he has the satisfaction of owning one of the finest quarter-sections of land in the Wood river valley, the place being now known as Pleasant View Stock Farm. Mr. Shoemaker is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America and is a member of the Oconto Home Guards. His wife holds membership in the Royal Neighbors and is a charter member of the War Mathers' Club of Omaha.

March 4, 1888, recorded the marriage of Mr. Shoemaker to Miss Mae E. Countryman, who was born in Franklin county, Iowa, and who is a daughter of Elias H. and Eunice L. (Bailey) Countryman, the former a native of the state of New York and the latter of Pennsylvania, the mother having been a devout member of the Methodist church. Elias H. Countryman gave valiant service as a soldier of the Union in the Civil war. He enlisted at the age of fifteen years, as drummer boy in the Fourteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and he served four years. He participated in several important battles, in one of which he was severely wounded, and after having been captured by the enemy he had the experience of being confined in Libby and Andersonville prisons, the names of which are infamous in the history of the conflict between the north and the south. In the Countryman family were the following children—Walter A., Mrs. Mae Shoemaker, Mrs. Rachel Brodgen, Cora E., Lyons, and Roy L.

In conclusion is given brief record concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Shoemaker. William H. met his death in a railway accident at Seneca, Nebraska, while he was employed as a brakeman on the railroad. Edna G. is the wife of Ernest Van Antwerp, a farmer near Lodi, Custer county, and they have three children, all daughters. Gladys M. is the wife of James Armour, a farmer near Etna, this county, and their three children are sons. Arthur R., who is a bachelor, is employed as a traction engineer and he resides at Chico, California. Albert E., a popular young bachelor, gave gallant service as an American soldier on the battle-fields of France—as a

member of Battery D, Field Artillery, a command which made a world record for the most accurate of practice-shooting, and he was killed in action September 21, 1918, in France. Myrtle E. is the wife of Arthur Weaver, a farmer living northeast of Oconto, and they have one son. Jesse H. and Cora P. remain at the parental home and are attending school, and Sarah L., youngest of the children, is eight years of age, in 1918, she being also a student in the public schools. In the death of Albert E. Shoemaker on the battlefields of France, Custer county made one more contribution to the roster of gallant young patriots who have given their lives in the great world war, and his name and memory merit enduring honor in the annals of Custer county and the state of Nebraska, as well as on the pages of our national history.

MELVIN K. KOLBO, who is a progressive young farmer, residing near Lodi, was born January 29, 1881, in Westby, Wisconsin. He is a son of Oliver J. and Christina (Lee) Kolbo, both natives of the rugged Scandanavian kingdom of Norway. Oliver J. Kolbo was a lifelong farmer and was a man of strong character and striking individuality — one who was held in high popular esteem.

Melvin K. Kolbo was but a small child when he came with his parents to Custer county, where he was reared and educated. He has been a farmer all his life. He began operations in the soil at the age of ten years, and through his energy and thrift in later years he has surrounded himself with fine farm equipments on a quarter-section of splendid land, three-fourths of a mile southwest of Lodi, where his farming operations are so skillful as to mark him as an example for emulation in a farming community.

April 13, 1904, at Lodi, Nebraska, Mr. Kolbo wedded Miss Grace L. Johnson, who was born in Chicago, although she comes, like her husband, of sturdy Norwegian stock. She is a daughter of Severt and Anna (Oren) Johnson, who came to the United States in 1880, and whose marriage here occurred a year and one-half later. They came to Custer county in 1885 and located a claim three miles west of Lodi. The father died the same year, when the youngest son in the family was ten weeks old. The mother now lives in Seattle, Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin K. Kolbo have six children — Anna C., in the eighth grade at school; Fay L., in the seventh grade; S. Lloyd, who has reached the third grade; Bernard M.,

Donald O., and Davie, aged respectively six, four, and two years (1919).

Mr. and Mrs. Kolbo are fine young people, with many years of activity and usefulness still before them, and those years, pregnant with promise, augur well for the accumulation of property, with ease and comfort for the proverbial "rainy day" and for the sundown of old age.

Mr. Kolbo takes an interest in public affairs, keeps himself well informed, and generally votes the Republican ticket. In religious matters the family is divided, the husband being connected with the Lutheran church and the wife maintaining connection with the Baptist church.

PERRY SLOGGETT. — One of the recent recruits to the farming industry of Custer county, Perry Sloggett has already illustrated the possession of energy and enthusiasm for his chosen calling that promises to carry him far. While he has just entered this kind of work, it is not to be assumed that he is without agricultural experience, for his boyhood was spent on a farm, and for seven years he was connected with a threshing outfit. As an agriculturist upon his own account, he is showing the benefits of his earlier training.

Mr. Sloggett was born on a farm in Ogle county, Illinois, June 11, 1881, a son of Alfred C. Sloggett, a review of whose career will be found elsewhere in this work. His education came from the country schools of Custer county, Nebraska, where the family had moved when he was a child, and the college at Broken Bow, where he spent two years in study, following which he returned to his father's farm and remained until he attained his majority. As before noted, he became identified with a threshing outfit, and, being possessed of mechanical ability and a liking for that kind of work, he was given the operation of the engine as his share of the work, and continued in that capacity for seven years. His love of mechanics also led him to accept a position in a garage, where for two years he studied the intricacies of the automobile, but in the spring of 1918 he returned to farming, and has since been engaged therein, as a general farmer. It is a little early to speak of the success which he has attained in this field, but it may well be noted that he is using modern methods in a practical and progressive way and that he brings to his new business the knowledge gained in his former years of experience. At this time he is renting 368 acres of land, and is steadily making improvements,

with a view to making his property more productive, as well as to save labor.

Mr. Sloggett was married March 29, 1915, to Miss Laura Jenkins, who was born in Custer county, a daughter of Charles and Minnie (Daniels) Jenkins, who reside seven miles south of Broken Bow. Mr. Jenkins was born in Wisconsin and Mrs. Jenkins in Pennsylvania, and they became residents of Nebraska in 1895, since which year they have been engaged in farming in Custer county. They are the parents of twelve children, namely: Miss Bessie, who makes her home with her parents; Laura, who is now Mrs. Sloggett; Irene, who is the wife of Joy Myers of Hastings, Nebraska; Myrtle and George, who reside at home; John, who is living with Mr. and Mrs. Sloggett; and Ross, Leonard, Joe, Charles, Malvern and Evelyn, who live at home. Mr. and Mrs. Sloggett are faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is fraternally affiliated with the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is popular with his fellow members. His interest in politics has been confined to his casting his ballot as a voter, and in this direction he reserves the right to chose his own candidates, irrespective of party lines. However, he is progressive in character and has always been a supporter of beneficial movements.

B. A. McDERMOTT owns and operates a farm of 160 acres, and the place is endeared to him by many gracious memories and associations, as it is the old homestead upon which his father located upon coming to Custer county, thirty-five years ago.

B. A. McDermott was born in Pocahontas county, Iowa, December 2, 1871. His father, Bernard McDermott, was born in Ireland and was a child when his parents, James and Ann (Dougherty) McDermott, came to America and settled in Canada. As a young man Bernard McDermott married Miss Bridget Riley, who likewise was born in Ireland and who was sixteen years of age when she came to America, in company with her parents, Patrick and Mary (Kearns) Riley. Upon his immigration to Iowa Bernard McDermott settled on a farm in Pocahontas county, where he continued his residence until 1883, when he came with his family to Custer county, Nebraska, and took a homestead in section 5, township 18, range 22. His first home was a sod house, and this farm was the stage of his productive activities for many years. He finally sold the farm to his son B. A., subject of this review, after which he retired to the village of Anselmo, where he died in November, 1905, at the age

of seventy-six years. He was a communicant of the Catholic church, as is also his widow, who still resides in this county. They became the parents of twelve children, of whom record is here given: Mary Ann is the wife of Thomas McDermott, of this county; James is a resident of Grand Island, Nebraska; Patrick and Michael are deceased; John resides in the city of Omaha; Margaret is the wife of James Milligan; Bridget Agnes is the wife of Samuel Bowman, of Fremont, Nebraska; Joseph remains in Custer county; B. A., who owns the old homestead farm, is the immediate subject of this review; Hugh is a resident of Omaha; William resides in Custer county; and Ella, who became the wife of Henry Morrissey, is deceased.

B. A. McDermott was a boy of twelve years when he accompanied his parents on their immigration to Custer county, where he gained his youthful quota of experience in connections with the hardships and vicissitudes of the pioneer days. He assisted effectively in the development and varied operations of the home farm and he purchased the farm when his father retired. Since that time he has devoted his energies to the operations and progressive activities of the old homestead and is consistently to be designated as one of the representative farmers of the county. The old "soddy" has given place to a frame house, which proves a modern and attractive domicile, and faces that appear frequently at its windows are those of representatives of the third generation of the family to call this farm "home."

As his wife and helpmeet B. A. McDermott wedded Miss Donna Scott, who was born in Indiana, and the four children of this union are: Thomas, Irene, Clara and Blanche. Mr. and Mrs. McDermott are members of the Catholic church, and in the community they have a host of friends.

WILLIAM S. WADDINGTON, a successful farmer and stockman of Custer county, was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, August 20, 1865, and is a son of James and Lydia (Boreland) Waddington, of whom further mention is made on other pages, in a sketch written for Samuel Waddington.

William S. Waddington was the second youngest of a family of sixteen children and accompanied the family to Custer county in 1886, making his home with his parents as long as they lived. He took a pre-emption on West Table, proved up on the same and resided there several years. He then disposed of that property and bought the land where

he now resides, becoming the owner of 560 acres. All of his land is under a high state of cultivation, and he is one of the successful farmers of the community. The farm is one of the well improved properties of the county, all of the buildings having been put here by the present owner.

For a wife and helpmeet Mr. Waddington chose Miss Ara May Burris, who was born at St. Mary's Kansas, a daughter of Sylvester and Eliza (Robinson) Burris, the former of whom was born in Ohio and the latter in England, their marriage having been solemnized in the state of Iowa. From the Hawkeye state Mr. and Mrs. Burris removed to and settled in Kansas. On the 15th of March, 1905, they came to Custer county, Nebraska, and located on the farm, in Victoria Precinct, where Mrs. Burris still maintains her home, as do also three of her sons and two of her daughters, the honored husband and father having passed away several years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Waddington became the parents of two daughters, of whom Nellie Jaunita is living, the name of the deceased daughter having been Lydia Viola.

Mr. Waddington has not only been an eyewitness of the vast changes that have taken place in Custer county since the family located here, thirty-two years ago, but he has also performed his part in the work of transformation and is to-day one of the substantial men of the county.

HANS J. KOLBO.—The countries of northern Europe, in their contribution to America, have contributed few better men than Hans J. Kolbo, who was born September 7, 1851, near to the capital city of Norway. He is a son of John and Carrie (Slatum) Kolbo, representatives of stanch old families in Norway, and in this sterling Norwegian family are eight children: May C. became the wife of Chris Torgenson, who was killed by a cattleman, in 1882, as the result of a quarrel about leaving open a gate on the Olive ranch, near Devil's Gap. His assailant struck him over the head with a revolver, and he lived about six weeks. The other members of the family are: Hans J., Christ, Martin, Mrs. Dinah (Kolbo) Johnston, John, and Barney.

Hans J. Kolbo's father came to the United States in 1861, and located on a farm in Vernon county, Wisconsin. Mr. Kolbo remembers that when he was eleven years of age he attended his first Fourth of July celebration in this country. During that day he earned ten cents, by running errands. This was the first money he ever earned, and it

also constituted the sum total of what he had to spend at the celebration.

"The young folks of to-day," says Mr. Kolbo, "expect their parents to give them five or ten dollars for the Fourth of July celebrations, but nothing of that kind was doing when I was young and began to attend celebrations and picnics."

Reared on the farm, Mr. Kolbo engaged in all kinds of farm work, and was especially attracted to the threshing operation—not the threshing sometimes administered by an irate ancestor, or a provoked school-teacher, but a grain-threshing operation that called for machinery and horses. This especially appealed to him, and in his boyhood years he learned to operate the separator and all parts of the machinery. He followed threshing for an occupation during six consecutive years, while yet in Wisconsin. Later he transferred operations to Custer county, Nebraska, where he continued in the threshing business and added another twenty years to his experience. He does not advise young men to try any "get-rich-quick" project by leaving the farm to engage in the threshing business.

January 8, 1878, at Westby, Wisconsin, Mr. Kolbo married Miss Agnette Johnson, who was born in Norway, a daughter of John and Patrene (Dahl) Johnson, representatives of sturdy Norwegian stock. In the Johnson family were twelve children. Those surviving are: Mrs. Clara J. Stairs, Peter W., Mrs. Elvina Browet, Mrs. Anna Bond, John, Henry G., Clarence, and Reuben.

Clarence Johnson made ready to do well his part as a member of our national forces in the great world war, and at the time of this writing he is a member of Battery D, One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Field Artillery, at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Reuben Johnson, youngest of the children, remains at home with his father.

Mr. and Mrs. Kolbo came to Custer county in 1882, and located on Wood river, one-half mile south of Lodi. Mr. Kolbo has just sold his land and is preparing to buy a new home. He and his wife belong to the Lutheran church, and are honest, industrious, frugal people who well represent the type of farmers and producers that has made Custer county the mighty emporium of resources that it is. In politics Mr. Kolbo is a Republican.

JAMES M. INGRAM.—The life record of James M. Ingram is an illustration of what may be accomplished by a laudable ambition and a determination to succeed. From the modest circumstances in which he found himself when he arrived in Custer county, twenty-

seven years ago, Mr. Ingram is to-day the owner of a splendid farm and the possessor of a competence.

Mr. Ingram was born in Vermilion county, Illinois, June 3, 1854, a son of Abe Ingram, who was born in Virginia and came to Illinois, settling in Vermilion county in 1851. The father married a Mrs. Huddleston, who bore the maiden name of Mary Kennedy. The parents were farming people and resided in Vermilion county till their death.

James M. Ingram spent the days of his boyhood and youth in his native county, and recalls having done work for "Uncle Joe" Cannon when their homes were not far apart. On reaching manhood he became a farmer, and he carried on agricultural pursuits in Illinois until 1891, when he came to Custer county, Nebraska, with his wife and their two children. His worldly possessions at that time consisted of a team and wagon and one dollar and forty cents in money. Some friend had arranged to have a place for them, but when they arrived, the house could not be had, so they moved into a dugout in the canyon twelve miles from where they now live. They lived in this primitive home from March until October. For several years Mr. Ingram rented land, and twenty-one years ago he came as a renter to the land he now owns. To-day he owns 320 acres, all under cultivation, having made a success of his undertakings. The sod house in which the family live was erected thirty-five years ago and at that time was the finest one in this part of the country; it is still a very comfortable home.

In Illinois, Mr. Ingram married Susan Davis, a native of Vermilion county, that state. Her parents, Reese and Lucinda (Rickert) Davis, were natives of Ohio and became early settlers of Vermilion county, Illinois, where they spent the remainder of their lives. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Ingram has been blessed with four children: Pearl married Inez Hutchinson and resides at Lakeside, Nebraska; Robert married Clara Herman and is a farmer in Custer county; Ida is the wife of Earl Meyer, a farmer of Custer county; and Ollie, unmarried, is still with his parents, assisting in carrying on the old farm.

Mr. Ingram has a record of having been a farmer fifty-four years continuously, has always been a hard-working man. The success which has come to him is the result of good judgment and years of persistent labor, and by all who know him he is held in the highest of esteem.

MICHAEL McCARTHY.—The subject of this record is one of the wide-awake, pro-

gressive farmers of Custer county, where he owns and operates 320 acres of land.

Michael McCarthy was born in Franklin county, New York, September 25, 1857. His father, Charles McCarthy, was a native of County Cork, Ireland, and was a young man when he came to America. In New York state he married Ann Haverty, who was a native of County Tipperary, Ireland, and who was a young woman when she came to the United States. The parents bought a farm in the wooded section of New York, where the father chopped the trees, cleared the land of stumps and carried on farming until 1863, when he removed to Hancock, on the upper peninsula of Michigan, and found employment in the copper mines. When his son Michael was a lad of twelve years the family home was established on a farm in Whiteside county, Illinois, where the parents resided many years, their last days being spent at Grand Island, Nebraska.

Michael McCarthy began working on a farm when twelve years old and received the magnificent wages of one dollar a week. When a young man of twenty years he came to Nebraska, and for several years he was in the employ of the Union Pacific and other railroads, having charge of a gang of men laying steel rails. It was while working in this capacity for the Burlington Railroad that he formed a liking for Dale valley, Custer county, and in 1903 he came here and purchased the northwest quarter of section 25, township 18, range 22, on which he has made extensive improvements, and recently, he has extended the boundaries of his holdings by purchasing a quarter-section adjoining on the north, all of which is devoted to general farming and stock-raising.

It seems that Dale valley had attractions for Mr. McCarthy other than her beautiful farms, for here he found a companion and helpmeet, when he was united in marriage to Miss Lizzie McGrath, a native of Kane county, Illinois, and a daughter of Philip McGrath, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume. The home of Mr. and Mrs. McCarthy has been blessed with four children: Philip, Edward, Mary, and Alice, all of whom are at home and assist in the work of the farm and the home. The family are communicants of the Catholic church and in politics Mr. McCarthy votes the Democratic ticket.

PHILIP McGRATH.—One of the pioneer settlers of Dale valley, Custer county, who has been called to his reward was Philip McGrath, who passed away at Merna, March 18 1916, at the patriarchal age of ninety-eight years.

Philip McGrath was born in County Tipperary, Ireland, June 29, 1818, next to the youngest of thirteen children born to Thomas and Nellie (Hanley) McGrath. He was reared and educated in his native land and was married there, February 1, 1848, to Miss Catherine Hogan, also of Irish birth. In July, 1848, they came to America and located first at Pleasantville, New York, where they spent six years, he being engaged in railroad work. In 1854 he went to Chicago, where he served three years on the police force, and they made their home in that city for several years. In 1861 they moved to Lily Lake, Illinois, and there Mr. McGrath carried on his first farming operations in America. In 1865 they went to Lacon, Marshall county, Illinois, which was their home for many years.

June 7, 1884 Mr. McGrath came to Custer county, to visit his daughter, Mrs. Terry Johnson, who with her husband had come to Nebraska in 1881 and secured a homestead in this county. Mr. McGrath bought a relinquishment on 160 acres in section 19, township 18, range 21, his family joining him the next year. Here he carried on agricultural pursuits for many years, and he then retired, in February, 1900, and moved to Merna. Mrs. McGrath was called to her final rest February 11, 1907. She was the mother of five children: Thomas, who has not been heard from by other members of the family for some time; Mrs. Al. Thomas, of Holly, Colorado; Mrs. Terry Johnson, of Sargent, Custer county; Mrs. Michael McCarthy, of this county; and Frank, a resident of Colorado.

Mr. McGrath passed through many discouragements in his early days in Nebraska and had the usual experiences of pioneer life. He served eleven years as treasurer of his school district. He was a successful man in business and had a host of friends. He was one of the oldest men in Custer county at the time of his death.

EMERSON R. PURCELL. — If one were delegated to choose the leaders of public affairs in Custer county he would name Emerson Purcell almost, if not quite, the first one. Since an early date he has been so actively identified with all matters of public interest, and so prominently before the public, that he is known throughout the entire country, and his acquaintance and reputation, not to be confined by county lines, extend throughout the state. He is editor and proprietor of the *Custer County Chief*, a paper so marked and dis-

tinguished among publications of its kind that further mention of it will follow later.

Emerson R. Purcell was born September 9, 1866, and is a son of the late George Purcell and Marietta (Root) Purcell, who still survives, and who during a long life has been an exceedingly devoted and careful mother. The father, George Purcell, was born in Dublin, Ireland, July 10, 1832, and died in Broken Bow, March 3, 1918. The mother was born in Connecticut, of old colonial stock. The parents were married in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1854, and their gracious companionship, covering a period of sixty-three years, was severed only by the death of the father. The celebration of their golden wedding was one of the largest gatherings of its kind ever held in Custer county.

In early life George Purcell was a carriage-painter. In later years, after his sons, Emerson R. and William G. Purcell, established the *Custer County Chief*, he had charge of the binding department of that establishment for several years. He came to Custer county in the spring of 1884, and he homesteaded and entered a tree claim north of Merna. He proved up on both of these places and one of them is still in the possession of the family.

George Purcell and his two sons, William G. and Edward H. Purcell, all took land north of Merna in 1884, and on their claims they erected three sod houses, which belonged to the mansion class of their day. George Purcell lived five years on his land, and later moved to Broken Bow, where he died on the date above recorded. In the immediate family of George Purcell and his good wife were four children: William G., whose home is in Broken Bow and who has individual mention elsewhere in this volume; Edward H. who lives in Broken Bow; Ella, who is deceased; and Emerson R., who is the subject of this sketch. George Purcell was a communicant of the Protestant Episcopal church, and was very devoted and liberal in its support. He was a quiet, unassuming man of sterling character, and had many friends in Broken Bow. The widow is a devout communicant of the Episcopal church and is revered by all who have come within the sphere of her gentle and gracious influence.

Essentially the entire career of Emerson R. Purcell belongs to Custer county. His early education was received in the district schools of Saline county, this state, and the public schools of Crete, that county, where later he finished at Doane College. His first work was done in a printing office at Crete. After



EMERSON R. PURCELL

coming to Broken Bow he secured a position in the old sod printing house in which the *Custer County Republican* was then published. He lived with his parents on the claim near Merna, and he and his brother, William G., worked for R. H. Miller, on the paper just mentioned. They had to undergo some hardships, but they were equal to the emergency. They brought their "grub" from home every Monday morning, and made sleeping apartments in the office. They had breakfast and supper in their room and took their dinner at the old Commercial hotel. This is the way they made their start in the printing and publishing business.

The year 1886 found William G. and Emerson R. Purcell established in a job-printing business of their own, in the building next to the sod *Republican* office, and as they look back now to that office, the dimensions of which were seven and one-half by sixteen feet, they feel that they have no occasion to despise the day of small things. A few weeks after the establishment of business for themselves, they built an addition on their office, twelve by sixteen feet, and this was their first expansion, as well as the beginning of business growth. In this place they did a large business. This was the year of the coming of the railroad and in the fall they established the first newspaper in the town of Merna. Emerson R. Purcell, who had not as yet reached his majority, assumed charge of the new venture, which was named the *Merna Record*, and the first issue was given to the public Thanksgiving day. He conducted this paper five years, during which time William G. conducted the job-printing business in Broken Bow. After disposing of the Merna business, Emerson R. returned to Broken Bow, and in April, 1892, the two brothers established the *Custer County Chief*. They continued as partners for fifteen years after the establishment of the *Chief*, and in 1907 the business had grown to such an extent that they found it advisable to divide the business, William G. taking over the job business and Emerson R. continuing the publication of the *Chief*.

The *Custer County Chief* has a larger weekly edition than any other country weekly in the state. It came into prominence as a weekly paper back in the '90s and, by the push and persistence of its editor, kept on increasing its patronage and influence until, in 1914, it reached the highest point in circulation of all weekly papers of its class in the state. Its present circulation is more than 4,200, and aside from standing at the head of the circu-

lation list in the state, it occupies fourth or fifth place among the country weeklies of its class in the United States.

December 23, 1896, recorded the marriage of Mr. Purcell to Grace Cox, of Broken Bow, she being a daughter of W. H. Cox, who came to Custer county in 1890, and served a number of years as manager of the Chicago Lumber Company. Mr. Cox was a tinner and plumber and eventually established a business for himself at Broken Bow.

In the Purcell family to-day are five children: Helen, who finished her education in the Broken Bow schools, later became secretary to the supervisor of playgrounds in Washington, D. C.; the other children are Josephine, Alice, Emerson R., Jr., and Harry Cady. Mrs. Purcell is a member of the Episcopal church. Mr. Purcell is high in Masonic circles, being a past master of the Masonic blue lodge, a Royal Arch Mason, a Knight Templar, a member of the Scottish Rite bodies and affiliated with the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He is also a past grand of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

A Democrat in politics, Mr. Purcell was, in November, 1918, elected to the Nebraska legislature from the Fifty-eighth district, and in the thirty-seventh session, which convened early in 1919, was an able member of that body. For many years he has been active in the Nebraska State Press Association and is now vice-president of that organization. He was identified with the Custer County Fair for many years, holding the position of both secretary and president at different times, and his success as a fair manager attracted such favorable attention in the state that he was elected, and for the past seven years has been, a member of the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture. He has been a recognized factor in the promotion and success of the great Nebraska State Fair and for the past three years has been one of the board of managers of that institution.

He has served his county and his community in too many capacities to warrant the enumerating of them here, but among his activities which are appreciated by his home town are his services as a member of the board of education, and his long term of service on the library board of the city. He served in the city council and was twice elected mayor of Broken Bow without opposition. It was during his term as mayor that municipal ownership of the present city waterworks plant was acquired by Broken Bow. He and his family are valuable assets of both the town and the

county, and the name of Emerson R. Purcell will always be linked in a most substantial way with the history of Custer county.

GEORGE W. SIMMONS.—Over in the vicinity of Milburn lives a successful farmer who is coming to the time of his retirement from hard work and active life. He has been successful, and has around him a good showing for his Custer county years of toil.

Mr. Simmons was born in the year 1858, and his good wife, Alice (Barber) Simmons, was born in the same year. Mrs. Simmons is a daughter of Philo and Sarah Jane Barber, her father having died in the sixtieth year of his age and the mother when in her fortieth year. Philo Barber was a railroad man and for a number of years he maintained the family home at Aurora, Hamilton county, Nebraska. He and his wife became the parents of eleven children, and of the number five are living in addition to Mrs. Simmons: Isaac is a farmer in the state of Washington; Tom is a Kansas farmer; Walter lives in Iowa and is retired from active work; John lives in Colorado, where he works at the carpenter trade; and Mrs. Susanna Mencer lives at Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Simmons is a son of John Simmons, and his mother's maiden name was Elizabeth Hazen. John Simmons, a man of general versatility and good education, turned his hand to several occupations. He served several years as sheriff of Sullivan county, Pennsylvania, and for a time taught school in that state. He at one time operated a blacksmith shop, and in these callings, varied as they might seem to be, he was rated as very successful.

George W. Simmons, the subject of this sketch, came to Custer county in 1879 and bought out a relinquishment, on which he filed a homestead entry. To this original homestead, by hard work and stringent economy, he has added until his landed possessions now consist of 640 acres, all well improved. On his ranch are to be found good blooded horses, a fine grade of shorthorn cattle, and Poland-China hogs of good and fancy grade. After his arrival in the county Mr. Simmons spent his first seven years working on a ranch. For four years he made his home in Seneca, where he was in the employ of the railroad company. He has had the varied experiences of the Custer county pioneer. He began with primitive improvements on his pioneer farm, these tentative improvements including a sod house, and he added to and replaced them until he has to-day the present excellent equipment.

Most of the life of Mr. Simmons has been spent in bachelorhood. It was only four years ago that he married the gracious wife and helpmeet who now makes for him a comfortable home.

Mr. Simmons is in good standing as a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and delights in attending all of the meetings of the lodge. In politics he is independent, selects his own principles, and votes for the man above reproach. Both he and his wife belong to the Christian church, and are liberal contributors to its maintenance. Very excellent people, and rated among the best in the vicinity of Milburn, is the estimate placed on this worthy couple by the Milburn community.

ANTON P. DOBESH, one of the most widely known men of Custer county, Nebraska, belongs to a representative family, and one that is highly respected wherever known. He is a man of business ability and energy, being progressive in his ideas and actively interested in all measures tending to advance the general welfare and prosperity.

Mr. Dobesh was born in the village of Rouchorany, Moravia, a part of Bohemia, January 13, 1861, and was next to the eldest of thirteen children born to Thomas and Josephine (Job) Dobesh. The parents were born, reared and married in Moravia and came to the United States in the spring of 1871, sailing from Bremen to Baltimore in the "Columbia," it is believed, and spending nineteen days on the water. With their six children they first located on a homestead which the father secured in Saunders county, Nebraska, and there several children were born. There were seven sons and six daughters in the family. One daughter, Annie, now Mrs. Poland, lives on the old home farm. Two sons and one daughter live in Custer county and one son and two daughters live in Butler county, Nebraska. The mother of these children died in Saunders county, in 1884, and the father died in 1916, at the age of eighty-five years. He had retired from farm life and lived in Weston, Saunders county. He was highly respected as an unright and reliable citizen and had many friends.

Anton P. Dobesh accompanied his parents to America when he was ten years old and as a youth helped with the work on the farm in Saunders county, where he received a common-school education. In the spring of 1879 he came to Custer county for the purpose of looking the county over, thinking to locate here. In due time he took a homestead

and a timber claim in sections 18 and 19, township 14, range 18. His nearest neighbor was four miles distant and the nearest trading point was Kearney. He is one of the homesteaders to retain possession of his original farm throughout the years to the present time and has been closely identified with the progress and development of the region. He has made a specialty of stock-raising and ships several car-loads of cattle to market each year. He is a self-made man and has passed through the various periods of hardship and privations that have been the lot of the old settlers in Custer county. He has made a specialty of Durham cattle and during later years has raised a large amount of grain. He owns 1,600 acres of rich farming land and is one of the successful farmers of central Nebraska. In Saunders county, on March 19, 1882, Mr. Dobesh was united in marriage to Mary Tomsicek, daughter of Joseph and Mary (Novacek) Tomsicek, who came to America in the spring of 1875, sailing from Bremen to Baltimore. Mr. and Mrs. Dobesh have five living children: Anton K. is married, lives in Custer county and has five children; Frank is farming; Josephine is at home; Thomas is farming and is individually mentioned on other pages; and Mary is at home. These children were all born on the homestead and attended the public schools.

Anton P. Dobesh was reared in the Catholic faith and is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. In politics he has been a staunch Republican and at one time was one of the only two members of his party in his precinct.

The hard times of the early '90s bore severely on the settlers, several years of drouth and hail succeeding each other with little intermission. In 1894 Mr. Dobesh harvested but little fodder and two years later lost everything by hail. As before stated, Kearney was their nearest market in the early years of settlement here, the trip requiring three or four days of travel. Deer and antelope were to be seen on the prairies in great numbers, but soon disappeared. Mr. Dobesh has now retired and is living in Ansley.

FRANK JELINEK is another young farmer in whose veins courses foreign blood of fine extraction and who is living in the vicinity of Mason City. He was born on July 8, 1883. His father, Joseph Jelinek, was a native of Bohemia and died, in Nebraska, at the age of forty-five years. The mother, Mary (Hiak) Jelinek, was also Bohemian by birth and lived just half a century, ending her

days in this country. In the family were nine children. Aside from Frank, the family roster reads as follows: Josie Howell, Mary L. Davis, both of whom are married to Custer county farmers; Fannie Fries, who lives in the vicinity of Elm creek; Hannabel, who is deceased; Barbara Smith, who lives in Alliance; Clara Senate, who lives on the old homestead; and Joseph and Fred, who are at the old home. The father first located in Wahoo, Saunders county, Nebraska, from which place he came to Custer county when twenty-one years of age and located homestead and timber claims. The place now contains 520 acres, on which are good buildings, and the farm land is developed into a high state of cultivation.

Frank Jelinek was married November 8, 1914, to Elvina Wagner, who is a member of a fine family and is a very estimable lady who is doing everything in her power to make a happy home and to contribute to the material advantages of farm life.

Mr. Jelinek has splendid live stock, owns his farm implements and is laying the foundation of a very successful career, when he shall have reaped the full benefit of the work he is now doing. He began life in a sod house, but for prosperous farmers the sod house only served the day of beginning, and something better soon came to take its place. This family was no exception.

Mr. Jelinek is a Republican in politics, is affiliated with the Knights of the Maccabees and he and his wife are members of the Evangelical church. Mrs. Jelinek carries insurance in the Woman's Accident Company. The energy they are displaying will insure a competency for the years of retirement and win them a reputation as industrious and desirable citizens.

JOSEPH H. CHERRY, JR.—Down in the Cumro section, by the winding South Loup, where the river valleys of fertile soil make corn and alfalfa prolific, and where the outlying hills graze fine herds of cattle, lives Joseph H. Cherry, Jr., a young farmer who was born in the old commonwealth of Wisconsin, thirty-five years ago. He is a son of Joseph and Mary (Williams) Cherry, both of whom are deceased. The father died December 6, 1917, in the sixty-sixth year of his age. The mother died in the forty-second year of her age, in Nuckolls county, Nebraska. In the family of Joseph Cherry were eleven children, five of whom are living at the present time—Mrs. Elizabeth J. Watts, who is living in Custer county; Joseph H., Jr., who is the subject

of this review; Hester Ann, who lives with her brother Joseph H.; and Mrs. Mary A. Morgan and John W., both of whom live in this county.

The migrations of Mr. Cherry have been rather extensive, and he has shifted about in seeking the land of promise, but found nothing to his liking until he struck Custer county. Born in Wisconsin, in the public schools of which state he received his early education, he moved from there to Iowa, then to Brown county, Nebraska; from there to Box Butte county, where he located a homestead; from Box Butte county to Custer county; then to Nuckolls county, whence, after a residence of five years, he returned to Custer county, and finally made up his mind that this was the best place he had found in his travels.

Mr. Cherry owns 240 acres of land, which he purchased, and upon which are good improvements and a fruit orchard. The house is of frame construction, is cozy and comfortable within, and will answer the purpose of the home domicile until such time as a larger and more pretentious building shall take its place, which time cannot be long, when we reckon with the thrift and energy displayed by Mr. Cherry.

Mr. Cherry is independent in politics, claims affiliation with no party, votes for the man whom he considers the best suited for the position, and thus discharges his obligation to his country. The family are connected with the Presbyterian church, and, withal, are good people of a substantial character, respected by the wide circle of friends and neighbors in their community.

LUCIAN McCANDLESS.—A resident of the same homestead property in Custer county for a period of thirty-six years, Lucian McCandless during this time has established himself firmly as one of the substantial and dependable men of the Broken Bow community. At the time of his arrival his capital was largely bounded up in self-faith, determination and a willingness to work sturdily and perseveringly; so well did he invest this capital that to-day he is possessed of 295 acres of some of the best and most productive land in the county, and of a recognized place in the esteem and confidence of his fellow citizens.

Mr. McCandless was born June 25, 1854, in McDonough county, Illinois, and is a son of Samuel Harper McCandless and Delia (Reed) McCandless. The family is of Scotch origin, but has lived in the United States for many years, William McCandless, the paternal

grandfather of the subject of this review, having been a Pennsylvanian by birth. In that state also, in 1816, was born Samuel Harper McCandless, a man of superior education and fine intellectual attainments, who in young manhood went to Illinois. He followed farming as a vocation, but also took a prominent part in public and political affairs, and in 1860 he was sent to the Illinois state legislature, where he made a splendid record for accomplishment and legislative ability. His death occurred on his Illinois farm, in 1861, when he was at the height of his career. In the Prairie state Mr. McCandless met and married a young school-teacher, Delia Reed, who was born in New York, in the year 1821, and who had lived for several years in Ohio. They became the parents of four children, of whom two are living: William Reed, of York, Nebraska; and Lucian, of this review. Mrs. McCandless died in 1900, in the faith of the Presbyterian church, of which her husband was a member. He was a Republican in his political views.

Lucian McCandless was reared and educated in Illinois and his youth was not one in which he was given numerous advantages, for his father had died when he was but seven years of age and it was necessary that he do his share in the support of the family. He left the home community in 1882 and came direct to Custer county, where he settled on the homestead that has since been the stage of his agricultural operations. Mr. McCandless is now the owner of 295 acres of productive land, situated within one mile of Broken Bow, and here he makes a specialty of dairying, with a good grade of Holstein and Durham cattle and some Swiss Jerseys. He is doing well also in hog-raising and in general farming, and his operations are all carried on along modern, progressive lines. Mr. McCandless has erected a handsome set of buildings, including a commodious, comfortable and well furnished residence, and the other improvements on the property are fully in keeping with these structures.

In 1878 Mr. McCandless was married, in Illinois, to Miss Emmeline Gandy, daughter of Amos W. Gandy, who came to Custer county in 1882 and farmed here until his death, his widow being now a resident of Broken Bow. Mr. and Mrs. McCandless became the parents of eight children, of whom five are living: William L. is cashier of the Berwyn State Bank, and in November, 1918, was elected treasurer of Custer county; Raymond B., who, in August, 1917, became a lieutenant of Company B, One Hundredth and Twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battery, was stationed at Camp

Deming, New Mexico, at the time this sketch was written. Harrison P., Mary Belle, and Charles W., remain at the parental home. Mr. and Mrs. McCandless and their children are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and he is fraternally affiliated with the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. As a rule he is a Republican in his political views, although inclined to be independent, and he has served acceptably in the capacities of justice of the peace and member of the board of county commissioners. As an agriculturist, business man and public official, as well as personally, his record is an excellent one, fully entitling him to the marked respect and esteem in which he is uniformly held by his fellow citizens.

ROBERT FARLEY.—One of the big men in the Milburn district, physically and influentially, is Robert Farley, a retired farmer and Custer county pioneer, who is known throughout the entire north region of the county, and who is a man of blameless character—one who by long residence and public activity has proven his worth.

Mr. Farley is a retired farmer, and has well earned the rest he enjoys in his declining years. He was born in Platte county, Missouri, February 14, 1844, and is a son of Josiah and Nancy (Mason) Farley. His father was a native of Tennessee, and was born in 1812. His mother was a native of Kentucky. When still a young man the father moved to Missouri, where he was married in the spring of 1841. In the home of Josiah Farley were born eight children, only two of whom now survive,—the subject of this sketch, and his brother, James E. Farley, of Milburn, this county. Josiah Farley died in Kansas, in 1857, having removed to that state with his family in the spring of the same year. His wife survived until 1872.

Robert Farley was educated in the common schools of Missouri, and from boyhood on he followed farming until he was eighteen years of age. In 1862 the call of the west overwhelmed every other youthful inclination, and an opportunity which came to him to wield the bull whip over the backs of freight oxen could not be resisted. Accordingly, he drove ox teams in hauling freight from Leavenworth, Kansas, to Denver, Colorado, the trip each way taking three months. Later, in 1883, he freighted with oxen between Leavenworth and Fort Union, New Mexico, hauling government supplies. He seemed to like the trail, and the camp had for him a peculiar

fascination. In 1864 he made a trip with oxen in an ox train from Fort Leavenworth to Salt Lake City. The caravan started from Leavenworth about the middle of August, 1864, and reached Fort Laramie, Wyoming, where they remained during the winter, and in the spring of 1865, they proceeded to Salt Lake City, which destination they reached July 24th. From Utah Mr. Farley drifted back into Missouri, where he farmed until 1868. Then the call of the trail came again, and he went to Texas, in quest of cattle which he and other cattle men were to drive to Abilene. In the spring of 1869 he helped take a herd of 2,000 cattle from Abilene to Spot Trail Agency, in South Dakota, and in 1871 he made that trip again with cattle. This outdoor, in-the-saddle and in-the-tent life had its fascinations, and the cattle business especially appealed to him, so he continued in the same occupation until 1880, when he came to Custer county, Nebraska, and homesteaded in section 10, township 20, range 21. He had been in Custer county on a previous trip, two years before this, which makes his advent into the county date from 1878. It was the same year, 1880, that he married Miss Ellen Carpenter, of West Union, a very estimable lady who became a faithful, companionable wife, and the mother of his six children. Concerning the children the following brief record is available: Nina, who was born May 13, 1881, is now the wife of F. R. Dryden, of Bed Rock, Colorado; Mary, who was born September 16, 1882, is the wife of John T. Huffman, a Custer county farmer; Gertrude, who was born March 28, 1884, is the wife of M. S. Daily, a prominent Custer county farmer who resides in the vicinity of Milburn; Ellen Frances, who was born December 14, 1885, is the wife of John Barton, of Dunning, Nebraska; Arthur, who was born July 20, 1887, is married and resides on the father's home place, and with him and his family Robert Farley makes his home; and Ruby, the youngest of the children, was born May 24, 1898.

To the homestead holding the Farleys added other land adjoining, until they had a considerable section of very valuable river-valley land. Recently some of this land has been sold, but the home is maintained on the old homestead.

Mr. Farley is one of Custer county's supervisors at the present time, and is a man somewhat advanced in years,—one who enjoys the confidence and respect of all his friends. His wife passed away April 4, 1901. Since that time his active labor has not been of the strenuous character that marked his

earlier manhood years. In politics Mr. Farley is a Democrat. He is a member of the Christian church.

HARRY F. BURNHAM.—Among the widely known residents of Custer county few are more highly considered than Harry Burnham, who has extensive farm and stock interests in the county and is prominent and trustworthy in public affairs. He has been a resident of Custer county for almost forty years and has been identified with its remarkable development along many lines.

Harry F. Burnham was born October 9, 1875, at Norway, in Oxford county, Maine. His parents were Horace and Lizzie (Frost) Burnham, of well known old New England families, the father having been born at Augusta, Maine, and the mother at Norway, that state. Harry F. Burnham has four brothers: Frank, Eugene, Sumner, and Silas, and two half-sisters, Lizzie and Addie. During all of his active career the father of Mr. Burnham carried on farming and dealing in live stock. He was a staunch Republican in his political opinions, and after coming to Nebraska, in 1877, he became affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America. His death occurred in Custer county, March 7, 1902. The mother of Harry Burnham died February 21, 1889.

When the parents of Harry F. Burnham moved from Maine to Nebraska he was only two years old; hence he has no recollection of what was then a journey of some magnitude. The family located in Lancaster county and lived there four years. Removal was then made to Custer county, where the father homesteaded, and since then the Burnhams have all belonged to this section. Harry Burnham attended the public schools, including the high school, and subsequently he completed a course in the Lincoln Business College, in the capital city of Nebraska. Mr. Burnham was brought up with the idea that educational training never comes amiss, and to his other acquirements, in the course of time, he added knowledge of the scientific methods that have made modern farming and stock-raising so much more profitable than ever before in this country, and this knowledge has been successfully applied in his extensive agricultural operations. It has been to intelligent farmers and stock-raisers that the country has looked for relief in time of war stress. Mr. Burnham's farm lies in section 28, township 35, Custer county, and because of his excellent methods of land treatment, his acres are growing more valuable day by day.

At Westerville, Nebraska, January 13, 1901, Mr. Burnham married Miss Maggie Copsey, who is a daughter of Alonzo and Annie (Wallin) Copsey, and they have two sons, Frank and Harry. Mr. Burnham has been a prominent factor in Republican political circles for a number of years and has served frequently in local offices of marked responsibility. He was supervisor of District No. 1 during the construction of the new court house, and was chairman of the county board during 1913 and 1914. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which latter organization he is very conspicuous and has held high offices.

ANSON T. MASON.—The man whose life's sketch is here appended belongs to a well known family of progressive, enterprising Cumro people—a family that in every possible way has made good in every undertaking, and has been an asset and a credit to Custer county.

Anson T. Mason is a native of Illinois, where he was born in the county that bears his name, in the year 1863. He is a son of Elias and Mary (Kane) Mason, of whose six children, five are still living, and have rendered valuable services to the localities in which they have their homes: Warren was born in Cumberland county, New Jersey; Isaac died in Custer county; Ella is the wife of Casper Thompson, a farmer living in New Jersey; Benajah is a Custer county farmer; the fifth born is Anson T., the man of whom we write; Mehetable married Charles Griffin and lives on a farm in Colorado.

The Mason family of which Anson T. is a representative came to Custer county in 1885 and homesteaded here. The boys took homesteads of their own, and all began operations in the new country with practically no capital. They were thrifty and industrious, and have at different times had extensive land holdings, equalling at least four sections at different times. In the family holdings are now one half-section of well improved land.

In 1911 Anson T. Mason married Mary (Rumbaugh) Mason, his brother's widow. Mrs. Mason's father came from Ohio and her mother from Pennsylvania, though she herself is a native of Michigan. At the time of her second marriage she had five children by Isaac Mason, her former husband: Ida is the wife of Nelson True, who has a home in Custer county; Delbert is deceased; Charles is a farmer and resides in this county; Lucy is the wife of John Cherry; and Harris Mason lives at Cumro, Custer county.

In the early days the Mason home was a dug-out. Later a sod house was built, in which they lived until sixteen years ago. When through with his first building operation, the young proprietor had besides his landed possessions, just fifty cents with which to face the world. In 1878 he moved into Saline county, where his father bought a quarter-section of land, and where the family lived for seven years, then moving to Custer county, where they now reside.

The Masons are among the best people of the community, and are devoted communicants of the Baptist church. Mr. Mason is independent in politics, selecting the candidate according to his standing and reputation.

FRANK H. DOBESH is a young, progressive and respected farmer, and is a member of a large family, all of whom have honored the family name. He is hard-working and energetic and has developed a farm which ranks well with the Custer county farms, the while he maintains a home that for the years of its existence equals the record of any. He is a son of Anton P. and Mary (Tomsicek) Dobesh, both natives of Bohemia, a definite mention of them appearing on other pages of this volume.

Frank H. is essentially and in fact a Custer county product, all his life having been spent in the county. He was married January 10, 1912, to Miss Cleo Knapp, who is a daughter of John Knapp, an implement dealer in Ansley. Into the Frank Dobesh home the passing years have brought four children — John, Marius, Valaire, and Gwenivere, all at home and constituting a happy quartet of promising children.

The land operated by Mr. Dobesh consists of 320 acres — a result of his purchase — and on the property are good improvements and a splendid home. He has fine horses, a good grade of cattle, and hogs of high breeding. He conducts general farming, raises all kinds of grain, depends upon corn and alfalfa and by practical application of good judgment and shrewd management makes every department of the farm pay profit. His wife, a very excellent lady, co-operates with him in every activity and does her part to maintain the high standards of the home. Aside from the immediate circle of his own family domiciled under his own farm roof, Mr. Dobesh has four brothers and sisters. Anton K. and Thomas both reside in this county, and both are individually represented elsewhere in this work; Josie is a bookkeeper in Omaha; Mary is at home in Ansley.

Mr. and Mrs. Dobesh are very agreeable, kindly neighbors, obliging under all conditions, and have high rating among their acquaintances and the large circle with whom they have dealings. In politics Mr. Dobesh subscribes to the principles of the Republican party and is one of the leaders and counselors in the local ranks of the party.

JAMES J. LEE has been prominent among the citizens of Berwyn for a number of years, in various capacities. He has been successful in the stock business, has been manager of a grain elevator, and has served as a public official. At the present time he is here one of the most progressive of the exponents of agricultural industry. Mr. Lee was born in Hall county, Nebraska, November 11, 1880, and is a son of John and Margaret (Cannon) Lee.

On both sides of the family Mr. Lee comes of Irish ancestors, both his paternal and maternal grandparents having died in the Emerald Isle. The parents of Mr. Lee were born in Ireland and their marriage was solemnized in Louisville, Kentucky. They came to Nebraska after several years of residence elsewhere. In 1886 John Lee secured a position in the service of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, and two years later he was made a section foreman, a position which he has held at Berwyn during a period of thirty years, and in which he has established an excellent record for fidelity and capable discharge of duty. His life has been a successful one, as he has not only taken care of his responsibilities in a manly and efficient manner, but has also been prosperous in a material way. He is now the owner of a good farm and other property. He is a staunch Democrat in his political allegiance, and his religious faith is that of the Catholic church, of which Mrs. Lee also is a devout member. Of their six children, three are living: James J., of this review, and John W. and Mary, who reside with their parents.

James J. Lee was given good educational advantages in his youth, attending first the common schools and later Grand Island College. After leaving the latter institution he was for a time engaged in the stock business, but disposed of his interests therein to take charge, as manager, of the Central Granaries elevator. He handled this enterprise in a capable way, but eventually turned his attention to farming, and he has since been successful in the accumulation of a good property and the building up a reputation for capability in a section that does not lack skilled men. He has

good buildings and up-to-date equipment and carries on his operations in a manner that leaves no doubt as to his progressiveness and his knowledge of his vocation.

Mr. Lee was married in 1909 to Miss Jennie Geeseman, who was born in Butler county, Nebraska, and who is a daughter of Orrin E. and Elizabeth A. Geeseman. Mr. Geeseman was a native of Ohio and an early settler of Nebraska, where he rounded out his life in farming and stock-raising. To Mr. and Mrs. Lee there have been born three children—Margaret, Elizabeth, and Berenice. Mr. Lee has invariably used his own judgment in supporting candidates for political offices, recognizing no party ties, and therefore he may be termed an independent voter. He has rendered excellent service to his community in the various public offices to which he has been elected by his fellow citizens, having been justice of the peace and town clerk, as well as a member of the board of county commissioners. At the present time he is acting as a member of the board of school directors. Mrs. Lee was postmistress of Berwyn for three and one-half years.

FRANK MILLER. — During a period covering the last quarter of a century Frank Miller has been engaged in the elevator business at Berwyn, where he is known as a progressive and industrious man and as one who has made his own way in the world. He has been a resident of Custer county since 1889, in which year he came here as a comparative stranger, without capital or other favoring influences. To-day he is one of the substantial men of the community, owning not only his successful grain-elevator business, but also a modern automobile garage, although his prosperity has not led him to change his mode of activity, and he is still industrious and strictly applied to his business responsibilities.

Mr. Miller was born in Lee county, Illinois, October 27, 1855, a son of Daniel and Cleo (Gittinger) Miller, the latter born in 1831, in Ohio. Daniel Miller was born in Pennsylvania, in 1822, and was a young man when he went to Ohio, in which state he was married. He remained there until 1855, in which year he moved westward to Illinois and took up a farm in Lee county. Mr. Miller had been a hard-working man, but various causes had combined to make him unfortunate, and when he started life anew on the Illinois prairies, it was with a debt of \$1,000 hanging over him. However, he made a great success of his life, not only clearing off his indebtedness, but also accumulating a competency which enabled him

to spend his declining years in comfort. His death occurred in 1910, when he had reached the advanced age of eighty-eight years, and his wife was sixty-eight years old when her death occurred, in 1899. They were faithful members of the Lutheran church, and were the parents of nine children, of whom eight are living. Mr. Miller was a Republican.

Frank Miller was the fourth in order of birth of his parents' children, and as the family was in rather modest circumstances during his boyhood, he did not enjoy any special advantages in the way of schooling, the while he was early called upon to do a man's work in the field. In 1878, when he was twenty-two years of age, he left the Illinois home and came to Nebraska, his first place of settlement being York. There he remained two years, following which he went to Colorado, where he spent the next five years in various pursuits. In July, 1885, he came to Custer county, where for a short time he worked in an elevator, and he then turned his attention to the grain business, still as an employe. By the year 1893 he had accumulated sufficient capital to permit him to engage in business on his own account, and during the years that have followed he has succeeded in building up a large and prosperous trade, his business relations and activities extending over a wide radius of the surrounding countryside. In 1917 Mr. Miller extended the scope of his business interests by building a large and up-to-date garage at Berwyn, and this also has attracted a large patronage. He does all kinds of repair work, and numbers among his customers not only the residents of Berwyn, but many who travel through this place from far-distant points and who have confidence in his integrity and workmanlike ability.

Mr. Miller's life has been one in which he has worked hard and in which he is still continuing to be industrious. He has always appreciated the dignity of labor, and has found that the best rewards in life come to those who have won their own way rather than those who have been the beneficiaries of the results of another man's labors. He is a Republican, but his interests have kept him busy to the exclusion of other affairs, and he has never cherished a desire for public preferment, at either the hands of political party or his fellow citizens.

BERNIE D. HORNE, who is one of Custer county's representative citizens and intelligent and enterprising farmers, has spent almost his entire life in Nebraska and has been identified with much of the development that has taken

place in the state. Mr. Horne was born near Cedar Rapids, Iowa, September 9, 1879. His parents are Fred F. and Elizabeth (Speck) Horne, the latter of whom was early left an orphan and was adopted and reared by her uncle, James Speck. Fred F. Horne was born near Bedford, Pennsylvania, a son of Jacob and Mary E. (Smith) Horne, who lived near Friendly Cove, that state. Mr. Horne is a retired business man of Marshalltown, Iowa. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in political matters he gives his support to the Prohibition party. They have three children: Mrs. Zulu Nelson, Bessie, and Bernie D.

Bernie D. Horne was four years old when his parents brought him to Nebraska. They located in Saunders county, two miles east of Ceresco, and there his boyhood was spent, his parents continuing to reside in that county for a number of years. In a successful man's career it is interesting to recall his first efforts looking to independence, and Mr. Horne believes the first money he ever really earned was when he hauled water to residents of Ceresco, who had no wells at that time, making many trips in carrying the precious fluid in buckets on his sled. He went to school with the sons of other pioneers and years later enjoyed better educational advantages, taking a business course and attending the Wesleyan University at Lincoln, Nebraska. He remained with his father until he was twenty-two years old and then engaged in farming for himself. For several years after his marriage he rented farm land, with the purchase of a nice home in view, however, and his cherished ambition was gratified when, in 1917, he and his estimable wife were able to buy the beautiful farm of J. T. Cole, containing 360 acres, which is favorably located just three one one-half miles north of Broken Bow, in Tappin valley. In the spring of 1918 they located here and this is a home of which they can be justly proud.

Mr. Horne was married February 25, 1903, in the Pleasant Hill Methodist Episcopal church, near Ceresco, to Miss Myrta Nicodemus, who is a daughter of Reuben F. and Mary (Boydston) Nicodemus, and a granddaughter of Jacob and Margaret (Fouse) Nicodemus and Burris B. and Rachel (Berge) Boydston. For eight years prior to her marriage Mrs. Horne taught school in Nebraska and for six of these years she drove ten miles a day, back and forth, through the heat of summer and storms of winter. The competency she thus earned she invested with her husband in their present beautiful farm. She is widely known and very highly thought of

as a teacher. Mr. and Mrs. Horne have three children: G. Marie, V. Ardis, and B. Gaylord. Mr. Horne has never been very active in politics and is an independent voter. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

ALBERT BADER. — An American farmer of German lineage, patriotic and loyal in his allegiance to this, his native country, Albert Bader, a representative farmer and citizen whose story is here recorded, equals in thrift and industry the best of whom the county boasts.

Mr. Bader was born in Illinois, July 2, 1882. He is a son of Stephen and Monika Bader, both natives of Germany. The parents immigrated to the United States about 1880 and settled in Illinois, where their marriage was solemnized the same year. The father followed farming in the state of his adoption until the year 1887, when with his family he came to Custer county and took a homestead in section 21, township 20, range 21. The mother died in 1905, and the father remarried. In 1911, with his second wife, he returned to Germany, where he now makes his home. In the father's family, aside from Albert, were two sisters — Anna, wife of George Fleishman, of Merna, Custer county, and Emily, wife of Charles McGraw, of Gates, Nebraska.

In his youth Albert Bader received the advantages of the public schools, and after his graduation in the high school at Wahpeton, North Dakota, he put his acquirements to practical test and utilization by turning his attention to pedagogic endeavors. In this connection he made an excellent record during the two years that he was engaged in teaching in the public schools. In Custer county Mr. Bader has proved himself a progressive and successful exponent of agricultural and livestock industry, and few in his community can be credited with the attainment of a greater measure of prosperity. His characteristics of thrift and industry have been so directed as abundantly to reward his toil. He is the owner of 760 acres of land in this county, and carries on a general agricultural and stock-raising business, keeping on hand at all times at least 100 head of cattle and many hogs. Everywhere on the premises is the evidence of prosperity. The stock looks fine, and the horses are well fed and advertise the good care they receive. The buildings on the place are adequate for all needs and show that they receive the attention of a painstaking manager.

In politics Mr. Bader is independent. His

religious affiliation is with the Roman Catholic church. He is a member of the Woodmen of the World, and, withal, is a substantial citizen upon whom the commonwealth can depend in every emergency. He has been liberal with his contributions to all demands.

June 23, 1909, recorded the marriage of Mr. Bader to Miss Marie Jestrabek, and they have three children — Clara, Irene, and Leo.

SAMUEL W. JACOBY. — Strict attention to business and undaunted faith in his ability to succeed, have been foremost factors in the rise of Samuel W. Jacoby, who is now the prosperous proprietor of a soft-drink parlor at Broken Bow. In whatever circumstances or whatever capacity he has found himself, he has never lost self-confidence, and his ready adaptability has made it possible for him to succeed where others might have failed. Mr. Jacoby was born at Burlington, Iowa, September 17, 1868, and is a son of William and Elizabeth (Laux) Jacoby.

William Jacoby was born in Germany, and at the age of seventeen years, in order to escape military service, he ran away from home and made his way to America, taking up his residence at Burlington, Iowa. For some years he was section boss on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, but his life was cut short in its prime and he was not allowed to taste the fruits of success. He and his wife both passed away at Burlington and were laid to rest in the graveyard of St. John's Catholic church, they having been lifelong members of that faith. They had four children: Michael, who died at the age of forty-four years; Mrs. Elizabeth Gavette, a widow, of Los Angeles, California; Mrs. Marie Warren, of Duluth, Minnesota, wife of the general superintendent of the Duluth Street Railway Company; and Samuel W.

At the birth of Samuel W. Jacoby his mother died, and he was only two years of age when he lost his father in death, and at that time an uncle, Sam Laux, undertook to rear him. He did so until the lad was seven and one-half years of age, at which time he began making his own living, and from that time to the present everything that he has had has been self-gained. By accepting such odd employment as presented itself, he managed to gain an education in the Burlington public schools, after leaving which he spent four years in the employ of Henry Fogle, at Middletown, with whom he learned the trade of carpenter. This he followed as a journeyman at various points, and during the latter '80s and early '90s he spent several years in California, where he went for

his wife's health. He was young and strong then and earned five dollars a day — considered remarkably good wages for a mechanic at that time. When he gave up his trade, it was to engage in railroading, starting at Burlington, Iowa, whence he was later transferred to Alliance, Nebraska. For twenty-three years he acted in the capacities of fireman and engineer, and his record as a railroad man was an excellent one. He resigned, with a clean card, April 24, 1912, and engaged in a retail liquor business at Ravenna, Nebraska, continuing therein until the state went dry, when he came to Broken Bow and, August 13, 1917, opened a soft-drink establishment. He has made a decided success of this venture, and his establishment has already become one of the most popular in the city, counting among its regular patrons some of the most representative families of the community. He has established a reputation as a man of good business ability and one who is faithful to his engagements, the while he has laid the foundation for many lasting friendships.

Mr. Jacoby was married in 1889 to Miss Jennie Speigle, who was born at Burlington, Iowa, where her mother still lives, her father being deceased. Mrs. Jacoby received her education in the public schools and resided in her native city until her marriage. She and her husband are consistent members of the Lutheran church. He belongs to Washington Camp No. 1, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of Burlington, in which he is past noble grand. In politics he takes an independent view, voting rather for the man than for the party which the candidate represents.

L. H. MASON. — One of the substantial citizens to be found in the Georgetown vicinity, where good men are far from being scarce, is the man whose name appears in the above title line. Modest in disposition, his life story should be modestly told, and its recital will pay a simple tribute to a worthy, honest, upright man who was reared in Custer county and who has made the county his home during the major portion of his lifetime.

Mr. Mason was born in 1875, and is a son of W. T. and Mary E. (Griffin) Mason. In the family of the father and mother were six children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the eldest. J. H. is in the employ of Oscar Thompson, in Custer county; F. M. is himself a farmer in this county; J. L. is another Custer county farmer; Mabel G. Horn has her home in this county; Grace Robinson lives in Ansley, this county. The father home-



GEORGE F. PALMER



MRS. GEORGE F. PALMER

steaded in Custer county in 1884, the same year that he moved here, and, with nothing for a foundation capital, he provided for his family and made for himself a home.

From a lad of nine years, L. H. Mason grew up in Custer county, and here he received his education in the public schools. Here he learned the art of western farming, and here he learned to handle and feed all kinds of stock, and to do it successfully. Here he started for himself and established his first home. It was here that he led to the marriage altar Miss Jennie Smith, who is his splendid helpmeet and the mother of his children. To them have been born three children: Jennie E., L. H., Jr., and Dorothy, all of them at home and contributing to the cheerfulness and brightness of the household.

At the present time Mr. Mason is employed on the Ed. Gould ranch, and is giving splendid satisfaction. Reliable and competent, the world has a demand for many just such men. He is a member of the Woodmen lodge, in which he takes an active part, and in politics he affiliates with the Republican party.

GEORGE F. PALMER. — The life of the late George Fremont Palmer was one in which there was illustrated the value of industry in labor and honesty and integrity in business transactions. Through the former, combined with his ability, he gained material position and accumulated a satisfying competence; through the latter he won and held the respect and confidence of his fellow citizens. There were few men better known in the field of horse-buying, and at Broken Bow, where he made his home for twenty-seven years and where his death occurred February 10, 1915, no man was held in higher esteem.

Mr. Palmer was born in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, June 15, 1855, a son of Freeman and Mary (Raught) Palmer. His parents were Pennsylvania farming people who never left that state, and George F. Palmer there received his early education in the district schools, while he had his early training along the line of agricultural work under the preceptorship of his father. He grew up to sturdy manhood and was married, in 1874, at Laceyville, Pennsylvania, to Miss Harriet Pierce, who was born at Middletown, that state, a daughter of Joseph and Hannah (Rowley) Pierce, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of New York. There were four children in the Pierce family, as follows: Mrs. Palmer; Edith, who died at the age of eighteen years; Addie, who became the wife of Sam

Brewster, and resides in New York; and Vere W., who for twenty years has been identified with a shoe factory at Johnson City, New York. Mr. and Mrs. Pierce, who were farming people, both passed away in Pennsylvania.

In 1878 Mr. and Mrs. Palmer changed their residence to St. Paul, Nebraska, and it was there that Mr. Palmer engaged in business as a horse-buyer. For three years he resided at Grand Island, and also for a time lived at Omaha, but in 1888 he came to Broken Bow, which continued as the stage of his activities and his successes during the remainder of his life. At one time during his career, in addition to his main business, he was engaged for three years in buying and selling hogs, in partnership with J. J. Wilson, but his principal enterprise was dealing in horses, and in his particular field there were few who were more successful and none better informed. He made a careful study of his business, which he found an interesting and congenial one, and thus he was able in many ways to outrank his competitors; but while he was shrewd and far-seeing, with an eye toward opportunity, his dealings were always honest and above-board, and his associates not only had the greatest of confidence in his judgment but also in his integrity.

Mr. and Mrs. Palmer became the parents of three children — Elton F., who is an express messenger at Broken Bow; Edson M., whose death occurred in 1907; and Hiram, who is assistant postmaster at Broken Bow. Mr. Palmer was a popular member of the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He was a Republican, and took an interest in political and civic affairs, but his only office was that of deputy United States marshal, in which position he served three years. His religious connection was with the Baptist church. Mrs. Palmer, who survives her husband, holds membership in the Methodist Episcopal church. While she resides at Broken Bow, where she has numerous appreciative friends, she is the owner of a valuable and well developed farm of 320 acres, seven miles from Broken Bow, and also has several pieces of city property.

COE KILGORE, whose story is related in this review, is a native of Bradford county, Pennsylvania, where he was born March 3, 1836. He is one of the oldest settlers in Custer county and had to do with the early formation of county affairs and the initial days of county development. His name often appears in the official record of the early days

and he is one of the men upon whom the honors of pioneer times and later day developments justly rest.

His father was John H. Kilgore and his mother's maiden name Lydia Haines. Both parents were natives of New Jersey. The father, who lived to be eighty-four years of age, was a tailor by trade but also farmed in Pennsylvania, where the subject of this sketch was born and spent his childhood years. There were nine children in the John Kilgore family: Robert lives in Elmira, New York, and is a successful farmer; Harriet is deceased; Coe is the subject of this sketch; William was a farmer and early-day settler in Custer county; the other children being Raymond, Sarah, Ellen, Anne, and one child who died in infancy.

In 1858 Coe Kilgore married Miss Libbie Lord; and to this estimable couple three children were born — Etta, who became the wife of Joshua Wood, one of the pioneer characters of this county; Willie, who died in infancy, in 1861; and Ellen, who married Tom Blunden.

Mr. Kilgore was again married, in 1883, when Anna Peterson became his wife. She is a daughter of Thomas C. and Anna Peterson, who came from Denmark in 1863, and walked most of the way from Ontario to Salt Lake City, hauling their goods with an ox team. They settled at Huntsville, where Mr. Peterson entered the mercantile business. They were connected with the Church of Latter Day Saints. There were no children by this second marriage.

In 1871 Mr. Kilgore came to Nebraska and settled at Gibbon, Buffalo county, but a year or so later he came to Custer county and at once entered upon his pioneer career. He homesteaded a fine piece of land and began operations in handling cattle and in stock-raising, in which enterprise he was very successful. In relating his experiences he says that he went "dead broke" when fifty years of age; but with loss of money he did not lose his pluck, nor was his indomitable spirit broken. He commenced again, and the same thrift and shrewdness which fastened the first success proved equal to the occasion the second time, and he is now well and comfortably fixed. He has enough to provide comfort and ease for the rest of his days. He recently sold an eighty-acre tract of land for ninety dollars an acre.

W. W. WILLIAMS. — The energetic and well directed efforts of W. W. Williams, of Broken Bow, have within three years resulted in the building up and development of a prosperous milk business and the placing of its

founder in a position of comparative financial independence. Mr. Williams was born in Virginia, February 11, 1877, a son of Hazel and Mary (Karnes) Williams, both natives of the Old Dominion.

Hazel Williams was engaged in agricultural pursuits and was a man of some standing and influence in his community in Virginia, where he served for a time as constable. However, he felt that he could better himself by coming to the west, and in October, 1885, he brought his family to Nebraska and took up a pre-emption claim of 160 acres in Custer county. After proving up on this property he continued to cultivate it for some time, making developments and improvements, and eventually he sold it and moved to a tract located south of New Helena, that being his home until the spring of 1918, when he once more sold, this time going to Anselmo, this county, his present place of residence. Mrs. Williams died in July, 1914, in the faith of the Baptist church. Mr. Williams is a Democrat politically. All of the thirteen children of this couple survive and all are living in Nebraska, W. W. having been the second in order of birth.

W. W. Williams received his education in the Custer county public schools and was reared as a farmer, being given a good training by his experienced and skilled father. He continued to follow the pursuits of the soil in a general way, but finally came to a realization of the opportunities offered to one who would establish a well conducted milk business, and in January, 1916, he initiated the venture that has since developed into substantial success. At that time he bought four acres of land at the limits of Broken Bow, where he installed a first-class dairy, having had everything planned out in the way of sanitation and expediency in handling the product. He now has large and commodious buildings, the most modern and highly improved equipment, including milking machines, and everything else that goes to make up an up-to-date plant of this kind. His product, delivered in bottles, has found favor with the people of Broken Bow and the surrounding country, because of its purity and high quality, and his business has continued to grow and expand until he is now doing between \$800 and \$900 a month. He milks an average of fifty cows, his fine herd of Holsteins being well kept and contented, and the service that he renders in the way of delivery is expeditious and gratifying to his customers. This is a business which has been built up entirely through the initiative and industry of its owner, and Mr. Williams may therefore be accounted one of Broken Bow's self-made men.

In November, 1897, Mr. Williams married

Miss Eva Roberts, who was born in Illinois, a daughter of Timothy Roberts, a farmer near New Helena, Nebraska. To this union there have been born six children: Rollie, who is his father's assistant in the milk business; and Charles, Lester, Mabel, Mary, and Ruth, all of whom are at home. Mr. Williams is a member of the Odd Fellows' lodge, in which he is very popular, and is a Democrat in politics. He has served efficiently as assessor of Victoria precinct, and in other ways has demonstrated his good citizenship and willingness to bear his share of the responsibilities of community life.

FRANK KULHANEK.—Custer county can well be proud of her younger sons, proud of those young farmers who were born within her borders and who are devoting to her industries the strength of their manhood years. A man of that kind is named in the title line above. He was born in the county and this has been his home until the present time. He comes of fine Bohemian extraction and belongs to a family widely known throughout the south and east regions of the county. He dates his nativity August 12, 1885, and belongs to the family of John Kulhanek, whose life sketch is recorded elsewhere in this volume. It was in the Custer county public schools that Frank Kulhanek received his early education—an education which, augmented by wide reading, has made him a well informed and competent citizen. It was here he began his agricultural pursuits and developed that facility in soil culture that makes him one of the prosperous farmers of the section in which he resides.

In 1910 Mr. Kulhanek was united in marriage to Miss Gladys Jones, who, like her husband, descends from a well known and reputable family. Two children have blessed their home and union, the first, Violet, adds much of life and energy to the household; the second, Dorothy, is deceased. Mr. Kulhanek bought his home farm about nine years ago and began operations in the farming line for himself. He owns 320 acres of well improved land and aside from being a careful, painstaking farmer he is an excellent judge of stock and is to be rated as one of the American food producers upon whom much has depended in the recent strenuous days of war activities and in making further provision now that the great war has terminated.

The Kulhaneks appreciate the advantages of this country, have a patriotic disposition, are loyal to the cause for which the country has

been at war and have been promoters of and contributors to all the various war drives so far inaugurated. Mr. Kulhanek belongs to the Knights of Pythias, in which order he maintains good standing.

WILLIAM R. TENNANT.—When he first came to Custer county, in 1888, the worldly possessions of William R. Tennant were represented by the span of mules which he had driven through from Missouri. He had the world before him, a cheerful outlook on life that goes with the individual just passing from youth into manhood, and inherent faith in his own ability to accomplish something, a faith that no discouragement could dim. This self-confidence has been more than justified, for to-day Mr. Tennant is one of the leading business citizens of Berwyn, the owner of a successful creamery and light-hardware business, and the possessor of a valuable farm which pays substantial dividends.

Mr. Tennant was born in Columbia county, Wisconsin, February 10, 1867, a son of John and Jennette (Tennant) Tennant, the former born in Canada in 1844 and the latter in 1846. The parents were married in Wisconsin, whence they moved to Missouri, and during the seven years that they lived in the latter state John Tennant prospered in his affairs. In 1874 he decided to try his fortune in Kansas, whose opportunities he had heard loudly praised, and accordingly he settled in that state, on a school section. This proved to be an ill starred move, for he almost immediately met with reverses which swept away his small fortunes, and his death occurred there in 1879, his wife having passed away the previous year. They were members of the Presbyterian church, and Mr. Tennant was a Republican in his political views. Of the six children in the family, but two are now living: William R., and Almeda, the wife of James Maddox, a farmer of Hanson, Nebraska.

William R. Tennant received a somewhat limited education in the country schools of Missouri and Kansas, and after the death of his parents, he and his sisters returned to the former state, where he was variously employed until he was twenty-one years old. At that time he struck out for himself, driving his greatly valued span of mules across the country until he arrived in Custer county, where he secured a homestead and in due time proved up on the same. For a number of years he was engaged in farming, and his success may be noted in the fact that he is to-day the owner of the old Evans farm, of 154 acres, located

one-half mile east of Berwyn, on which are carried on general farming operations, although Mr. Tennant supervises the operations rather than taking any active part in them. He has been successful in the raising of thoroughbred Jersey cattle, of which he ships a large number to the market each year, and he has been successful also in raising hogs. He is thoroughly informed in every branch of farming and stock-raising, and his long residence in Custer county has given him a reputation that makes him akin to an authority. In 1914 Mr. Tennant turned his attention to mercantile lines. For a time he was engaged in the implement business at Berwyn, but after his store and stock had been destroyed by fire he changed his line and is now conducting a creamery and light-hardware business, a field in which he has displayed marked ability for the affairs of trade and commerce. Just as his farm is beautifully improved with fine buildings and modern machinery, so is his store made attractive by a full line of superior stock of the latest manufacture. He has built up a good trade, in the development of which his pleasing personality has played a large part.

Mr. Tennant was married first to Miss Viola McRae, who was born in Indiana, and she died in 1894, leaving three children: Effie, the wife of Dr. H. C. Nichols, a practicing physician and surgeon of Carson, Iowa; Charles W., a member of the United States Regular Army and now stationed at New Orleans; and John Leonard, engaged in farming in Custer county. Mr. Tennant was again married in 1898, when he was united with Miss Maggie E. McCullough, who was born in Iowa, and who is a daughter of John W. and Nancy McCullough. The parents are now residents of Custer county. Mr. and Mrs. Tennant have three children — Eva, who works for her father; and Gracie and Howard W., at home. The family belongs to the Baptist church. Mr. Tennant is a Republican in politics, and his fraternal connections are with the local lodges of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in the latter of which he has passed through the various official chairs.

JOHN A. JENNINGS. — The name in this title line belongs to a man who has been eminently successful in the accumulation of this world's goods and who, as a soldier in the Civil war, rendered to his country the highest possible service that can either be demanded or rendered.

John A. Jennings was born in Warren coun-

ty, Illinois, in 1840. He was the first-born son of Zachariah and Mary (Morris) Jennings. In the immediate family of his father and mother were ten children, of whom only six are living at the present time. The second born was Joseph, who was a minister in the United Brethren church and who pursued his calling in the state of Iowa; Jane Gage is deceased; David is living in Iowa; Edward is a retired farmer in the Hawkeye state; Sarah Fitzsimmons is the widow of an Iowa farmer and maintains her home at Arlington, Iowa; George lives in Wadena, Iowa.

Reverting to the military record of John A. Jennings as a valiant young soldier in the Civil war, it is to be recorded that his name appeared on the roster of Company A, Twenty-eighth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He served through the entire war and was in the last charge at Blakely. He was also in the Vicksburg campaign and earned a record of being a splendid soldier.

The first marriage of Mr. Jennings occurred in 1861, at which time he led to the marriage altar Lucinda Newton, who thus became the wife of his youth, the home-maker of his active years and the mother of his eight children, concerning whom a brief record is here entered: Lydia is the widow of the late Joe Cherry; Mary married Fred Durvain and is living at Milton, Nebraska, in a good farm home; Anna and Emma died in infancy; Benjamin B. is the subject of an individual sketch on other pages of this work; Sadie married Ed Robinson and they reside in Milton, Nebraska; John is deceased.

Mr. Jennings retired from active life about ten years ago and has a very comfortable home at Sumner, Nebraska. He is an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic. About fifteen years ago, the wife of his youth was called to the life eternal. In 1905 Mr. Jennings contracted a second marriage, when he wedded Rachel Wheeler, who is now the companion of his declining years and who enjoys with him the home and reputation they have acquired. They have a large circle of friends, who are delighted to see them surrounded by comfort and plenty in the days of their retirement. Their accumulations have been the result of hard work and careful planning. When Mr. Jennings came to Custer county, in 1883, and pre-empted a quarter-section of land, he had three ponies, which constituted the bulk of his worldly possessions, and with these he commenced his farming operations. The first home was a dugout, the second a sod house, and in each of these the family lived for several years. The present landed possessions of

Mr. Jennings are of a valuable order and represent the splendid reward of tireless effort. What better praise does a county need than such an achievement on the part of one of its prominent citizens?

BENJAMIN B. JENNINGS.—This name belongs to a young farmer who was born in Custer county and who is here operating in the region of Cumro, where he has already demonstrated his farming ability and established a home. He is following in a very profitable way the occupation of his choosing and is forcing the soil to pay him lucrative tribute.

Mr. Jennings was born May 12, 1885, on the home place of his father, John A. Jennings, of whom individual mention is made on other pages of this volume. His entire career to the present time has run its course within the confines of Custer county. Here he passed his boyhood years and searched for knowledge in the common schools—a search which was rewarded in such a way as to make him a good business man and an intelligent citizen.

In 1905, two days after Christmas, Mr. Jennings led to the marriage altar Miss Matie Overton, who was born March 18, 1888, and who presides over his home and who has been unto him a companionable wife and valuable assistant. Domestic in her inclination, Mrs. Jennings has been a good homemaker and is the fond and careful mother of their two sons, Everett A., born June 22, 1908, and Raymond R., born January 14, 1911. These energetic lads, full of romp and life, are contributing to the happiness of the home.

Mr. Jennings is farming 160 acres of land which belongs to his father and on which is maintained a splendid set of buildings ample to meet the requirements of all the operations of a farm of this size. General farming, in which crops are rotated and cereals of all kinds featured, is energetically conducted.

Mr. and Mrs. Jennings are highly respected, have the confidence of a large circle of friends and neighbors and, as the years go by, their toil and effort will bring the reward and the emoluments which shall bless the years of their retirement.

GORDON THOMAS.—Another young farmer living in the vicinity of Ansley, from which place the rural route brings his mail, is Gordon Thomas, who was but two years old when he came with his parents to Custer county.

He was born November 19, 1883, in Pike

county, Missouri, and is a son of George Thomas, whose life sketch is a matter of record in this volume. Since he was but two years of age when he came to Custer, it goes without saying that here Mr. Thomas ran the gamut of his boyhood years and received his education in the public schools. On May 29, 1907, he and Nella Miller plighted their fortunes and joined their lives at the marriage altar. The bride, who came to Custer county when one year of age, is a daughter of J. C. Miller, a Custer county citizen who came with his family from Greene County, Iowa, in 1885. He has been a resident of this county since that times and still lives on his homestead near Ansley.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas have had but one child, which died in infancy. The splendid home Mr. Thomas maintains is the direct result of his own energy. He commenced operations when young, and by good judgment and exceeding diligence now owns a well improved farm of 334 acres, on which he does a profitable farming business. The main feature of the stock-raising part of his operation is hogs. He specializes in fat, blocky porkers and they have been in the last few years a source of great profit.

To-day Mr. Thomas would be rated as well-to-do and prosperous, but he has seen pioneer days and remembers the hard times of 1894, at which time his people moved back to Pike county, Missouri, in a covered wagon. Those days, however, are past and gone; they will never come again; the development of the land and its resources have provided for the present generation and secured them against any repetition of former calamities.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas are members of the Grange and in the matter of politics Mr. Thomas exercises his own judgment. They are a very excellent couple, held in high respect and esteem throughout their community.

GEORGE H. HART.—The mercantile interests of the prosperous little city of Berwyn are well represented by George H. Hart, who has here been the proprietor of a thriving establishment since 1906. Mr. Hart belongs to the energetic, enthusiastic class of business men, and has a wide acquaintance in Custer county, where he has been a resident for thirty years.

Mr. Hart was born in Harrison county, Indiana, January 19, 1876, and is a son of John W. and Maggie (Walter) Hart, both born in Indiana. His father was for many years a merchant in the southern part of the state, and

was well along the highway toward success when death overtook him. He was a Catholic in his religious view, and was a man uniformly esteemed and respected in business and social circles. While he never held public office, he was a staunch Democrat. He and his wife became the parents of three children: Katie J. is the wife of J. M. DeVolt, of Custer county; George H., of this review; and John, a farmer of the Berwyn community. After her first husband's death Mrs. Hart married George W. McRae, now a successful retired farmer of Berwyn, a sketch of whose career will be found elsewhere in this work.

George H. Hart received his education in the public schools of Indiana and Custer county, having been brought to the west by his mother in 1888. Upon attaining years of maturity he engaged in farming, and continued to be so occupied until 1906, when he turned his attention to commercial affairs, and since then has been busily engaged in building up a lucrative and representative patronage among the people of Berwyn and the surrounding country. Mr. Hart carries an attractive and well arranged stock, selected in accordance with the needs of the people of the locality, and his good business management has enabled him to make a decided success of his undertaking. He is a Republican in politics and takes some interest in local government affairs, but his only public office has been that of member of the school board, he having been on that body for ten years. Fraternally he is a well known Woodman and Odd Fellow, and has passed through the chairs in both lodges. His public-spirited citizenship is well known among his fellow citizens.

Mr. Hart was married in 1900 to Miss Andrea Christensen, who was born in Denmark, a daughter of Jens Christensen, an early settler of Custer county. Mrs. Hart died June 3, 1918, in the faith of the Lutheran church, leaving three children: Vera, Howard, and Harold.

WILLIAM O. BOWLEY was one of the first settlers of Custer county, arriving here but one year after the first permanent settlement was made, and it is fitting that in this publication be entered a tribute to his memory. A native of West Virginia, he was born in Monroe county, December 18, 1838. His parents were Presley and Nancy (Fair) Bowley, who were natives of the Old Dominion, and who there moved in an early day to what is now West Virginia, where they spent the remainder of their lives in Monroe county.

William O. Bowley was reared on a farm in his native county and December 26, 1867, he was united in marriage to Miss Ena Callaway Minerva Jane Huddleston, who was born in the state of West Virginia, her natal day being March 22, 1847. Her parents, Abraham and Leah (Bowyer) Huddleston, were natives of Virginia, the Huddleston family having been founded in that historic commonwealth more than 300 years ago.

In the spring of 1875 Mr. and Mrs. William O. Bowley started for the far west, coming by rail to Kearney, Nebraska, and there paying forty dollars for transportation to Loup City, where they remained from May until September. They then purchased an ox team and wagon and came on to Custer county, where they secured a homestead in section 20, township 19, range 21. On this embryonic farm they erected a log house with a dirt roof and dirt floor and became permanent settlers of the county—neighbors of Charles R. Mathews, who was the first to locate here, only one year before. Pioneer conditions were on every hand, hardships and privations were to be endured, but these early settlers were people of determination, and obstacles were met and overcome with that fortitude which is possessed by no people in greater measure than the pioneers of a new country. The nearest trading point was Loup City, but when anything worth while was needed the Bowleys had to go to Kearney, and it was not till 1880 that they secured the lumber for a floor in their house. There was an abundance of cedar trees growing in the canyons and from these they hewed the logs for the house which was the home of the family until was built the frame house which still stands on the old farm. A tree claim was added to the old homestead, and here was the scene of activities of this pioneer couple until 1909, when Mr. and Mrs. Bowley left the farm and retired to Anselmo. Here on the 6th of April, 1913, Mr. Bowley was called to his final rest, and in his passing his family lost a loving husband and father and the county a loyal citizen and honored pioneer.

Mr. and Mrs. Bowley were the parents of six children, as follows: James R. resides at Taylor, Loup county, Nebraska; D. G. is a farmer north of Merna, Custer county; Oscar resides at Taylor, Nebraska; Annie is the wife of Burt Garrison and they reside in Custer county; John is operating the home farm; and DeWitt is a business man of Broken Bow.

Mrs. Bowley still owns the old farm but resides in Merna. Many are the interesting stories and incidents related by her, and some

of these have a place in the general history of Custer county. A few of the personal experiences of this pioneer family will not be out of place in a sketch of this kind.

In the fall of 1880 Mr. Bowley made a trip to Kearney for provisions, and he had started with a load when an awful blizzard came on, and for ten miles he stopped at every house and asked for accommodations in the way of shelter from the storm. At last he stopped at a house where some little children were at home, but the parents, who had gone on a visit or were absent for some other reason, were not at home. The oldest of these children, a girl of about fourteen years, realized how bad the storm was and let Mr. Bowley come in. He was there five days before the storm abated enough for him to continue his journey. The family who played the good Samaritan were Norwegians or Swedes and impressed their guest as being very pious. Whenever they sat down to a meal all would bow their heads and each child would say a few words of thanks. At night before retiring the oldest girl would read a chapter from the Bible and each child would repeat a prayer, all in a language foreign to the stranger. Though not a member of any religious organization, Mr. Bowley was much impressed with the religious fervor of the family and often told the story. It was fortunate that enough of the real early settlers are still with us and can tell of the hardships and experiences of those pioneer days, as they will in years to come be a source of real inspiration to future generations.

Mr. Bowley accepted religion before his death and Mrs. Bowley has been a Methodist for twenty years. Though past the psalmist's allotted span of three score years and ten, Mrs. Bowley still manages her own household duties and finds time to assist in Red Cross work, by knitting for the soldiers. The historian would be remiss in his duties did he not enter on the pages of this Custer county history the life record of such sterling pioneers as Mr. and Mrs. Bowley.

CHARLES RICHARD MATHEWS.—One of the unique characters of the present day is the venerable citizen whose full name is paraded in the title line, but who is widely known throughout the county as Judge Mathews, a title which he earned in his official capacity as county judge in an early day. The honor of being the first settler of the county lies between Judge Mathews and Lewis R. Dowse, of Comstock, and Judge Boblits, of

the South Loup. These three, and perhaps a few more, constituted the advance guard and are deserving of all the honors to which their early-day sacrifices entitle them.

The Judge is a native of Pocahontas county, Virginia, now West Virginia, at which place he was born March 11, 1838. His father was Samuel G. and his mother Neoma (Hudson) Mathews, both natives of Virginia and the father a direct descendant of Governor Mathews who was the colonial governor of Virginia, in 1660, and for whom Mathews county, Kentucky, was named. Scotch-Irish blood flows in the Judge's veins and imparts to him the characteristics of that ratio combination.

His boyhood days were spent in his native state, where he attended the public schools and later finished his education in Washington College, an institution which was burned during the Civil war. His people were well-to-do when the war broke out, but the region in which they lived was a sort of "no man's land" or a buffer strip of territory between the contending forces.

The Judge was one of a family of seven children. One brother entered the Confederate army and served with distinction, being promoted to the rank of captain. This brother is now a resident of Greenbrier, Virginia, where he has accumulated a small fortune. The Judge himself was exempt from military duty because of physical disability—a white swelling in one of his limbs made him a life cripple and has handicapped his activities during all his residence in Custer county.

In May, 1874, the Judge landed in Custer county. He was carried across the Loup river on the back of Harve Andrews, and with a party of friends made his way into the New Helena district, where he located his present homestead and built on it the house he occupies at the present day. At that time the county was unorganized, had no schools, no postoffices, and none of the present-day organized conveniences. The Judge, however, was young and ambitious and, having received a liberal education, was looked upon as a leader. He probably wrote the first petition that ever requested the organization of a school district. This was presented to the Valley county superintendent of public instruction and secured the organization of the New Helena school district. But for a protest on the part of a man named Merchant, this would have been the first district organized in the county. As it turned out, however, it became school district No. 2. The Judge also wrote the first petition presented to the supervisors

of the new county after its organization, in which he and his neighbors joined in asking for a voting precinct in the vicinity of New Helena, which was granted them. The Judge also holds a commission as postmaster, signed by the postmaster-general under President Grant and designating him as postmaster at New Helena in Kountz county, Nebraska, by which name the county was known before it was organized and christened Custer. The Judge took a hand in early-day politics and in those early days when political affiliations were little heeded he was one of the leading spirits in all public affairs. He was the third county judge elected to serve in Custer county and held the office for two terms, with credit to himself and with valuable service to the county. His homestead, on Victoria creek, was one of the best in the county. Low ground and fertile soil made it especially prolific in the production of trees and, consequently, one of the largest groves in the county flanks either bank of the little stream and surrounds his picturesque log cabin. He has retained but eighty acres of his homestead, which has always been rented, owing to the fact that he was not able to work it himself. His habitation is unique. Two cedar cabins, made of solid cedar logs, are, perhaps, twelve by fourteen feet, and stand close together, with doors facing each other in genuine southern style. The only thing lacking to complete the southern architecture is the providing of a roof over the passage-way between them. Here for forty-four years, like King David, the Judge has lived in a house of cedar and here, no doubt, he will end his days. Every pioneer of Custer county will attend his obsequies and bury with honors the Custer county pioneer.

On the Judge's farm is a mineral spring which is said to be the only mineral spring in the state of Nebraska. A few years ago he built a warehouse, provided bottling machinery and commenced to ship the mineral products of the spring out into the markets of the world, but owing to his lameness and physical inability to look after the business, he discontinued the operation.

The Judge is a man of rare qualities, with artistic and classic mind. He is a genius with the pen and writes a hand that closely resembles steel plate. His drawings of birds and flowers, scrolls and escutcheons, engrossed with Latin mottoes and embodying lofty sentiments, are very remarkable and have attracted the attention of all his friends. He has a genius for literature and has written very commendable poetry, some of which embodies his liberal religious views and high ideals of morality.

One of his short poems is published in another chapter of this volume and pays splendid tribute to the womanhood of the west. His literary ideals are artistic and inclined to the classic. His conversation, as well as some of his writings, discloses very readily to the careful observer that the Judge has been a careful student of Pope's "Essay on Man."

Withal, Custer county has had no more remarkable citizen and one who has rendered more valuable assistance in the development of the county. His political tendencies to-day are toward the Democratic party, with which he affiliates on most national and state propositions, but locally the Judge has friends in both parties and his sense of justice and honor stimulates him to weigh the individual planes of local candidates and cast his vote accordingly.

The family from which the Judge descends has held the faith of the Presbyterian church and has been very closely allied to the fine old aristocracy of the Virginia planters. Consequently, the blood of the Cavalier flows in the veins of our distinguished citizen and finds expression in his open-hearted hospitality and courtly manners. Any man, woman, or child who ever met Judge Mathews was heartily welcomed, delightfully entertained, and has ever since that time been his staunch friend.

WILLIAM H. KELLY is one of the enterprising farmers of Custer county and is a citizen who well merits recognition in this history.

William H. Kelly was born in Grundy county, Illinois, November 2, 1867, and is a brother of R. J. Kelly, of Merna, who has furnished data for the sketch of the Kelly family, which will be found elsewhere in this volume. William H. Kelly was reared on a farm in Iroquois county, Illinois, where his parents located when he was a child. He and two brothers remained at home and operated the farm until the death of the parents, when the estate was divided and the brothers came to Custer county and bought land.

Mr. Kelly is the owner of the southeast quarter of section 31, township 18, range 21, also 160 acres east of Merna, and 320 acres in the north part of the county, this last being used for pasture land.

In Illinois Mr. Kelly married Miss Frances Spitz, a native of Iroquois county, that state, and they have six children—Olive, Bernice, Walter, Robert, Lawrence, and Margaret—all of whom are still at home.

Mr. Kelly is the owner of a splendid proper-

ty, with a first-class set of improvements, the value of the land being enhanced by its proximity to the village of Merna, the corporate limits of which it adjoins. The family are members of the Catholic church and Mr. Kelly is a Democrat in politics.

EBER BARBER, than whom Custer county has no better known or more highly respected pioneer resident, has been identified with the development of this section for almost forty years and has done his full part in bringing about the substantial conditions which make Custer county one of the most desirable parts of Nebraska. Mr. Barber comes of old New England stock, and was born at South Kingston, Rhode Island, September 1, 1848. His parents were James C. and Elizabeth (Sherman) Barber, and his grandparents were Moses and Sarah Barber and Eber Sherman, all of South Kingston. Farming has been the general family occupation, and the principles of the Democratic party have been adhered to for generations. The parents of Mr. Barber were members of the Free Will Baptist church. The names of their children are here given: George, Pardon, Mrs. Mary Fielden, Mrs. Elizabeth Dulphy, Mrs. Patience Coon, Eber, and Sarah.

Eber Barber was but nine years old when his father died and little provision had been made for the widow and children beyond the income from the Rhode Island farm, and Eber, as soon as possible, assumed the responsibility of caring for his mother and youngest sister, beginning to work for wages when very young and being elated over the sum his grandfather gave him for picking apples. He remained on the home farm until he was twenty-eight years of age, carrying on its various industries as best he could and in the meanwhile he attended school as opportunity offered. In 1879 he came to Nebraska and located a very valuable claim, which is now known as the old Krutzen ranch, on the South Loup river, and which is now the home place of Judge Eugene J. Boblits. Mr. Barber sold his claim by relinquishment in 1882 and located the land he now owns, six miles northeast of Broken Bow. Here he has 477 acres, 175 of which are under cultivation. All his land is substantially fenced and cross-fenced and among recent improvements made, at a cost of \$3,000, is a handsome residence that cost \$1,200. An adopted son, George Barber, operates the farm, Mr. Barber and his wife having retired some time since to Broken Bow, where both have many friends. In addition to his other business affairs, Mr.

Barber operated a livery barn at Broken Bow during 1889-90.

Mr. Barber was married in April, 1872, at South Coventry, Rhode Island, to Miss Fannie Place, a stepdaughter of Orville Belknap, who came to Nebraska and settled at the forks of Wood river. To that marriage one daughter was born, Alice E. Barber. Mr. Barber's second marriage took place at Broken Bow, March 10, 1890, when Mrs. Elizabeth Meade became his wife. Her parents were Nathan and Candace S. (Ward) Whipple, who were natives of Vermont. Mr. and Mrs. Barber are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Barber retains a lively interest in the early days of Custer county and can relate many interesting incidents of those times, now all passed away, although they should not be forgotten, for it was through the hardships and privations of pioneer days that the present prosperous and peaceful ones have come.

FRANK H. WEISENVEDER, whose business foresight and large acreage of productive land make him one of Custer county's substantial capitalists, is a native of Nebraska and was born near Aspinwall, in Nemaha county, December 15, 1875. His parents are Edward and Wilhelmina (Rothenberger) Weisenveder. His father was born in Germany and his mother in Missouri. They had three children: Adelia, who is the wife of Louis E. Higgins, was born in Nebraska prior to the admission of the territory as one of the sovereign states of the Union; Minnie is the wife of John H. Morehead; and Frank H. The parents are members of the Roman Catholic church. The father has been a merchant and also a farmer.

Frank H. Weisenveder attended school at Aspinwall and was fifteen years old when the family came to Custer county and located at Broken Bow. When questioned as to how he earned his first money, Mr. Weisenveder explained that it may have been made through hoeing sunflowers out of a neighbor's field, and while he does not recall the amount he received, he believes he earned all that came to him. While this may not have been the actual foundation of his fortune, it proves that he was industrious in boyhood and this industrious habit has always prevailed, as shown by the fact that to-day Mr. Weisenveder personally superintends all his business affairs. Within the past twenty-two years he has become the owner of great tracts of land, which include 1,100 acres situated one and one-half miles west of Broken Bow, a half-interest in 1,200 acres situated eight miles north of

Broken Bow, and 275 acres that he devotes to the production of alfalfa. This alfalfa farm is very profitable, as the alfalfa can be cut three times a year with an average crop of from 500 to 700 tons. As mentioned above, Mr. Weisenveder keeps the management of this large estate in his own hands, and through good judgment and business enterprise he is not only setting a good example but is also adding to his substance. Mr. Weisenveder is a Republican in his political views and fraternally is an Odd Fellow.

Mr. Weisenveder was married May 12, 1898, at Broken Bow, to Miss Rita Herbert, who is a daughter of Mitchell G. and Martha (Simms) Herbert, and a granddaughter of George Simms. Mr. and Mrs. Weisenveder have two children, Edwin H. and Louise R.

ALBERT L. JUKER.—Two generations of the Juker family have contributed to the development of the handsome farm, near Berwyn, which is now the property of Albert L. Juker, a resident of Custer county since his eighth year, when his pioneer father, the late John Juker, brought him to a new homestead. During the thirty-six years that have followed, numerous changes have taken place on the farm, its owners having kept fully abreast of the developments being made throughout the county along all lines.

Albert L. Juker was born in Adams county, Indiana, October 22, 1874, a son of John and Anna (Summers) Juker, natives of Switzerland. The parents were married in their native land, following which they lived there for two years, and within that time one child was born to them. Coming then to the United States, they settled in Indiana, where, in Adams county, the father followed farming. Mr. Juker had the industry and thrift of his race, and worked hard and managed his affairs carefully, but in spite of his best efforts he did not make progress that was satisfactory to himself, and eventually he came to the conclusion that in the west better opportunities were to be found for the establishment and building up of a home and the making of a position. In 1882 he brought his family to Custer county, where he took up both a timber claim and a homestead and started in to build up his fallen fortunes. At the time of his arrival he was possessed of nothing in the way of material capital, but his energy and ambition were sufficient to make up for his lack of means, and after some years of discouragement he began to make progress, with the result that at the time of his death he was one of the

substantial men of the community, the owner of a good farm, and known as a man who had overcome obstacles and gained success in an honorable and straightforward manner. Mr. Juker was a Democrat, but not a politician, and public life never held out any inducements to him. He and Mrs. Juker, who survives him, were the parents of nine children, six of whom are deceased, the survivors being: Sarah, who is the widow of George W. Dear-doff, and lives in Custer county; Emma, also a widow, who lives with her brother on the homestead; and Albert L.

Albert L. Juker was eight years of age when he accompanied his parents to Custer county, and here he secured his education in the public schools. Reared as a farmer, he adopted that calling when he reached years of maturity, and at the present time he is the owner of 160 acres of good land, a part of the original homestead. Mr. Juker at one time was the owner of a full section of good Custer county soil, but he has recently disposed of a three-quarter section. He carries on general farming, and is well versed in all branches of his business, so that he has always received ample returns from his labors and has made his land pay him in full measure for all the work he has expended upon it. In more recent years Mr. Juker has spent much time in making improvements. When the family first settled here the only habitation was a sod house, and other improvements were of the most primitive kind. Mr. Juker has erected substantial barns and outbuildings, provided good fences and other equipment, and has just completed the building of a beautiful home.

Mr. Juker is a bachelor. He is a Republican in his political views, and his main connection of a social character is found in his membership in the local Grange.

FRANK BAKER.—One of the prominent and truly representative men of Custer county is Frank Baker, who is president of the Farmers State Bank at Ansley, and who has other large and important interests in the county. He belongs to an early pioneer family and has spent almost all his life in Nebraska, to which state his devotion is as sincere as if he were a native son. He was born August 18, 1866, in Poweshiek county, Iowa, and is one of a family of twelve children.

When Frank Baker accompanied his parents to Nebraska he was about six years old. They settled at first in York county, where he had early school opportunities, and in 1878 the family came to Custer county, where the father

homesteaded and lived until his death, in 1918. Mr. Baker has continued to live on the homestead all through its development from a wild piece of land to a richly cultivated tract which he devotes to mixed farming, while his valuable stock graze over many acres of other land that he has acquired from time to time. For a number of years Mr. Baker has been a leading financier in the county, and as president of the Farmers State Bank of Ansley, he enjoys the confidence of the public generally. He has taken an active interest in other local enterprises of recognized merit and his public spirit has many times been sufficiently exercised to warrant his reputation as an earnest and able citizen of the county. For the past ten years he has been treasurer of Westerville school district No. 39.

At Westerville, Nebraska, March 16, 1890, Mr. Baker was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Gardner, who is a daughter of Thomas and Mary (Allen) Gardner. Mr. and Mrs. Baker have the following children: Lizzie, who was born May 26, 1891; Tina, who was born March 4, 1893; Herbert, who was born January 6, 1907, and who was killed by accident September 27, 1918; Glenn, who was born March 28, 1911; and Wade, who was born March 30, 1913. Mr. Baker and his family belong to the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics he is a Republican and fraternally is an Odd Fellow and has served in the offices of the lodge at Ansley, while Mrs. Baker is a member of the auxiliary order of the Daughters of Rebekah.

ANDREW F. ALLEN. — That so rich and productive a section as Custer county, Nebraska, should ever have entailed hardships on its early settlers seems scarcely possible now, but records of the pioneer days of the early '80s prove that sturdy qualities belonged to the men and women who came here and remained. The Allen family belonged to this class and it is the Allen farm, situated in section 16, township 17, range 18, Custer county, that is declared to be one of the best improved and most valuable in the township. Its present owner, Andrew F. Allen, is one of the extensive farmers and stock-raisers in this section, and is a highly respected citizen.

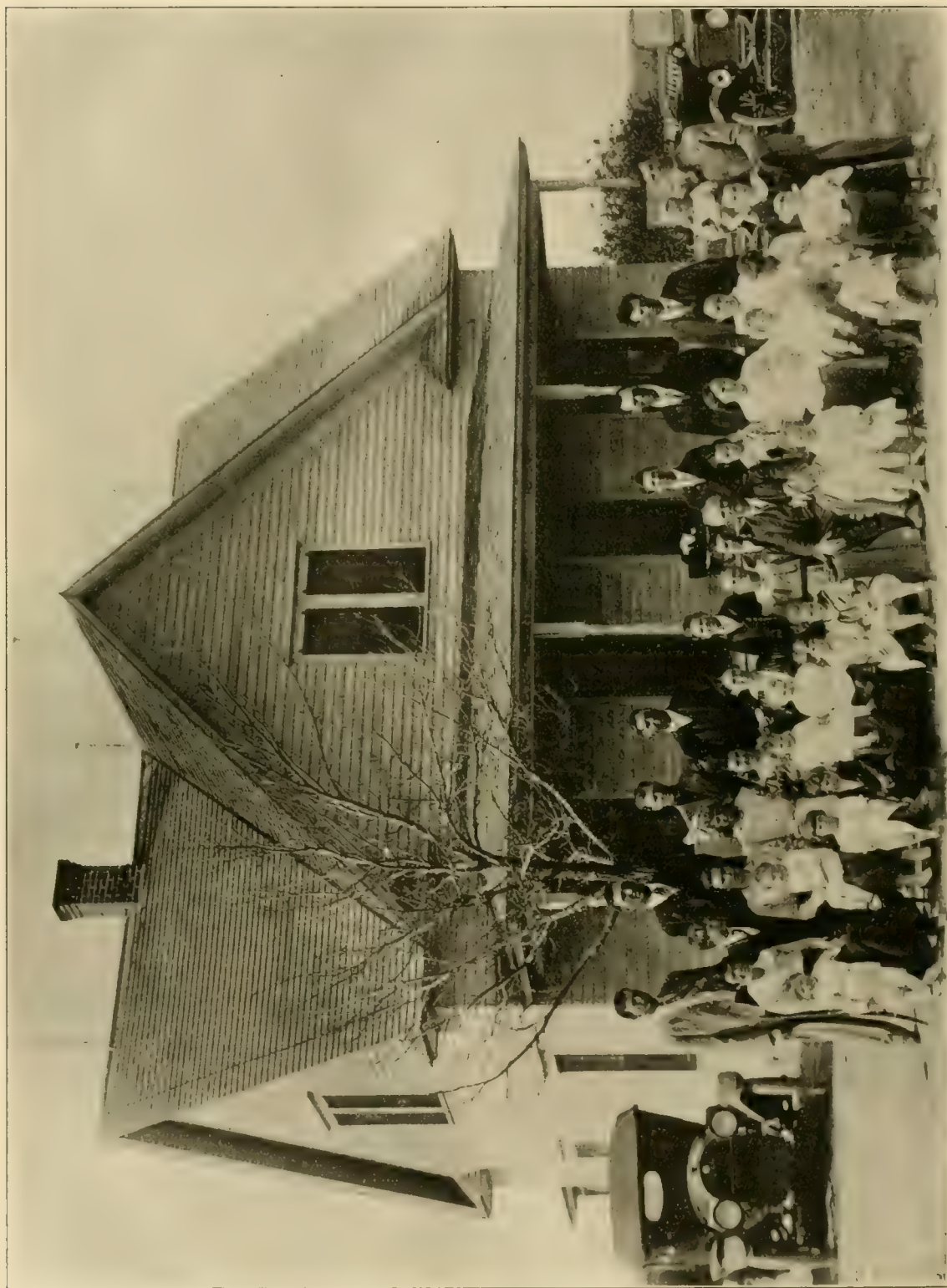
Andrew F. Allen was born May 22, 1879, in the city of Dublin, Ireland. His parents were Andrew and Sarah (Foster) Allen, the father being a native of Ireland and the mother of Scotland. They had six children, namely: Mattie, who is talented and highly educated, is a teacher in the University of Nebraska, at

Lincoln; George, who married Dolly Gager, is a railroad contractor and lives in Denver; Margaret resides in Denver; Lena remains on the Allen homestead; Andrew F. is the immediate subject of this sketch; and William carries on farming operations on the old place.

The parents of Andrew F. Allen came to the United States with their children and in 1880 settled seven miles east of Lincoln, Nebraska, where they remained three years. In 1883 they came to Custer county and they soon made comfortable the little sod house that was their first home and that was situated on school section No. 16, the father also prudently securing a tree claim. At first there were few school privileges possible, but by the time Andrew F. Allen reached school age he was not deprived of educational advantages. Industry and thrift were household slogans, and through persistent effort, and in spite of hardship and privation, the parents lived to enjoy the fruits of their work. The father passed away in September, 1905, and the mother is still living on the old farm.

December 30, 1906, recorded the marriage of Andrew F. Allen to Miss Edna Mills, one of a family of thirteen children born to Fabius D. and Louisa (Copsey) Mills. Mr. and Mrs. Allen have the following children: Margaret, who was born May 12, 1909; Hazel, who was born April 21, 1911; Clarence, who was born February 1, 1913; and Frank and Lucile, twins, who were born January 30, 1917. Mr. Allen and his family belong to the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics he is not identified with any party but does his own thinking, and votes accordingly. He has always been an advocate of good roads and of all those things which promote good government, good feeling, and neighborly interest and harmony.

FRANK KALOUS is one of the sterling citizens contributed to Custer county by the fine old province of Bohemia, and from this source our county has had much to gain and nothing to lose. Nowhere can be found a better type of progressive, hard-working people than those in whose veins flows the red blood of historic Bohemia. Sixty-three years ago, in Bohemia, Frank Kalous was born, and his first papers in application for citizenship in the United States were filed in the year 1882. He is a son of Joseph and Frances (Kadevish) Kalous, honest and industrious folk who immigrated to America in 1882 and became pioneers in Nebraska. The father entered claim to a homestead in Box Butte county and after perfecting his title to this



HOME AND FAMILY GROUP OF GEORGE T. BAILEY

property he finally transferred his residence to Custer county, where both he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives, he having seen seventy-seven years at the time of his death and his widow having passed away at the age of seventy-nine years and nine months. The remains of both were laid to rest in a cemetery in Dawson county.

Krank Kalous was reared to manhood in his native land, and in his determination to find wider opportunities for the winning of independence and prosperity he found in the United States a veritable land of promise. He has pioneer distinction as a resident of Nebraska and is one of the highly esteemed citizens of Custer county. He maintains his home in the village of Sumner, and here most pleasing family reunions are held at intervals. He is a stone-mason and plasterer by trade and vocation, and is known as a proficient workman in this field of enterprise, in which he controls a prosperous business. Mr. Kalous, as a loyal citizen of the land of his adoption, takes lively interest in public affairs, and while a resident of Box Butte county he served as road overseer and school director. He is at the present time a member of the Sumner Home Guards, and is actively affiliated with the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He and his family hold earnestly to the faith of the Catholic church, and constitute a valuable asset in the community life. Of the children of the first marriage of Mr. Kalous three are living—Frank, Jr., who is married and who resides in Sumner, Nebraska; Mrs. Anna Omara, who resides on a farm in Colorado, as does also Mrs. Fannie Quigle.

On the 17th of July, 1885, Mr. Kalous wedded Mary Kudara, who was born in Bohemia, and concerning the children of this union the following brief record is entered: Mary is the wife of Samuel Radcliff and they reside in York county, Nebraska; Mrs. Grace Caloup resides at Alda, Hall county; Mrs. Victoria Erwin is a resident of Eddyville, Dawson county; Elmer is a farmer in Colorado; Joe, who entered service as a soldier in the ranks of those preparing to take part in the world war, is now at the parental home; Mrs. Emma Sheldon, twin sister of Joe, resides at Eddyville, Dawson county.

GEORGE T. BAILEY is a sterling pioneer who has been a resident of Custer county since 1884 and who has established a name and reputation as one of the foremost citizens of the north Arnold territory, the while he

and his good wife have reared a family of children of whom they may well be proud.

George T. Bailey was born in Spencer county, Kentucky, on the 13th of December, 1855, and is a son of George W. and Winifred (Hite) Bailey, both of whom were likewise born in the fine old Bluegrass state. The maternal grandparents of George T. Bailey also were Kentuckians, and thus he may claim a full share of the excellent blood that has made that favored commonwealth one of great historic importance and interest. Mr. Bailey was the third in order of birth in a family of seven children—Mrs. Mary Sands, Mrs. Amanda Green, George T., John S., Henry E., Lorenzo, and Mrs. Courtney B. Philpott. During the most of the boyhood and youth of the subject of this review his parents maintained their home in Davies county, Kentucky, and there he acquired his early education in the public schools of the period. It was there also he earned his first money—a fifteen-cent scrip piece which he received in compensation for work in his uncle's barn. He invested this stupendous capital in a "Barlow knife," and it may be said that it will probably require an "old-timer" to make perfectly clear to the rising generation what a Barlow knife was. The knife thus acquired by Mr. Bailey was soon lost, however, and by it not much damage was done in whittling operations on the home or schoolhouse furniture.

When Mr. Bailey had attained the age of twenty years he decided that it was time for him to take unto himself a wife, and accordingly, on the 16th of January, 1876, in Daviess county, Kentucky, was solemnized his marriage to Miss Elizabeth Green, a daughter of Jackson and Lucinda (Phillips) Green. The parents of the bride were Kentucky people, and so the new Bailey household was to be formed by a confluence of Kentucky blood flowing in from both ancestral courses. Mrs. Bailey is one of a family of five children and is one of the two now living, her brother, James K., being a resident of Dewey, Oklahoma. One sister, Mrs. Lucinda Shoemaker, was a resident of Custer county at the time of her death.

Mr. and Mrs. Bailey have always maintained an attractive and hospitable home—a home in which the fine southern hospitality as exemplified in Kentucky has at all times been in evidence. They became the parents of nine children, all of whom are living except one daughter, Leona A., who died in infancy. Concerning the surviving children it is pleasing to make a brief record at this juncture. Walter

S. married Josephine Porter and they have five children. They are members of the Christian Union church. James H., who is a rural mail carrier, resides at Arnold. He is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He married Miss Wilda Hurless and they have three children. Lou is the wife of Bert Nelson, of Buckley, Washington, and they have three children. They are Presbyterians in their religious affiliations. Winifred E. is the wife of Henry Strassburg, a farmer near Arnold, and they are the parents of five children. They hold membership in the Methodist church. Mamie is the wife of Fred Hircock, a farmer on the West Table in Custer county, and they are members of the Christian Union church. They have four children. Mabel is the wife of George Kruser, a farmer near Arnold, and they have four children. They hold the faith of the Methodist church. Lida is the wife of Charles Seaney, another of the prosperous farmers of the Arnold community, and they have one child. They are members of the Methodist church. Burton married Miss Ruby Zimmerman and they reside on a farm near Lantry, South Dakota. They have three children.

In 1884 George T. Bailey came with his family to Custer county and located on a homestead seven miles distant from the present village of Arnold. Here he still maintains his residence and here he has recently erected one of the best farm houses on the Arnold edge of the East Table. He is the owner of 320 acres of good land and has accumulated his property principally through his operations in the raising and handling of live stock. He is inclined to the belief that in this field of industrial enterprise hogs have been more profitable than cattle or other stock. The Baileys are known far and wide for their upright, religious lives, and the hospitality of their homes. Mr. Bailey is proud to relate that one of his great-grandfathers, Rev. Mr. Hickman, was a clergyman of the Baptist church and that as such he preached the first Baptist sermon ever delivered in Kentucky. He delivered this earnest address in the open air, under an elm tree, and special reference to and record of the event appear prominently in the history of the Baptist church of that state. It can be consistently said that in Custer county one may ride all day and not find better people than the Baileys.

ROBERT C. TALBOT, M. D. — For many years Dr. Talbot has been identified with the

professional and agricultural interests of Custer county and he has established a lasting reputation for medical skill, agricultural ability, business integrity, and personal probity. In the evening of life he is living somewhat in retirement, and during the last seven years the greater part of his time has been spent in California, but no record of Custer county and the accomplishments of its representative men would be complete that did not include a review of his career.

Dr. Talbot was born at Danville, Indiana, March 16, 1847, a son of Willis and Nancy (McCoun) Talbot, and a grandson of Louis Talbot, a native of Virginia, who spent the greater part of his life as a farmer in Kentucky. The maternal grandfather was Robert McCoun, a stock dealer, who died in Indiana. The parents of Dr. Talbot were born near Paris, Kentucky, where they were married, and on horseback they started from their home in the Bluegrass state for Indiana, eventually settling in Hendricks county, where they passed the remaining years of their lives as farmers. Mrs. Talbot was a member of the Baptist church, and while her husband was not affiliated with any denomination he was a believer in religion and a supporter of church movements. He was a Republican in political belief. Of the ten children of this worthy couple, four are living: Robert C.; Charles W., an attorney and surveyor of Hanford, California; Scottie, the wife of Charles Sheetz, a farmer of Danville, Indiana; and Florence, the widow of John English, of Indianapolis, Indiana.

After attending Danville (Indiana) Academy, Robert C. Talbot enrolled as a student at Miami Medical College, Cincinnati, Ohio, where he was duly graduated with his degree, in 1870, and he at once began the practice of his profession at Sylvania, Indiana, where he remained for five years. Later he spent a like period at Pittsboro, Indiana, but in 1879 he came west to Nebraska, taking up a homestead near Berwyn, a property which he still owns. In 1884 he moved to Broken Bow, having been elected county treasurer, and that city continued to be his home for a number of years. One of the earliest physicians of Custer county, he practiced over a wide territory, winning the confidence, regard, and affection of a large clientele and steadily advancing to a place of prominence in his profession. He was a leading member of the Custer County Medical Society, of which he served as president for several years, and belonged to the Nebraska State Medical Society, among the members of which he was held in the highest esteem. In 1911 Dr. Talbot retired from the practice of his

profession and since that time he has passed the greater part of his time in California. During the time that he was practicing medicine and surgery with so much success, Dr. Talbot was not neglecting his farming interests, and his faith in the future of Custer county took the form of investment in property. He accumulated large tracts, solely through his own efforts, and until recently owned 840 acres of land, but he has just disposed of 400 acres. Mrs. Talbot also is one of the landowners of the Berwyn locality, where she holds 240 acres.

Dr. Talbot was married December 25, 1869, to Miss Hattie Warrick, who was born at Pittsboro, Indiana, and to this union there were born three children: Willis E., a graduate of the Omaha Medical College and now with the medical staff of the American Expeditionary Forces in France, with the rank of major; Claris, who is carrying on operations on the homestead farm near Berwyn; and Mrs. H. F. Kennedy, of Broken Bow. Dr. and Mrs. Talbot are consistent members of the Baptist church. He has always been a supporter of the principles of the Republican party, and frequently has been called upon by his fellow citizens to represent them in offices of public trust. In addition to having served as county treasurer for four years, he was a member of the board of trustees of Broken Bow during the early days, and rendered valuable service as a member of the board of school directors, for eight years. The Doctor's military record consists of 100 days' service during the Civil war, when he was a private in Company H, One Hundred and Thirty-second Indiana Volunteer Infantry.

CHESTER A. KLINKMAN, who is a substantial and prosperous young farmer of Custer county, belongs to Nebraska by birth, rearing, and education, and is a fine specimen of the type of young manhood of which the state is justly proud. Mr. Klinkman was born in Polk county, Nebraska, September 21, 1890. His parents are Frank and Caroline E. (Timm) Klinkman, the former of whom was born in St. Joseph county, Michigan, and the latter in Wisconsin, their children being as follows: Chester A., Edith, Mrs. Mattie Booker, Lillie, Roy and Ruth (twins), Vida and Vera (twins), Harold, and Ivan.

Chester A. Klinkman grew up on the home farm and obtained his education in the public schools. His early and practical training on the home farm has been of great benefit and

he is considered one of the most capable and enterprising young agriculturists of Custer county. He came here with the family when his father located, in 1905, in the northeastern part of Wayne township, and went right to work improving the homestead and taking a deep interest in developing this section. He now owns 320 acres of fine land, devoting it to grain and stock, and has made an admirable showing of what intelligent industry along agricultural lines can accomplish. His activities now provide him with a large income, but he remembers when the money he received as a boy, for shocking corn and cutting sunflowers, was very acceptable and very carefully expended.

Mr. Klinkman has never been very active politically and has never desired public office. Nevertheless he has taken note of all that is occurring in his own and in other countries and stands ready to do his patriotic part when duty calls. He was reared in a Christian family and from principle lends his influence in favor of temperance, education, and religion—proved agencies working for the general welfare. Mr. Klinkman is still arrayed in the ranks of eligible young bachelors in Custer county.

ADOLPH PETERSON. — Few of the settlers who came to Custer county in the early '80s have done so well as Adolph Peterson, who now lives retired from active work, and whose present beautiful and comfortable home is in Gothenburg, Dawson county. Many others came to the county in 1884, but not all of them were as industrious as Mr. Peterson, nor did all possess the same foresight and good judgment in making investments. Mr. Peterson is one of the county's heaviest land-owners, and his agricultural operations were always carried on with the extreme care and frugal methods that he learned in his native country. Mr. Peterson was born in Sweden, August 27, 1853. His parents were Peter Erickson and Stina (Grita) Peterson, who had three children, John and Adolph surviving.

Adolph Peterson was only six months old when his father died. He was three years old when his mother married again, and he worked for his stepfather and later for himself, receiving wages of fifty cents a day for farm work, exclusive of board, the ploughing being then done with oxen. Labor conditions were not satisfactory to a young man with ambition, and this led Mr. Peterson to think of immigrating to the United States. In the year following his marriage he and wife crossed the

ocean and came as far west as Chicago. In that city he worked at different occupations, but, as he was anxious to secure land and engage in agricultural pursuits, he found that if he were to realize his ambition he must go farther west. In 1884 he came to Custer county, Nebraska, and located two miles west of Etna postoffice, on the Odencrantz Table. He was able to secure this homestead for a reasonable price and he still owns the property, although tempting offers have frequently been made for it. He continued to live on that place until 1909, when he retired, on account of failing health, and at that time he removed to Gothenburg. Mr. Peterson is fortunate enough to have well trained farmer sons, and they have ever since capably managed 555 acres. He owns 1,920 acres and a school section. When he bought this land he paid from three to ten dollars an acre, and in 1917 he was offered fifty dollars an acre for the land that had no improvements whatever except fencing.

Adolph Peterson was married October 4, 1879, to Miss Ida Johnson, who was the third in order of birth of the four children born to John and Louise (Carlson) Johnson, the other children being: P. A., Wolfrey, and Emma. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson have six children: Mrs. Nannie Erickson is a widow; William G., who lives on his own farm situated east of Etna, is still a bachelor; Elmer, who operates land for his father situated two miles west of Etna, is likewise a bachelor; Arthur, who is a farmer four miles southwest of Etna, married Anna Weathers; Harry is operating his father's land in association with his brother Arthur; and Louise has been a school teacher for the last four years. Mr. Peterson and his family are members of the Swedish Mission church, and they are people who command the highest respect and esteem. Though they have never been very active in political matters, the father and sons in their voting have always supported sturdy and honest candidates for office.

JOHN P. ANDERSON.—A resident of Custer county for thirty years, John P. Anderson now belongs to the retired colony at Gothenburg, Dawson county, after a career characterized by industrious cultivation of the soil, active participation in the developing movements of this part of Nebraska, and good and public-spirited citizenship in the matters that have been factors in the community's civic, educational, and moral growth. Mr. Anderson is a native of Sweden, born at Westervik, Gothland, February 3, 1855, a son of Andrew A. and Elizabeth M. (Nelson) Ander-

son, natives of the same country. There were four children in the family: Alfred N., Mrs. Sopha Jacobson, John P., and Charles W.

John P. Anderson received a common-school education in his native land, where he began to work for his father on the home farm, at the age of twenty-one years, and he continued as a wage-earner for several years after his marriage. In May, 1888, Mr. Anderson, who in his native land had not made all the progress that he desired, immigrated to the United States and at once came to Custer county, where he had been preceded by a number of his countrymen. He had some small capital, which, with his native thrift, he had been able to save from his earnings—enough at least, to make a substantial payment on 160 acres of railroad land, situated five miles south of Etna. There he continued to be engaged in farming for many years, cultivating his land with care and skill, adding improvements from time to time and erecting new buildings, and eventually converting what had been useless and valueless property into one of the finest cultivated farming estates in the southwestern part of Custer county. Mr. Anderson, continuing as a general farmer and stock-raiser, managed his business affairs with such success that he was able to add to his holdings from time to time, and he now has 800 acres, in addition to various other investments. While he is practically retired from active pursuits, he is still ready and capable of giving excellent service, and holds himself in readiness to assist his boys whenever assistance is necessary. Among the citizens of Custer county Mr. Anderson is known as an industrious man of high principles, excellent business ability, and utmost personal probity. He has their respect for what he has accomplished and the manner in which he has achieved it. Public life has never been attractive enough, nor political rewards strong enough, to take his attention from the cultivation of the soil, and he has been contented to carry his career straight through as a representative of the agricultural interests of his community.

Mr. Anderson was married, in Sweden, June 7, 1879, to Miss Augusta Nelson, who was born in that country, daughter of Nels and Mary (Moseberg) Nelson, natives of that country. To this union there were born four children: Mrs. Anna O. Anderson is deceased; Fred J. is a stock-raiser and farmer, who is renting a part of his father's land, and he is an energetic and progressive agriculturist; Charles E., a successful and skillful farmer and stock-raiser, one and one-half miles southeast of Etna, married Hattie E. Peterson,

a daughter of Henry Peterson, and they have one daughter; and Ezekiel F. is more fully mentioned in the concluding paragraph of this review. The parents hold membership in the Lutheran church.

Ezekiel F. Anderson was born in Custer county, January 6, 1893, and passed his boyhood on his father's farm, dividing his time between attending the district school and assisting his father and brothers in the cultivation and development of the soil. After his graduation from Boyle's Business College, at Omaha, he was for several months bookkeeper in the Gothenburg Bank, but eventually he returned to farming, and he now owns and operates 320 acres of land, of which he is giving ninety acres to wheat, the crop which proved so essential in winning the great war. Mr. Anderson was in the selective draft and was ready to do his part as a soldier of the nation, but the world conflict came to a close before he was called to the colors.

CHARLEY LONGFELLOW.—The subject of this record was born on the old homestead in Custer county, November 10, 1885. He was reared on the farm and attended the public schools, assisting his father in the operation of the old place until four years ago, when he rented land and engaged in farming independently. He is a Republican and a member of the Broken Bow camp of the Modern Woodmen of America. He was past thirty-one when the draft was made June 5, 1917, but under the draft of September 12, 1918, he was registered and stood ready to offer his services whenever his country needed him. He is a son of John R. Longfellow, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume.

OLAF G. ANDERSON represents the sturdy, progressive type of citizens which has been furnished Custer county by Sweden. When he first came to this community he had little experience in agricultural industry and was forced to work out his own problems, but he possessed willingness and the inherent ability, and so well did he direct and manage his affairs that in 1911 he was able to retire, when still in the prime of life, with a satisfying competence. He is now accounted one of the substantial citizens of Gothenburg, in the adjacent county of Dawson, where he is the owner of a beautiful home.

Mr. Anderson was born in Sweden, November 14, 1858, a son of John Anderson,

and was one of a family of four children, of whom three sons survive. He received a common-school education and resided with his parents on the home farm until he reached the age of twenty-one years, at which time he immigrated to the United States and located in Rock Island county, Illinois, where for one year he worked on a farm. For six years thereafter he was engaged in coal-mining, and in 1884 he came to Custer county, Nebraska, and purchased one-half section of land, in section 21, about two miles northwest of Etna, a village whose site at that early date was about six miles east of the present town. Later, in May, 1888, he brought his family here and located on a homestead adjoining the property named. There he lived five years, during which time he experienced all the hardships incident to a life on the frontier, the hauling of the greater part of his water a distance of nine miles being only one of the many things which made existence hard during those days. After five years, when he had perfected title to his homestead, Mr. Anderson moved to the purchased land, on which he erected a beautiful and commodious residence and also other substantial farm buildings, besides making other improvements. He continued to be engaged in the raising of livestock and in general farming until 1911, in which year he and his wife retired from active pursuits and moved to Gothenburg, where they now reside, surrounded by every comfort and by a wide circle of friends and well-wishers. They had passed through the days when the merest conveniences were not to be thought of, and it was necessary that the children drive three miles to school, but Mr. and Mrs. Anderson were determined that the children should have good educational advantages beyond those implied in the rudimentary branches. Thus the children were so well prepared that they all became school teachers, and all were also given musical education. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, in addition to their property at Gothenburg, are the owners of 960 acres of valuable Custer county land.

Mr. Anderson was married May 27, 1887, at Rock Island, Illinois, to Miss Hilda E. J. Rosell, daughter of John F. and Eva G. (Bergstrom) Rosell, who were members of the Lutheran church, and who came from Sweden to the United States in 1867, settling at Berlin (now Swedona), Illinois, where Mr. Rosell followed the occupation of bridge-builder. There were nine children in the Rosell family, of whom eight are living: Alfred, Mrs. Hilda E. J. Anderson, Mrs. Cecelia E. Bursche, Mrs. Emma S. Burke, Mrs. Sadie

A. Anderson, Arthur, Mrs. Minnie M. Engstrom, and Lawrence E. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson became the parents of five children: Mrs. Maud E. Peterson died August 5, 1912, at Gothenburg; Minnie M. is the wife of Michael H. Rosentrater, a farmer near Etna postoffice, and they have a son and a daughter; Emma C. Anderson is the wife of Albert Anderson, a farmer two miles northwest of Etna, and they have two daughters and one son; Miss Sadie E., who has been a teacher in the public schools for five years, resides with her parents at Gothenburg; and Robert G. is deceased.

Mr. Anderson has not sought public office, but is a man who has been indifferent to no call for support of worthy public movements, and his status in his community is that of a reliable, constructive, and public-spirited citizen.

WILLIAM C. HUFFMAN, who has lived in Nebraska since 1875, is one of the intelligent, enterprising farmers and well educated men of this state and owns and operates the old Charles Shell homestead, which is situated six miles northeast of Broken Bow. He comes of sturdy old Pennsylvania-Dutch stock and was born near Muncy, in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, August 15, 1870, the eldest of the four children of Martin F. and Amanda (Shell) Huffman. The mother of Mr. Huffman was born near Turbotsville, Pennsylvania, a daughter of Jonas Shell, and she died in Nebraska, in February, 1917. Martin F. Huffman was born near Muncy, Pennsylvania, a son of Daniel C. and Mary (Frymire) Huffman. He has always been a farmer and when he came to Nebraska, in 1875, he settled with his family on railroad land, near Aurora, where he still lives. He is a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as was also his wife. They became the parents of four children—William C., Ella L., Guy E., and Maizie.

William C. Huffman was four and one-half years old when his parents brought him to Nebraska and he grew up in Hamilton county. In boyhood he attended the common schools and later he spent one year in the Wesleyan University, for one year was a student in the normal school at Lincoln, and also took a business course. Mr. Huffman has found his education very helpful in solving agricultural problems and has built up a substantial reputation as a progressive and judicious farmer.

Mr. Huffman was married February 10, 1915, at Columbus, Nebraska, to Miss Mary

E. Pendell, who is a daughter of William L. Pendell, the family name of her mother having been Slonecker. Mr. and Mrs. Huffman have no children. They attend the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics, like his father, Mr. Huffman is an independent thinker and voter, and he affiliates with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

JOHN R. LONGFELLOW, a well known and highly respected retired farmer living at Broken Bow, was for many years active in agricultural industries in Custer county and still retains the ownership of his original homestead farm. He is a native of Illinois, born in De Witt county, July 11, 1855. His parents were Moses R. and Malinda (Bryte) Longfellow, his father being a native of Ohio and his mother of Indiana. All his life his father was a farmer and both parents were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. They had five children—John R., J. Edward, Mrs. Mary Thomas, Mrs. Ella Bryan, and Moses N.

John R. Longfellow lived in De Witt and Logan counties, Illinois, in his boyhood. His advantages were meager in every way, as his father was an invalid for many years and thus heavy responsibilities fell on the oldest son. He attended school whenever he could be spared from home duties, and made the best of his opportunities. It was in 1882 that his attention was called particularly to Custer county, Nebraska, and in the spring of that year he came here and settled on the fine place which he still owns and which is situated six miles west of Broken Bow. There he lived continuously for thirty-three years. During this time he has not only improved and developed his own property but has also taken a good citizen's interest in county affairs generally. He votes the Republican ticket.

Mr. Longfellow was married June 12, 1884, at Aurora, Nebraska, to Miss Catherine Philipsen, who is a daughter of John J. and Mary (Stone) Philipsen, the paternal grandparents having been Abraham and Renettie (Seick) Philipsen. Mrs. Longfellow's father was born in Germany, but her mother was born in Wabash county, Illinois, a daughter of Herman and Catherine (Besley) Stone. Mrs. Longfellow was the firstborn of fourteen children, nine of whom grew to maturity, as follows: Catherine is the wife of the subject of this review; Augusta is the wife of George Harget, a laborer living at Seward, Nebraska, and they have three sons and one daughter,

the eldest son, John, being, at the time of this writing, a soldier in the national army; Edmund F., who is farming in Custer county, four miles northwest of Broken Bow, married Phoebe Freels and they have six daughters and three sons; Elizabeth, who died in July, 1915, was the wife of Joseph Dagan, a saw-mill worker at Portland, Oregon, and they had one son, Cornelius; John is married and is a farmer near Scottsbluff, Nebraska; Rosettie Hannah is the wife of Roy Hannah, a ranchman, and they have three children, their eldest son being in the United States navy at the time this article is written; Irene is the wife of John Hannah, a farmer, and they have five children; William, who carries the mail between Dunning and Brewster, married Ethel Wymore and they have one son; and Anna is the wife of Albert Brown, a farmer, and they have three children. Mr. and Mrs. Longfellow have seven children: Mrs. Daisy Kindness, Charley, John R., Jr., Mrs. Lillie Brong, and Alice, Florence, and Esther. The last two are at home. Charley is individually mentioned on another page of this work, and Alice is employed in the war department office in Washington, D. C. Mr. Longfellow and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. In the fraternal order of the Modern Brotherhood of America Mr. Longfellow is a valued member.

DANIEL H. FISHER. — Some persons maintain there is nothing in a name, but Daniel H. Fisher's father seems to have believed otherwise, and as young Daniel grew up he proved by his push and energy that his father had named him well. While he was never cast in a lions' den, he overcame many difficulties that would have discouraged a less self-reliant and determined spirit.

For the purpose of beginning the new year right, Daniel F. Fisher was born on the 1st of January, 1873, the place of his nativity having been in Saline county, Nebraska, where his father had located upon coming to Nebraska, from Washington, Kansas, at the time of the Civil war. He whose name initiates this review is a son of Frederick J. and Mary A. (Triplett) Fisher, the former having been born in Vermont and the latter in Indiana. This sterling Nebraska pioneer couple became the parents of ten children — Mrs. Mary J. Holcomb; William F. and Armina Foster (twins), the latter being deceased; Willard J.; Linnie B. Wheeler; Daniel H., the immediate subject of this sketch; Gay-

ther F.; Guy E.; Carrie M. Kaiser; and Violet M. Kaiser.

The early educational advantages of Daniel H. Fisher were those afforded in the rural schools, and as a boy and youth he gained full fellowship with the work of a pioneer Nebraska farm. He has stated that as a boy he dreamed of gaining fame as a "Little Buck-shot" or a "Buffalo Bill" of the wild and wooly west, but as time passed, he conformed his views to the circumstances by which he was governed and made his ambition one of productive achievement. In 1896, by his thrift and industry, he had accumulated sufficient money to come to Custer county and initiate independent operations as a farmer. Here he rented land for three years, and thereafter he purchased 320 acres in Rose valley, east of Broken Bow. He made this the stage of his activities and marked his possession of the property by effective and progressive management. Eventually he sold this land in Rose valley, and he now owns a valuable tract of 465 acres of fine land, in what is known as Dutchman valley, four miles east of Broken Bow. Here he and his good wife are enjoying the comfort and prosperity which are justly their due — a fitting reward for former years of earnest toil and endeavor. Mrs. Fisher has done her share in the developing and upbuilding of this beautiful farm home. She has efficiently marketed the surplus produce from the garden, as well as butter and eggs in excess of the amount demanded in the home, and thus has defrayed a large part of the cost of groceries and other current expenses, the while her husband has given his attention to raising corn to fatten cattle and hogs and to producing crops that aided him in paying for his land. Mr. Fisher to-day is rated among the substantial farmers of the county and is always found ready to lend his co-operation and support to any public enterprise advanced for the betterment of the community in which he lives.

On the 8th of January, 1899, at Broken Bow, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Fisher to Miss Mary A. Adams, who was born in Iroquois county, Illinois, and who is a daughter of Thomas and Ellen (Burke) Adams, both natives of Ireland. At the time of the Civil war Mr. Adams and his future wife came, with their respective parents, on the same ship to the United States, and their acquaintanceship culminated in their subsequent marriage. They became the parents of six children — William H. (deceased); Mrs. Mary A. Fisher, James J., Mrs. Nellie Wood-

ward, John B., and Thomas, the last named having been in service as a member of the United States Army in connection with the great world war and having been at Camp Funston at the time this sketch was prepared.

Thomas Adams came with his family to Custer county in 1885, and he located on a pioneer farm northeast of Broken Bow, where he and his family gained a plethora of pioneer experience, in which they endured the trials and hardships incidental to the settling and development of a new country. The experience of Mr. and Mrs. Adams was similar to that of hundreds of others pioneer settlers in Custer county, and under these conditions were forged enduring bonds of sympathy and friendship that bound the old-time residents together in gracious ties of mutual interest and friendliness that do not seem to exist in these latter days, with their urge of varied activities and their insistent demands.

Mr. and Mrs. Fisher may count themselves favored in that they have four sturdy and vital young sons who are destined well to uphold the prestige and honors of the family name. The eldest son, Marion T., is at the time of this writing a student in the eleventh grade in the Broken Bow high school, and his next younger brother, William J., is likewise attending the same high school; Royal D. is a student in the eighth grade of the public schools; and Master Glenn A., five years of age, completes the fine quartet of sons.

CHARLES J. SLOGGETT, who carries on general farming in Custer county, Nebraska, is interested in a valuable tract of 302 acres, which is situated four and one-half miles southwest of Anselmo. Mr. Sloggett was born at Polo, Illinois, April 10, 1886, and his parents are Alfred C. and Emma (Miller) Sloggett. Alfred C. Sloggett, who is a retired farmer, was born in Granby village, in Canada, a son of William and Bethena (Homer) Sloggett, born in the city of London, England. He married Emma Miller, who was born near Polo, Illinois, a daughter of Emanuel and Elizabeth (Hulinger) Miller, who were natives of Pennsylvania. Eight children were born to Alfred C. Sloggett and his wife, as follows: Perry F., Mrs. Bessie Lloyd, George A., Charles J., Mrs. Edith M. Roessler, Mrs. Hattie V. Bates, Harvey M., and Everett M. Harvey M. of the above family is a soldier in the national army, and is in France at the time of this writing, in the autumn of 1918.

Charles J. Sloggett remained with his par-

ents until he was thirty-one years old, in the meanwhile attending school and farming. From choice he has always devoted himself to farm pursuits and thereby has acquired independence. He began early and earned his first money by gathering potatoes for a neighbor. When he started out for himself he went to Oelrichs, South Dakota, and took up a homestead in the Fall River county,—a property of which he still owns. Mr. Sloggett is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics he is a Democrat and fraternally is an Odd Fellow. His father belongs to the Woodmen order. He was married September 14, 1918, to Ella Laughlin, daughter of George and Amanda Laughlin, of Custer county.

MILES D. CALLEN, a well and favorably known citizen of Custer county, has resided for the past twenty years on his valuable farm of 200 acres, which is situated four and one-half miles northeast of Broken Bow. Mr. Callen was born on a farm near Lacon, Marshall county, Illinois. His parents were William and Catherine (Grife) Callen, the former of whom was born at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and the latter in Germany. The paternal grandfather of Mr. Callen was David Callen, whose father, a native of Ireland, fought in the American Revolution. His maternal grandfather was Daniel Grife. In 1848 William Callen located in Marshall county, Illinois, and from that state he enlisted for service in the Civil war, after which he was identified with the Grand Army of the Republic until his death, which occurred May 8, 1900, at Grand Island, Nebraska. His vocation was farming, in politics he was a Republican, and both he and wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. They had eight children, namely: Elliott N., Mrs. Cynthia Kerns (deceased); Mrs. Mary Belding, Frank M. (deceased), Charles W., Miles D., Mrs. Anna Perkins, and Mrs. Emma Edgell.

Miles D. Callen was reared on his father's pioneer farm in Marshall county, Illinois, and a sport of his boyhood was setting traps for the gophers, which were very destructive at that time on new land, with the result that a certain price was paid him for all he captured. This, probably, was his first business transaction. He remained on the home farm until he was twenty-one years of age, his birth having taken place May 23, 1859, and then started out for himself as a farmer. In 1895 he came to Custer county and located on Spring creek, eight miles north of Callaway, where he re-

sided until he came to his present fine farm, near Broken Bow. He has carefully developed this place, until its value at present is equal to that of any in this section, and he not only has a paying property but also a comfortable and attractive home. He has taken a great deal of interest in agricultural development in the county and has encouraged such movements as the Grange, of which he is a member, besides which he belongs to the Modern Brotherhood of America. In politics he is a Republican and he is a great friend of the public schools, in which he received his own education back in Marshall county, Illinois.

Mr. Callen was married March 2, 1895, at Denver, Colorado, to Miss Cora Patterson, who comes of American ancestry. Her parents are Hiram B. and Abigail (Harkness) Patterson, and her maternal grandparents were James P. and Maria (Waters) Harkness. Mrs. Callen has two sisters and one brother, as follows: Minnie is the wife of John Maurer, who is a soldier in the National army, having enlisted in 1918, from St. Louis, Missouri; Frank L., who is employed in the city waterworks of Los Angeles, California, resides there with his wife and four children; and Grace is the wife of Roy Sage, who is an automobile machinist at Los Angeles, and they have two children. Mr. and Mrs. Callen have an adopted daughter and son, Maud and Frank E.

CHARLES C. KOOZER.—That farming in connection with stock-raising can be made a very profitable business is the idea of Charles C. Koozer, who is a practical farmer and who has purchased 480 acres of land situated four miles northeast of Broken Bow, where he intends to make his future home.

Mr. Koozer was born at Geneva, Fillmore county, Nebraska. His parents, now residents of Custer county, are John L. and Katherine (Brust) Koozer, both of whom were born near Springfield, Illinois. The maternal grandfather, Conrad Brust, moved from Ohio to Illinois. John L. Koozer is a farmer living five and one-half miles northeast of Broken Bow, and there he is a man of social standing. He and his wife have three children—Mrs. Bertha M. Hall, of Merna, this county; Lela M., at home with her parents; and Charles C., of this review.

Charles C. Koozer attended the public schools and subsequently completed a commercial course in the Broken Bow Business College. Thus he was prepared for other than agricultural life, but preferred farming to a

business life. He is still a young man, but has witnessed many changes in price fluctuations since he worked for M. D. Callen for fifty cents a day, when a load of hay would bring about two dollars and a fifty-pound sack of flour could be bought for eighty-five cents.

Mr. Koozer was married August 28, 1912, at Broken Bow, to Miss Lula M. Williams, who is a daughter of Hozle and Mary C. (Karms) Williams. Mr. and Mrs. Koozer have two sons—C. Ray a sturdy little boy of five years, and Robert A., aged ten months at the time of this writing, in the autumn of 1918. Mr. Koozer has never given a great deal of attention to politics, but has always voted the Democratic ticket.

ELGIN L. BEAL.—Among the men of prominence who came to Custer county in 1886, was the late Elgin L. Beal, who became widely known through his newspaper enterprise, the *Custer County Beacon*, in the control of which he was associated with his brother, C. W. Beal, for many years.

Elgin L. Beal was born in Audrain county, Missouri, December 28, 1858, and passed away at his beautiful home near Broken Bow, Nebraska, March 10, 1914. He was a son of William H. and Jane (Stout) Beal, natives of Indiana and faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

When Elgin L. Beal came to Custer county he brought his family with him from Missouri, and they settled on a homestead claim near Ansley, subsequently moving to Broken Bow where he engaged in the newspaper business. During the ten years he was connected with the *Custer County Beacon* the journal was devoted to the best interests of this section. When he retired he bought the land his family still owns and here he built one of the handsome residences of the county.

In Audrain county, Missouri, on October 21, 1882, Elgin L. Beal married Miss Margaret Poor, a daughter of Levi and Elizabeth (Ritchie) Poor, who were natives of Will county, Illinois. The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Beal: Emory S., John, William, Henry, Esther, Grover C., Ruth, Grace Maud, Prudence J., and Charles C., the last named residing at home with his mother. The eldest of the family, Emory S., is a farmer living four miles northwest of Broken Bow. He married Edna Russom, a daughter of G. R. Russom, and they have one daughter. John Beal, who is a barber by trade, married Edna Waters and they reside at North Platte, Nebraska. William Henry, the third son, oper-

ates his mother's farm of 200 acres, situated five miles west of Broken Bow. Esther is residing with her mother while her patriotic husband, Charles V. Oxenford, is serving his country in the national army; he is a jeweler by trade and they have one child, Vera Ione, who is three years old. Mr. Oxenford enlisted in Troop E, Twelfth Cavalry. Grover C., the fifth child, died at Broken Bow, August 18, 1915. Ruth is the wife of Guy Street, who is a farmer, located three miles south of Merna, Custer county. The daughters, Grace and Prudence are employed in the office of the Burlington Railroad at Lincoln. Besides his immediate family, Mr. Beal is survived by three brothers, John, Charles W., and Grant Beal.

HON. JOHN REESE.—Custer county numbers among its valued citizens some distinguished men, and of these none deserves more favorable notice in its history than does Judge John Reese, who, as soldier, lawyer, judge, and public official, has led a busy and honorable life.

Judge Reese was born in Clark county, Ohio, December 23, 1845. He is the only child of John and Sarah J. (Stevenson) Reese. His father was of Welch descent and a native of Ohio. He passed from this life when our subject was three years old, and two years later the mother married William Downs, in whose home the boy, John, lived until he was eleven years old, when he hired to work for a neighboring farmer, at seven dollars a month. At the age of twelve years he went to London, Ohio, to learn the wool manufacturing trade, and for four years he worked as an apprentice in the Dennis Clark woolen mills—working in the summer and going to school in the winter.

The Civil war broke out in 1861, and in August, 1862, being then only sixteen years of age, John Reese enlisted in his country's service, in Company A, of the One Hundred and Thirteenth Ohio Infantry. He served one year, when his health failed and he was honorably discharged for disability. He enlisted at London, Ohio, August 22, 1862, and was mustered out of the service July 9, 1863, at Nashville, Tennessee.

After returning home the young soldier attended school at West Liberty, Ohio, for two years, and then he again engaged in the wool manufacturing business. On June 27, 1867, he was married to Sarah J. Piper, of West Liberty, Ohio, and to them three daughters, Dora, Eva, and Clara, were born. Because of

his failing health Mr. Reese was obliged to give up the manufacturing business. He moved to Bellefontaine, Ohio, where he read law under the direction of Judge William Lawrence, and he was admitted to the bar in 1882, by the supreme court of Ohio. In the spring of this same year he was elected mayor of Bellefontaine, and in 1884 was re-elected, serving two terms, with much credit to himself and great good for the city.

In 1886 Judge Reese came to Nebraska and located at Callaway, Custer county, where he practiced law for one year. In 1887 he was elected county judge of Custer county and moved to Broken Bow, accompanied by his three daughters, who are now Mrs. A. J. Robertson, of Broken Bow; Mrs. W. O. Chapman, of Chicago, Illinois; and Mrs. Edward McComas, of Broken Bow.

In 1890 the United States land office was established at Broken Bow and opened for business on July 1, 1890, with Judge Reese as register and the Hon. James Whitehead as receiver—appointees of President Harrison. The first homestead entry at this office was made by Charles M. Hammond, of Merna, Nebraska, who located on the e $\frac{1}{2}$ s-w n $\frac{1}{2}$ s-e of section 14, township 18, range 21, Custer county. These officers served one term of four years when, the administration having changed, Judge Reese returned to his law practice, forming a partnership with Simon Cameron and practicing until 1903, when Judge Reese again became a federal officer, having been appointed, by President Roosevelt, as receiver in the United States land office at Broken Bow.

In 1906 President Roosevelt re-appointed him register, and in 1910 he was again re-appointed, by President Taft, holding the office until June 24, 1916—two years after the expiration of his term—when his successor was appointed, by President Wilson.

As a federal official, Judge Reese had served continuously for more than thirteen years and in all for eighteen years. He had been commissioned by three Republican presidents, viz: Harrison, Roosevelt, and Taft, and had served over two years under each of two Democratic presidents—Cleveland and Wilson.

For two months at the close of his term he had the unique distinction of serving as register with his grandson, John P. Robertson, as receiver—the only case on record where a grandfather, a Republican, and a grandson, a Democrat, served together in the United States land department.

At the expiration of his official career Judge Reese went at once to his home, nine miles



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west of Broken Bow, where he had for a number of years been building up a stock farm, known as Custer Canyon Ranch. He has made a specialty of sheep and now owns the largest and finest flock in Custer county.

February 20, 1917, Judge Reese was married to Miss Etta Brooks, of Beatrice, Nebraska, a daughter of the late Captain Joseph and Nancy A. (Criss) Brooks. Mrs. Reese was born in Ohio, the native state of her parents. She grew up in Nebraska, was educated at the Nebraska State Normal School at Peru and taught for fifteen years. In 1904 she and her father took adjoining homesteads in Blaine county, Nebraska, under the Kinkaid homestead law. While living on her homestead she taught school and served for two years as county superintendent of public instruction.

Mrs. Reese is an active member of the Woman's Relief Corps, having served as treasurer of the Department of Nebraska two terms. She has also been grand recorder of the Degree of Honor.

Judge Reese has been active in the affairs of the Grand Army of the Republic and served as commander of the Department of Nebraska in 1900 and 1901. He has always been identified with the Republican party, and for fifty years has been a Mason.

HENRY A. CRAMER.—One of the men who has demonstrated that farming may be made very profitable in Custer county if carried on with vigor and good judgment, is Henry A. Cramer, who owns large tracts of land and who farms on an extensive scale. Mr. Cramer was born at Hennepin, Illinois, September 23, 1882. He was one of a family of six children born to Levier B. and Lucinda (Hartman) Cramer, namely: Lee, John, Henry A., Frank, Roy, and Gilbert.

Henry A. Cramer was two years old when his parents moved to Nebraska and settled at New Helena, Custer county, where his father found work as a mechanic. Henry attended school until he was eight years old and then hired out to John Simms, on Victoria creek, for five dollars a month, his duties being to herd cattle in the winter and help on the farm in the summer. That did not seem to offer any great prospect of affluence, but he was faithful and industrious and made friends. He worked for four years for the J. E. Adamson Telephone Company, and he continued to work around at odd jobs for others up to the spring of 1905, when he became a farmer for G. R. Russom, at that time being practically without

capital, besides being in debt. It has been said by those who know, that Mr. Cramer's history from then on reads like a romance. During the year 1906 he worked for Mr. Russom, and he then rented land and began for himself. In 1913 he bought 540 acres of land in Sheridan county; in 1915 he bought eighty acres of the townsite of Lodi; in 1917 he added 400 adjoining acres, following this purchase with a half-section of school land and the John Squires ranch of 1,160 acres, located south of Broken Bow. In the spring of 1918 Mr. Cramer bought the old Charley Jeffords ranch, containing 780 acres and situated eight miles west of Broken Bow. This property is valued at \$50,000. Nebraska people are not altogether astonished when they learn of the turning tide of fortune in this state, for there have been many examples, although few men have made such a notable record at his age as has Mr. Cramer. It is interesting to learn that his first business transactions, away back in boyhood, was a trade in jackknives, the difference coming to him.

Mr. Cramer was married March 1, 1903, at Broken Bow, to Christena Simonson, who is a daughter of James M. and Anna (Jensen) Simonson, natives of Denmark. Mr. and Mrs. Cramer have five children: Clifford L., Emery C., Cleo R., Eva P., and Harold A., all at home and well provided for.

WESLEY THOMAS, who is a prosperous farmer and substantial, dependable citizen of Custer county, has resided here since the fall of 1883, coming to this section as an ambitious young man who was determined to succeed. He was born at Marion, Indiana, October 28, 1860, the only son born to the marriage of Milton and Susanna (Dille) Weesner Thomas. He has one full sister, Susanna, who is the wife of Neleigh H. Ratcliffe, a farmer near Marion, Indiana. Both parents of Mr. Thomas were born in Indiana and spent their lives there and both had been married before their union. To the father's first marriage the following children were born: Mrs. Jane Harvey, Snead, Minerva, John, and Elwood Thomas. To the mother's first marriage the following children were born: Micajah, Mrs. Lucy A. Banks, Elihu, Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas, and David Weesner. The parents were members of the Society of Friends.

Wesley Thomas grew up on his father's farm and obtained his education in the public schools. Before coming to Nebraska he worked for different farmers in his native state for four years, and thus had farm knowl-

edge and experience when he started out for himself in a new section. Like other settlers in Custer county thirty-five years ago, Mr. Thomas met with hardships and discouragements, but he never permitted these to turn him back, as he soon realized that these were only temporary and that this section was destined to become a great agricultural territory. He has prospered greatly and now, with his wife, owns 560 acres of well improved land, besides having three valuable properties in Broken Bow. In his extensive farming operations he has been a large employer of labor and can remember no occasion when he has paid a youth only twenty-five cents a day for shocking grain, for which amount he himself toiled in order to earn his first money. Mr. Thomas is a member of the Masonic fraternity.

Mr. Thomas was married April 29, 1888, to Miss Mary J. Longfellow, on her father's farm, situated eight miles west of Broken Bow. Mrs. Thomas is a daughter of Richard M. and Melinda Longfellow, and has three older brothers and one sister, namely: John, Edward, and Richard M., and Mrs. Ella Bryan. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas have two daughters: Ola, who is the wife of Albert Beckman, a substantial farmer residing fifteen miles northwest of Broken Bow, has one child; and Susanna, remains with her parents.

OTIS J. WEESNER, who is a general farmer of Custer county and owns well improved land situated nine and one-half miles west of Broken Bow, has prospered since coming to Nebraska, of which state he has been a continuous resident for twenty-two years. He belongs to a fine old family of Indiana, staid farming people, and Quakers in religious faith. He was born in Grant county, Indiana, July 18, 1872, and is a son of David and Jennie (Thomas) Weesner, and a grandson of David and Susanna (Dillie) Weesner.

Otis J. Weesner remained with his parents until he was twenty-one years of age, going to school in the meanwhile, during the winter seasons, and making himself generally useful during the rest of the year on the home farm and in the glass factory at Marion, Indiana. About that time he became interested in the opportunities offered homeseekers in Nebraska, and, after making proper investigation, he decided to come to this state. Accordingly, in 1896, he located on his present farm in Custer county. He has 160 acres, which property he has developed and so improved that he is justly proud of one of the beautiful homes of Custer county. As a good citizen he takes an

interest in public affairs and gives his political support to the Republican party, but he is not a seeker for office.

Mr. Weesner was married, at Broken Bow, Nebraska, January 26, 1907, to Miss Clara A. Wakefield, a daughter of Daniel and Ginevra A. (Burton) Wakefield. Mrs. Weesner died May 11, 1911, leaving one son, Orville.

PETER M. CASE, who has lived in Custer county for thirty years, has made his home in the neighborhood of the present prosperous town of Weissert, and still owns land here. Mr. Case was born in Lawrence county, Indiana, March 7, 1848, a son of Jacob and Mary (Cox) Case.

In 1853 Peter M. Case accompanied his parents to Iowa. The first year was spent in Decatur county, but in 1854 removal was made to Ringgold county. At that time that section of Iowa was practically a wilderness, there being only fifteen families in the whole county. Jacob Case, like his few and widely separated neighbors, entered government land, which he developed and improved, and farming was his main business throughout his life. His sterling character soon impressed itself upon others and in many ways his fellow citizens came to depend upon him in the general adjustment of affairs, and he served as postmaster at Ringgold. In his later years he voted with the Republican party. Both he and wife were faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church. They were the parents of twelve children and of the number five survive, namely: Sarah, who is the widow of Thomas Pitman, lives at Mount Ayr, Iowa; Peter M. is the subject of this sketch; William, who is in the insurance business, married Myrtle Wiley and they live at Shenandoah, Iowa; Martha is the wife of Frank Kirby, a carpenter by trade, and they reside at Mount Ayr, Iowa; and Lincoln, who married Rosa Johnson, is a farmer near Newkirk, Kay county, Oklahoma.

Peter M. Case was reared in Iowa and attended the first public school in Ringgold county. He assisted his father and was considered a good farmer when he left that section and came to Custer county, in 1888. Here he has followed farming and stock-raising, as vigorously as conditions have made possible, ever since. When Mr. Case came to the county he purchased a tree claim, which proved a profitable investment. His present farm lies in section 7, township 17, range 18, and his postoffice address is Weissert.

Mr. Case was married at Chariton, Iowa, January 29, 1873, to Margaret Wray, who

died in Custer county, Nebraska, in December, 1893. Concerning the children of this marriage the following is brief record: Jacob M., who married Hattie Perkins, is a farmer living near Weissert; Luther, who married Mamie Schultz, is an ensign in the Salvation Army, of Chicago, Illinois, and they live at Peoria, Illinois; Arthur, who married Ida Leck, is a farmer near Monte Vista, Colorado; Guy Wray, whose home is in Denver, Colorado, and who married Edna Skeels, is serving at this writing, as an adjutant in the Salvation Army, as a unit in the American Expeditionary Forces in France. In 1897 Mr. Case contracted a second marriage, as he then wedded Mrs. Alice Barnes, a widow, and a daughter of Leven Benson. Two children were born to them — Rosa, who died at the age of nine months; and Ina Minnie, who was born March 29, 1906. Mrs. Case had seven children born to her first marriage and the following are living: Frank, who is a railroad engineer, lives at Lincoln, Nebraska; Alberta is the wife of William Ward, a farmer near Eddyville, Nebraska; Ora is the wife of David Pirnie, a farmer near Weissert; Ralph, who is a dairyman in Fresno, California, married Myrtle Bishop; Henry, who is a railroad man, married Mabel Hamilton, and they live at Fresno, California; and Lizzie is the wife of Wesley Hopkins, a farmer near Berwyn, Nebraska.

Mr. Case has always been a Republican in political sentiment, believing the principles of that party to be the most just and honorable. He has frequently been elected to local offices, has served for years on the school board and for several years was road overseer. Since 1867 he has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he has been a licensed exhorter for over twenty years, and in other ways he has striven to exert a beneficial influence, the while he enjoys the respect and esteem of all who know him.

JOHN R. LONGFELLOW, JR. — Farming, as it is conducted to-day, is an enterprise requiring close calculation and scientific management, and when a young man is making a decided success in his first undertaking of this kind, it is worthy of notice. One of the prospering young farmers of Custer county is John R. Longfellow, Jr., who is independently operating land about eight miles west of Broken Bow.

Mr. Longfellow was born in Custer county, Nebraska, January 28, 1895. His parents are John R. and Catherine (Philipsen) Longfellow, well known residents of the county.

He grew up on the home farm and enjoyed excellent educational advantages at Broken Bow, where he was graduated in the high school as a member of the class of 1917. He has always been industriously inclined, and is somewhat proud of his first business transaction, when about ten years old, when he proved a very valuable assistant to a neighboring ranchman in driving a bunch of cattle to the place of shipment. Mr. Longfellow is still a bachelor. In politics he is a Republican, and he is an earnest, patriotic, dependable young man, with many friends whose affection and interest followed him when, as a selected man in Class A, he entered his country's service in the national army. He left Broken Bow June 27, 1918, and went to Fort Riley, Kansas, and from there, on August 24th he went to Camp Merritt, New Jersey. Within a short time thereafter he left with his command for France, where he is serving at the time of this writing, in the autumn of 1918.

MILTON PETERSON. — A quarter of a century of connection with the agricultural interests of Custer county, and particularly in the vicinity of Weissert, has made Milton Peterson one of the substantial and well known men of his community. A native of Denmark, when he came to the United States, in 1893, he brought with him many of the admirable traits of the people of that sturdy little country, and the success that has come to him has been won through honorable participation in legitimate enterprises.

Milton Peterson was born at Hassing, Jutland, Denmark, October 23, 1874, and is a son of Melter and Mary (Jacobson) Peterson. He is a member of a well known family of Custer county, a review of which will be found in the sketch of Melter Peterson, elsewhere in this work. As a youth Milton Peterson attended the common schools of his native land, while growing up on the home farm, where he assisted his father. He was only nineteen years of age when he accompanied the family to the United States, and at that time he had little to aid him in the securing of a foothold in the new land, as he had little knowledge of either language, conditions or methods. However, he was quick to familiarize himself with both the tongue and customs of his adopted country, and in the vicinity of Weissert, where he had settled upon his arrival, he was shortly ready to establish a home of his own. This was effected October 24, 1897, when, in Swiss Valley, he was united in marriage with Miss Mabel Govier, daughter of an early homesteader of this county. They became the par-

ents of nine children, whose names and respective dates of birth are here noted: Hazel, August 24, 1898; Ivy M., January 30, 1900; Frank L., July 18, 1902; Amelia C., July 14, 1904; John K., October 24, 1905; Gladys M., September 4, 1907; Andrew W., August 12, 1909; Peter M., March 14, 1911; and Ruby P., June 7, 1913.

Mr. Peterson has been engaged in farming and the raising of stock throughout his career, and he has met with that success which rewards only the capable and industrious. He now has a finely cultivated and productive property, on which he has good buildings and other modern improvements. Politically he is a Republican, and for the past nine years he has served efficiently as a member of the school board of Weissert. He and the members of his family belong to the Church of God.

PHILIP R. STRADLEY.—Among the comfortably situated and well contented farming people of Custer county may be mentioned Philip R. Stradley and his estimable wife, who own two forty-acre tracts of land, one of these being their home farm, situated one and one-half miles west of Broken Bow. On this place they have lived since 1894, and their other farm is located in Hall county, four and one-quarter miles from Cairo. Mr. Stradley was born in Fulton county, Indiana, June 9, 1861, and is a son of Luther and Sarah J. (Moore) Stradley.

Luther Stradley was born in Fulton county, Indiana, and his occupation was farming. He enlisted early in the Civil war and was in seventeen battles during his service of three years and three months, as a member of the One Hundred and Twenty-seventh and the One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Indiana regiments of infantry. During the greater part of the time he was under command of Generals Sheridan and Sherman, marching with the latter from Atlanta to the sea. Notwithstanding his many exposures to danger, he was wounded only once, when a minie ball took off the tip of an ear. He was a Republican in politics. He married Sarah J. Moore, who was born in Ohio, a daughter of George Moore. Luther Stradley and wife died in Illinois, where they lived for many years. The following were the children born to them: George, Isaac, Charles, Philip R., Marietta, John T., William N., Carrie M., and Minnie E., and all of them are still living.

Philip R. Stradley was reared on the home farm and attended school as opportunity offered. At the age of nineteen years he started out for himself. He well remembers the first money he ever earned, for the ac-

quisition of real money was something of an event in his boyhood, and his good fortune came about by consenting to ride a horse around the barn floor, trampling flax. This work he did for his uncle, who paid him a dime a day. His first real employer was the tenant living on his father's farm, who gave him a trial of one month, during which he proved so satisfactory that the tenant rehired him, and he worked for the same man continuously for three years. During his last year in Illinois he was engaged in tile-ditching, as a contractor. Mr. Stradley came to Nebraska in September, 1884, and he worked on the railroad, at Red Cloud, until 1887, when he went to Cairo, in Hall county, where he worked for a farmer, through 1888 and 1889. In 1894 Mr. Stradley settled permanently on his farm in Custer county, where he raises diversified crops and is performing his duties and carrying on his industries as patriotically as possible. He has always been identified with the Republican party.

Mr. Stradley was married February 3, 1890, at Grand Island, Nebraska, to Miss Anna M. Green, of Cairo, Nebraska, she being a daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Smith) Green. Mr. and Mrs. Stradley have no children. Mr. Stradley was reared in the Methodist Episcopal church, while Mrs. Stradley is an Episcopalian. He has been very prominent in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and served as grand guard of the grand encampment of the State of Nebraska in 1917-18. He belongs also to the adjunct organization, the Daughters of Rebekah, and is affiliated with the Grange and the Modern Woodmen of America.

LOUIS J. TOMES, who is a farmer and stock-raiser in Custer county, Nebraska, is one of the enterprising, progressive men who have made these industries profitable in this section. Mr. Tomes is a native of Nebraska and was born in Saunders county, November 18, 1874. His parents are Florian and Katerina (Kneidel) Tomes, the father being a native of Austria-Hungary, and the mother of Bohemia. They came to the United States in 1870, in search of better opportunities than their own land offered to people of their social class at that time, and they made their way to Nebraska. In Saunders county, they secured a homestead, on which they lived until 1889, when they came to Custer county, where they are now living in peace and comfort. They had two children, a son and a daughter, Louis and Mary. The latter is the wife of Joseph Weverka, who is a farmer, and they live near Westphalia, Kansas.

Louis Tomes attended the public schools in

Saunders county, Nebraska, and assisted his father in looking after the farm and stock. Like other early settlers in this state, the Tomes family met with hardships and misfortunes, but they survived them all and through courage, persistence and industry have become people of ample means. Louis Tomes has the reputation of being one of the best farmers in township 35, and his well cultivated land and unusually well improved property seem to prove it. He takes a great deal of interest in all his farm industries, keeps well informed along agricultural lines, and is a member of the Farmers' Union.

January 9, 1899, Mr. Tomes married Miss Katie Slegel, of Valley county, Nebraska. She is a daughter of Paul and Anna (Skarda) Slegel, who had the following children: Michael, who is a meat dealer and lives in Central City, married Frances Schudel; Albert, who is a farmer near Arcadia, Nebraska, married Mary Zadina; Katie is the wife of Louis Tomes, of this sketch; Joseph is a lumber dealer at Lavina, Montana; Anna is the wife of Charles Prokop, a farmer near Spencer, Nebraska; James is a farmer near Comstock; Mary, unmarried, remains at the parental home; and Barbara, is the wife of Frank Brim, a farmer near Sargent, Nebraska. All these people are contented and prosperous and are respected and valued in their several communities.

Mr. and Mrs. Tomes have two children: Mary was born August 13, 1900; and John was born June 25, 1903. Mr. Tomes and family belong to the Roman Catholic church at Sargent. He is somewhat active in politics, voting with the Republican party, and at present is serving as treasurer of school district No. 104.

CHARLES THOMAS is one of Custer county's early settlers who has become a prosperous agriculturist and aided in the development of this part of the state. He was born in Carroll county, Illinois, January 10, 1862. His father, Henry Thomas, was a native of Canada and became an early settler of Carroll county, Illinois, where he conducted farming operations for many years—until he moved to Clarke county, Iowa, where he spent the remainder of his days. Mr. Thomas does not remember his mother's name, as she died when he was only one week old. He was one of a family of ten children, as follows: Henry died while serving in the Union army during the Civil war; Joseph resides at Holly, Colorado; Frank died in Custer county, where he had been one of the early settlers;

Al, also a homesteader in Custer county, now resides at Holly, Colorado; Mary is the wife of William Johnson, residing in the state of Washington; Lydia is a resident of Clarke county, Iowa; Julia married Stephen Hanna and is a resident of Dunning, Nebraska; Len lives in Kiowa county, Colorado; Ellen married Herman Burrow and lives in Custer county; and Charles is the immediate subject of this sketch.

Charles Thomas remained at home until he was nineteen years old and came with his brothers to Custer county, in 1880. Not being old enough to take a homestead, he worked as a farm hand for two years and then secured, as a homestead, the southwest quarter of section 24, township 18, range 22. He erected a sod house, which was his home for many years, and endured the hardships and privations which fell to the lot of the early settlers of that day. Eleven years ago he purchased 200 acres in section 35 of the same township, where he has erected a beautiful country home, with barn and outbuildings suitable for successful farming. He carries on general farming and is the owner of 520 acres of valuable land. In his own words, "Uncle Sam wagered me 160 acres of land against sixteen dollars that I could not live here five years." Thirty-five years have passed since he entered upon that task, and his success is evidenced by the present prosperous condition.

Mr. Thomas chose for his wife Miss Ada May Lockhard, a native of Colorado, and of this union were born five children: Roy is still at home, assisting in the operation of the farm; Anna is the wife of Lewis Kanigge, of Edgar, Nebraska; Dora is the wife of Robert McCarty, of this township; Inez and Alfred are still at home. The loved wife and mother passed away ten years ago, and her death was mourned not only by her own family but also by a host of friends in the community. She was a member of the Baptist church.

Mr. Thomas is truly a self-made man, having accumulated a competence through his own efforts, and he is still active in the conduct of his farming enterprise.

WILLIAM COUHIG.—The subject of this memoir was one of the very early settlers of Dale valley and until his death was active in developing a farm and assisting in bringing about present-day improvements.

William Couhig was a native of Ireland and was a young man when he came to the United States and found employment as a coal-miner. In 1869, at Fort Dodge, Iowa, he was united in marriage to Miss Bridget

Downey, a native of Ireland and a sister of John J. Downey, who has furnished for this volume a record of the Downey family.

In the spring of 1880, in company with the Downey and McCarty families, William Couhig came to Custer county, and he secured as a homestead the northwest quarter of section 23, township 18, range 22. Not a furrow had been turned and not an improvement of any kind had been made, but with characteristic energy he set about to make it a home for the family. His first dwelling was a primitive sod house, in which the family lived till a frame house was erected, several years later. In this old sod house was held, by Father Phelan, of Grand Island, the first mass celebrated in Dale valley.

The first well bored in Dale valley was put down on this farm, by C. R. Krantz, in the spring of 1880, with a six-inch auger, and it was fifty-seven feet deep. The nearest market place was Kearney, and Mr. Couhig made the trip several times, the journey requiring seven or eight days. In all the pioneer experiences and hardships he bore his full share, and he resided on the old homestead until his death, in 1897, when he was fifty-seven years of age. His wife had preceded him to the home beyond, passing away in 1894, at the age of fifty years. They were faithful communicants of the Catholic church and in politics he was a Democrat. They were the parents of one child, now the wife of John McCauley. Mr. and Mrs. McCauley have a daughter Mary, still at home. They own and operate the old homestead which is devoted to general farming. It is one of the finely improved properties of the township, all of the present buildings having been put here by the present owners. It is one of the first-settled places in the valley and for many years was the scene of the activities of one of the sterling pioneer families well deserving of a place in the history of the county.

GEORGE M. SHULTZ.—As steward of the Custer County Farm, George M. Shultz has won an enviable reputation, and the officials of the county are to be congratulated in that they have been able to secure such people as Mr. Shultz and his estimable wife to look after the needs of the county's unfortunate poor.

George M. Shultz was born in Rock Island county, Illinois, March 31, 1870. His parents, Eli and Mary (Rex) Shultz, were natives respectively of Ohio and Pennsylvania, and in the fall of 1870 they became homesteaders in Fillmore county, Nebraska. Later they estab-

lished their residence in Kearney county, and the father is now living retired at Steele City, Nebraska, the mother having been called to her final rest four years ago.

George M. Shultz was reared on a farm in Fillmore county, and when he reached his majority he engaged in agricultural pursuits on his own account. While farming in Frontier county, Nebraska, he encountered the hardships and experiences incident to the years of drouth, and the next five years he spent in Wisconsin. In 1905 he came to Custer county, where he followed agricultural pursuits until February, 1914, when he accepted the superintendency of Custer County Farm, where he and his wife, without any previous experience, have established an enviable reputation in managing the 160-acre farm for the county's dependents. While the task is often unpleasant, yet the humanitarian spirit that prompts them to duty, enables them to render better service than if the monetary remuneration was all that was considered.

Mr. Shultz was married, in Fillmore county, Nebraska, to Miss Anna Wright, a native of Illinois, and they have four children: Lloyd, at the time of this writing, was in a training camp, preparing for duty overseas in the national army; Mildred is the wife of W. C. Robertson, a farmer on the West Table in Custer county; Cecil was in the last draft and was subject to call for service in the great world war; and Kenneth is still under the parental roof.

Mr. and Mrs. Shultz are members of the Christian church, but as there is no place of worship of that denomination in the neighborhood, they attend and contribute to the support of the United Brethren church at Merna.

Mr. Shultz is of German descent but is American through and through—as intrinsically loyal and patriotic as was his father, who served four years and three months as a Union soldier in the Civil war.

Mr. Shultz has every reason to be proud of the showing he has made in the management of the county farm, and those in position to know are loud in their praises of the ability manifested and the service rendered by Mr. and Mrs. Shultz in the period they have had charge of the county farm—almost five years.

PHILIP H. LEININGER, who for the past twenty years has been engaged in the live-stock business at Sargent, Nebraska, is one of the pioneer settlers of Custer county and has been continuously identified with Custer interests since 1887. He is of staunch old Ohio stock, both parents being natives of

the Buckeye state, and he was born in Mercer county, Ohio, October 25, 1856. His father, John Leininger, was born in Stark county, and his mother, Salome (Fennig) Leininger, was born in Holmes county, that state.

John Leininger engaged in farming in Mercer county, Ohio, until 1885, and became a man of considerable prominence in his community. For many years he served as township treasurer. He led in the political councils of the Democratic party and was always considered a man of superior business judgment. In 1885 he came to Valley county, Nebraska, following the death of his first wife, in 1884, and for five years he lived at Arcadia, Nebraska. He then moved to The Dalles, in Wasco county, Oregon, and there his death occurred in 1905. He was thrice married and was the father of thirteen children. Those born to his first marriage were: Samuel, now deceased, was a farmer in Mercer county, Ohio. He married Leah Meyers. Philip H. was the second son. John died at the age of two years. William, who is a farmer near Arcadia, Nebraska, married Ella Jones; Mary is the wife of James Sterling and they live in Idaho. George died in Indiana, at the age of twenty-two years. Jacob, who died at Townsend, Montana, married Alice Roberts, and she lives near The Dalles, Oregon. Permelia is the wife of Perry Morgan, a farmer near Portland, Oregon. Salome is the wife of Eugene Mace, a farmer near Bickleton, Washington. The second marriage of John Leininger, was to Mary Bird and they had three children, two of whom are living—Lawrence and Martha, who live near The Dalles, Oregon. The third marriage was to a Mrs. Roberts and they had one son, Harley, who lives in Oregon.

Philip H. Leininger was reared on his father's farm in Mercer county, Ohio, and attended the district schools. It was not until 1884 that he came to Nebraska, and in the same year he homesteaded in Valley county, securing eighty acres near Arcadia, which land he subsequently developed into a valuable property. Mr. Leininger, however, has devoted special attention to the live-stock industry and in continuing and vigorously pushing forward this business at the present time he is performing a patriotic service to his country.

Mr. Leininger was married December 24, 1889, to Hattie Austin, who died January 24, 1891. They had one son, Clyde, who died at the age of seven months. The second marriage of Mr. Leininger took place February 10, 1897, when Mrs. Delia Carter became his wife, she having had one son by her first

marriage, William Carter. He was born February 4, 1891, and at the time of this writing is in the national army, in training at Camp Dodge, Iowa, where he is attached to a division of heavy artillery. Mr. and Mrs. Leininger have four children. Earl and Pearl, twins, were born October 22, 1897, the former being a druggist at Sargent, and the latter being employed in a Sargent dry goods store. Fern, who was born August 2, 1899, is a student in the Nebraska Normal School at Kearney, and Hattie was born January 27, 1906.

In politics Mr. Leininger is a Democrat and has always been more or less active in party affairs. For two years he was a member of the city council of Sargent and in every way is a man of reliability. He belongs to the order of Royal Highlanders.

HAROLD I. PERRIN, who is a prosperous business man and thoroughly respected citizen of Sargent, Nebraska, may lay claim to pioneer ancestry, as his father came among the earliest settlers to Custer county. Mr. Perrin was born at Sargent, this county, October 3, 1886, and has spent practically his entire life here. His parents are Similien L. and Sophia (Tobias) Perrin.

Similien L. Perrin was born in Louisiana. Forty-one years ago he came from Iowa to Custer county, Nebraska, and settled near the present site of the busy little city of Sargent. He actually broke the land on which Sargent now stands. He simultaneously secured a tree claim near Sargent and he continued to live on his land until 1899, when he moved into the town. For several years thereafter he was interested in the Beatrice Creamery Company. An ardent Republican, he was frequently mentioned for political preferment, and finally he was appointed postmaster at Sargent. In this position he served seven years and then retired. Both he and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mrs. Perrin is a native of Illinois. Of their four children three survive, namely: Harold I.; Louis E., who is manager at Arnold, Nebraska, for the Dierks Lumber Company, married Lorene Rassmussen; and Watt W., who is a farmer near Sargent, married Gladys Ruse.

Harold I. Perrin was educated in the Sargent schools and at Bradley Polytechnic, Peoria, Illinois, spending thirteen months in that institution, after which he went to Cheyenne, Wyoming, and passed a year there. In the fall of 1907 he engaged in the jewelry business at Sargent, and he has built up a large business in this line—probably the largest in Custer county. He carries a care-

fully selected stock of all goods pertaining to this trade and is so favorably known in large centers that he can expeditiously fill any order for special goods or designs for suitable gifts for any occasion. Notwithstanding some business depression occasioned by the world war, he has continued to do a normal business.

Mr. Perrin was married January 5, 1910, to Miss Allona Wood. Her mother, Mrs. Minerva Wood, survives and lives at Sargent. Mr. and Mrs. Perrin have two children—Virginia L., who was born May 28, 1916; and Robert H., who was born August 19, 1917.

In political opinion, Mr. Perrin is a Republican, a thorough believer in the basic principles of this party. For some years he has been a Mason and is identified with the blue lodge at Sargent. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

FRANK L. HICKS, who is a substantial retired business man of Sargent, came to Nebraska in early manhood and for over forty years was identified with the drug trade. Before his retirement he was the leading druggist in this section of the country. The old settlers' organizations include him in their membership and few men are more widely known in Custer and Cedar counties, while none is more highly esteemed. Mr. Hicks has always done his part in the upbuilding of permanent enterprises of general value, and has willingly co-operated with other trustworthy men in furthering movements for the benefit of state and county. He was born September 27, 1850, in Jones county, Iowa, and is the eldest of the ten children born to Frank M. and Frances A. (Little) Hicks, both of whom were born in New York.

In 1848 Frank M. Hicks removed with his family to Iowa, and that state continued to be the family home until his death. In the meanwhile he had served in the Civil war, as a member of Company H, Thirty-first Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and was honorably discharged June 11, 1865. In the first year of the war, on June 7, 1861, he was appointed a captain in the Iowa State militia. For a number of years he was largely interested in the Monticello (Iowa) National Bank. In politics a Republican, he served in public capacities and for several years was sheriff of Jones county. Both he and wife were members of the Congregational church. Their children were as follows: Frank L. is the subject of this review; Ophelia is the wife of Fred Penneman and they live in Louisiana; Harry T. is a farmer in Alamosa county, Colorado; Eben G., who is a retired farmer of Monti-

cello, Iowa, married Ella Jewett; Elmer E. is a retired merchant of Monticello; Grant is a physician at Tacoma, Washington; Ernest, who is a lawyer and is practicing his profession in Chicago, Illinois, married Cora Farwell; Laura, who is the widow of Fred Koop, resides at Monticello, Iowa; Archibald G. is a dentist and is practicing in Tacoma, Washington; and Charles was accidentally killed when a boy.

Frank L. Hicks attended the public schools of Monticello and, as the eldest son of the family, assisted his father in his various enterprises. In the meanwhile he studied pharmacy and, after some experience, he engaged in business as a druggist, in 1872. With the exception of two years spent on farms in eastern Iowa, he continued in the same line without change until 1914, when he retired. Twenty years of this time were passed at Coleridge, in Cedar county, Nebraska, and the remaining years at Sargent, Custer county. Honorable and upright in all his business relations, and careful and conscientious in his particular line, Mr. Hicks built up a reputation creditable in the extreme.

Mr. Hicks was married June 6, 1876, in New York, to Miss Vina E. Weller, and four children were born to them, two of whom survive: Roy W., who is a druggist at Sargent, married Lulu Livermore; and F. Ray, who is the government mail carrier between Ansley and Sargent, married Mate Livermore and they live near Sargent. Mr. Hicks and his sons are Republicans and take part in important campaigns. Mr. Hicks is past master of the Masonic lodge at Sargent and at the present time is secretary of the lodge. He has had business and personal relations with many of the men who have become distinguished in Nebraska history and his reminiscences are exceedingly interesting.

IVAN L. LEECH, who is one of the enterprising young agriculturists of Custer county, operating a fine farm near Ansley, in section 32, township 35, is universally respected in his community, as are all other members of his family. He comes of county pioneer stock, his parents having settled in old Custer over thirty years ago. He was born near Westerville, this county, Nebraska, April 6, 1892, and is the youngest child of Corydon T. and Anna D. (Risley) Leech.

The father of Mr. Leech has long been a leading man in Custer county, a substantial farmer and stock-raiser, and many times a public official. He was born in Mercer county, Illinois, and from there came to Nebraska in

1874, shortly after his marriage to Anna D. Risley, who was born at Aledo, Illinois. They still reside in Custer county and have the following children: Cora, Floy, Nellie, Nina, Don R., Ralph R., Elsie, and Ivan L.

Ivan L. Leech completed the common-school course in Custer county and then spent two years of study in the Nebraska Wesleyan University at Lincoln, following which he was for one year with the Davey Tree Expert Company, at Kent, Ohio. In addition to his general agricultural activities, Mr. Leech continues to some extent his special line of scientific study, being greatly interested in and naturally well qualified for this work.

At Wayne, Nebraska, August 23, 1916, Mr. Leech was united in marriage to Miss Gladys Gaston, who is a daughter of Rev. William L. and Eleanor (Taliaferro) Gaston. Mrs. Leech has one sister and one brother: Eleanor, who is the wife of Joseph Kern, assistant cashier in a bank at Vallejo, California, and Orvin B., who lives with his parents. The father of Mrs. Leech is pastor of the Baptist church at Broken Bow, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Leech have one child, a son, Wayne Hillard, who was born in Custer county, October 28, 1917. Mr. and Mrs. Leech attend the Methodist Episcopal church at Westerville. In politics Mr. Leech, like his honored father, is a Republican. He has never accepted political recognition of any kind, but is ever ready to co-operate with his fellow citizens when matters of moment to county, state, or nation are under consideration.

CORYDON T. LEECH.—One of the representative men of Custer county who has honorably and usefully filled numerous public offices in his township and community during the thirty-two years he has been here, is Corydon T. Leech, who still resides on the homestead he acquired in 1886. A pioneer in the county, he, like others in the early times, encountered adventures, accidents, deprivations, and hardships. In looking backward to those days, Mr. Leech feels that not all the heroes the country has known have fallen in battle, for the title of hero ought to be given to the early Nebraska settlers who with quiet courage lived through grasshopper scourges and water famines that meant blasted hopes of crops and that threatened starvation for wife and children on the devastated prairies. It is but simple justice to strive to preserve the names and histories of these "pathfinders" in the annals of the state and county for which they have done a great work.

Corydon T. Leech was born March 30,

1848, in Mercer county, Illinois, to which section his father, John H. Leech, had gone, as a pioneer farmer and cabinetmaker, from his birthplace, in what is now West Virginia. John H. Leech married Eleanor Robinson, who was born in Maryland, and they had eight children, four of whom are living—Adolphus M., Leonidas M., Corydon T., and Virginia Caroline. The parents were people of real worth and from the naming of their children it might be justly inferred they were intellectual and well read. To this fact, perhaps, may be attributed the academic education afforded Corydon T. Leech, who supplemented his common-school training with a course in Aledo (Illinois) Academy. After his marriage, in 1874, Mr. Leech came to Nebraska and located in Nemaha county, where he lived for eight difficult years, coming then to Custer county. He brought enough capital to enable him to buy a homestead right and he acquired also a tree claim. He gradually brought his land under cultivation and greatly improved it, and for many years he continued to farm and raise stock. He finally sold the old homestead and bought his present farm. With the exception of about four years passed in California, Mr. Leech has lived continuously in Custer county.

Mr. Leech was married at Aledo, Illinois, September 3, 1874, to Miss Anna D. Risley, a daughter of Thomas T. and Jane (Hollowell) Risley, and they have eight children—Cora, Floy, Nellie, Mina, Don R., Ralph R., Elsie, and Ivan L.

A Republican in politics, Mr. Leech has always been a loyal party man, but in local matters he has never permitted political bias to sway him in the administration of the various public offices he has held. For many years he has been a school director and township trustee, and he has served in other capacities also. He is a strong advocate of good roads and remembers how all the operations of the settlers in early days were hampered by lack of the same, when commodities of every kind had to be transported from Grand Island and Kearney. Mr. Leech and his family belong to the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he is a trustee.

JAMES E. WERBER.—Among the many pleasant and progressive towns that have been developed in Custer county, Sargent is one that has taken the lead in many ways—partly, perhaps, because of the solid character of its foremost business men, among whom may be mentioned James E. Werber. Mr. Werber has spent many years in Custer county, is



MR. AND MRS. RICHARD E. BREGA

widely known, and perhaps no citizen is considered more trustworthy. He was born December 11, 1869, at East Peoria, Illinois, a son of John C. and Mary E. (Hector) Werber.

John C. Werber was born in the city of Hamburg, Germany. When eighteen years of age he came to the United States and settled first in Bureau county, Illinois. He thence removed to Iowa, where he worked at the trade of baker. Later he returned to Illinois, and there he was employed in the railroad shops at Bureau Junction until 1883. In the meanwhile he had married Mary E. Hector, who was born in Ireland and who died in Illinois, in 1880. They had five children—Nellie is the wife of William Cramer, a farmer near Edwards, Illinois; John S., who is a farmer near Burwell, Nebraska, married Sophia Guggenmos; James E. is the subject of this sketch; Rudolph G., who lives at Allis, Colorado, married Lillian Nightengale; and Mary D. is the wife of John Cramer, a farmer near Hanna City, Illinois. After the death of his first wife, John C. Werber married Maggie Hendrickson, and two children were born of that marriage—Harry, who lives in Ohio, married Rena Brannon; and Carl is a soldier in France at the time of this writing. John C. Werber died in 1897. In 1883 he had come to Custer county and secured a homestead north of Sargent.

James E. Werber attended the district schools and assisted his father on the pioneer farm after coming to Custer county. There were few of the settlers of that date who escaped hardship and privation for a time, not because of their lack of foresight and good judgment, but because of unpreventable natural causes, and, with the others, the Werbers saw some hard times. Courage, industry, and never-failing hope finally had their reward and a fine farm was developed—one that has been listed with the most productive in this section. James E. Werber continued his farm industries until 1902, when he came to Sargent and engaged in the grain business, handling a commodity that he had successfully grown for many years. In 1914 he added dealing in live stock to his grain business and in both lines he has made a business record.

Mr. Werber was married June 15, 1895, to Miss Nellie Laughlin, the adopted daughter of William and Harriet (Brown) Laughlin, and they have one son, Fern L., who was born January 3, 1896. He is an accomplished and reliable young man and at present holds a position with the United States Shipbuilding Company, at Pascagoula, Mississippi.

In politics Mr. Werber is a Republican and

works intelligently and conscientiously for his party, but no political bias influences him in his services to the public as a member of the Sargent town council, an office he has held for two years. He is prominent in several fraternities, being a thirty-second-degree Mason and a Shriner. He has passed all the chairs in the local lodge of Odd Fellows and belongs also to the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

RICHARD E. BREGA, who is one of the representative citizens of Custer county, where he has lived since he was seventeen years of age, is one of the county's largest land-owners and heaviest taxpayers. He is prominent in business circles at Callaway, in the line of real estate and farm loans, and for many years has been one of the county's ablest lawyers. His many interests have given him a wide acquaintance, and his personal integrity has brought him esteem and general confidence.

Richard E. Brega was born at Brampton, Dominion of Canada, October 1, 1861. His parents were Frank B. and Charlotte (Birdsall) Brega, and his maternal grandfather was Richard Birdsall, who was a government surveyor and acquired large holdings of Canada land, which he purchased when the price was but fifty cents an acre. The same land now sells for \$100 an acre. The father of Mr. Brega was born in West Virginia and the mother at Peterboro, Canada. Of their family of children, the following survive: Richard E., whose name introduces this sketch; William P., who is a foreman in the Cudahy packing plant at Kansas City; Charlotte, who is the wife of Frantz S. Dolph, a ranchman and stockman of Louth, Kansas; and Fannie L., a popular and talented actress, who for ten years has appeared on the stage under the name of Hope Latham.

In 1878 Frank B. Brega came with his family to Nebraska, and he located on judiciously selected land which lies twelve miles northwest of Callaway. This land, which has undergone thorough development and improvement, has remained in the family for forty years and now belongs to Richard E. Brega. Through wise investments Mr. Brega has acquired hundreds of other acres and is counted one of the most extensive land-owners in Custer county. His early education was completed before coming to Nebraska, but his law studies were prosecuted here and in 1892 he was admitted to the Nebraska bar. His professional career has been one of great

success and one creditable in every way. He has secured a place as a representative member of the bar of this section of the state.

Richard E. Brega was married December 4, 1884, at Westerville, Nebraska, to Miss Milly Varney, who is a daughter of Edgar and Amelia (Tiffany) Varney. The Varneys were among the very earliest settlers in Custer county and Edgar Varney was one of the first merchants. Mr. and Mrs. Brega have four children—Emily M., Irene V., Valair, and Richard E., Jr. The eldest daughter, Emily M., is the wife of Ray B. Bennett, who is in the banking and life insurance business at Kearney, Nebraska, and who belongs to the Masons and Odd Fellows. Mr. and Mrs. Bennett have five children. Irene V., the second daughter, is the wife of John Balliet and they have four children. Mr. Balliet is a banker at Appleton, Wisconsin, and is also in the insurance business. He is identified with both the Masonic fraternity and the Odd Fellows. Valair, the third daughter, is the wife of Henry C. Johnston, who is a merchant in David City, Nebraska, and they have one child. Richard E., Jr., the only son of the subject of this review, is an appointee of Congressman Hitchcock to the United States Naval Academy, at Annapolis, Maryland.

In politics Mr. Brega is a Democrat and a very loyal party man, but he has never accepted political office for himself. He was reared in the faith of the Episcopal church and this church has often been the medium through which he has dispensed his charities. He is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodman of America.

CLARENCE METCALF, who since 1911 has been the proprietor of a thriving and constantly growing implement business at Sargent, has been a resident of Custer county since 1883. Mr. Metcalf is one of those who, having their early training on the farm, deserted the soil to enter commercial pursuits, and have found success and prosperity therein. It is not alone in business circles, however, that Mr. Metcalf has been prominent, for his services to his community in public offices have been of a decidedly efficient and helpful character.

Mr. Metcalf was born in Wyoming county, New York, October 17, 1870, and is a brother of Plin L. Metcalf, a sketch of whose career will be found elsewhere in this work. As a lad he was taken by his parents to Ohio, where the death of the father occurred. The

mother, left with a family to support, came in 1883 to Custer county and located on a homestead, and in this community Clarence Metcalf supplemented, in the public schools, the education that he had commenced in Ohio. Mr. Metcalf remained on the homestead place until 1911, in which year, seeing an opportunity, he removed to Sargent and established himself in the implement business, a venture that has since grown to large and important proportions under his capable management and untiring industry. He carries a full and up-to-date stock of all articles connected with an establishment of this kind, and courteous treatment, absolute fidelity to engagements, reasonable prices and expeditious service have combined to attract to his store a trade that extends over a wide stretch of the surrounding countryside. His standing in business circles is an excellent one, and rests upon seven years of honorable and straightforward dealing.

Mr. Metcalf is a progressive citizen, and as such has always taken a keen and active interest in public affairs. His fellow citizens long ago realized his fitness for office, and as a result he has been called upon to act in a number of official capacities. For nine years he has served as township clerk, for a like period was a member of the school board of district No. 70, and he has also served three years on the Sargent school board. His service has always been satisfactory and constructive and his official record is an excellent one.

Mr. Metcalf was married August 19, 1914, to Miss Abbie Fenstermacher, daughter of C. A. and Margaret (Hill) Fenstermacher, and a member of a family which is reviewed elsewhere in this work, in the sketch of Dr. C. H. Fenstermacher. Mr. and Mrs. Metcalf became the parents of one child: Verne H., who was born January 16, 1918, and who passed away November 29, 1918. Mr. Metcalf is a stalwart Republican in politics, and he and his wife are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

J. M. KNOX. — The story of J. M. Knox reveals the fact that he has lived in many parts of the country, that in moving from one place to another he has found no better place than Custer county and that with all his migrations he managed to have all his children, with one exception, born in Custer county. Mr. Knox is a native of Iowa and is a son of James and Anna (Mason) Knox, both of whom were born in Ireland and both of whom lived to ripe old age, the father being eighty-three and the mother ninety-two years of age at the time of

death. They were the parents of four children, J. M. being the eldest. The others are: Mrs. Emma Van Nortwick, whose husband is a retired farmer; Mrs. Anna Reed, of Aurora, whose husband, likewise is a retired farmer; and William, who is engaged in general farming near White Sulphur Springs, Montana.

J. M. Knox was an infant when his parents came to Nebraska, and he lived for a time in Nebraska City, where he knew J. Sterling Morton. In fact, he helped to put up hay on the J. Sterling Morton place, and hence became well acquainted with the author of the Nebraska history contained in the first volume of this historical set. In 1870 he went to Thayer county, where he lived for twenty-seven years. From there he moved to Dawson county, locating in the western part of the county and making it his home for six years. Then he went to Idaho, where he lived two years; then, in 1902, to Custer county, Nebraska, where he lived five years; then to New Mexico, where he remained two years; then back to Custer county, remaining six years; then to Dawson county, where he still resides.

Mr. Knox married Miss Clara Marquiss, and to them have been born seven children: Ray is married and lives in New Mexico, where he is employed by an irrigation company; Paul lives on part of the old Black ranch in Custer county; Wayne also has part of the Black ranch; Mark lives in Round Valley, Custer county; Laura Richards lives at home; Anna Marsh lives in Custer county; Hazel is at home and is a school girl in the country schools, she being the only one of the children not born in Nebraska, as she was born in Idaho. Mr. and Mrs. Knox own city property, make their home in Sumner and are rated among the prominent and influential people of the place. They are members of the Methodist church. He affiliates with the Republican party, and has filled, with great acceptability, such local offices as school trustee and road overseer in the communities where he has lived.

JOHN A. KENYON. — One of the representative business houses of Sargent which has been built up to appreciable proportions through the honorable conduct and honest industry of its proprietor, is the furniture and undertaking establishment of John A. Kenyon. A Custer county homesteader of 1885, Mr. Kenyon was for more than a quarter of a century identified with agricultural interests, and the prosperity which attended his efforts as a tiller of the soil has been equalled

by the success which he has gained in his present business since its founding, in 1912.

Mr. Kenyon was born near the present location of St. Paul, Minnesota, April 14, 1855, and is a son of Ralph A. and Emerette (Nutting) Kenyon, natives of Rutland, Vermont. The father took his family to Illinois about 1850, and in 1852 moved to Minnesota, where he homesteaded on 400 acres of land. Subsequently he traded his farm for a saw mill at Bradford, Iowa, that industry being in a flourishing condition at that time, but this proved an unfortunate move, as the saw mill was destroyed by fire and Mr. Kenyon lost his all. About this time the Civil war came on, and Mr. Kenyon enlisted, in April, 1861, in the Fourth Iowa Cavalry. During his service, under General Grant and other noted officers, he was never wounded, but at one time he was captured by the enemy. He came through the war safely and established a splendid record. Always a man of great industry and energy, and quick to take advantage of opportunities, while in the service he began making pies, cakes and other delicacies for the soldiers, and this venture proved so profitable that when he received his honorable discharge, in October, 1865, and returned to his family at Bradford, Iowa, he had saved enough to buy the best house there and to establish himself as proprietor of a farm. Later he sold this property and came to Gage county, Nebraska, where he homesteaded a tract near Adams. He continued to operate this until his retirement, when he disposed of his interests and moved to Red Cloud, Kansas, where his death occurred in 1905. Originally a Whig, Mr. Kenyon later affiliated himself with the Republican party. He was a Mason, and he and his wife were members of the Christian church. They were the parents of six children, of whom five are living: George, who is now retired, was identified with the Swift Packing Company at St. Joseph, Missouri, for twenty-five years; John A. of this sketch, was next in order of birth; Wallace B. is engaged in farming near Sargent; Helen is the wife of Val Johnson, a farmer near Enid, Oklahoma; and Rest is the widow of Mr. Sides, formerly a retired farmer of Hastings, Nebraska.

John A. Kenyon was given excellent educational advantages in his youth, first attending the public schools of Gage county and subsequently the normal school at Peru, this state. When he entered upon his independent career it was as a Gage county farmer, and that county was his home for approximately ten years. Within this time, on September 12,

1875, he married Miss Isabel Fuller, and in 1885 they came to Custer county and settled on the homestead, four miles from Sargent, on which they resided for twenty-seven years. In this period, through industry and good management, Mr. Kenyon achieved marked success and a position among the leading agriculturists of his locality. In 1912 he disposed of his landed interests there and came to Sargent, where he entered the furniture and undertaking business, and by honest, and earnest work he has built up an important business in both branches. His name is one honored in business circles as that of a man of the strictest integrity and highest principles.

Mr. Kenyon is prominent in Masonic affairs, having held several offices in Swastika Lodge, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, at Sargent, and he is affiliated also with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is a Democrat in his political views, and he and Mrs. Kenyon are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. They are the parents of seven children: Maude is the wife of Frank Sutton, a farmer six miles west of Sargent; Oscar is married and is a resident of Hastings, Nebraska; Edith is the wife of Walter Sutton, of Sargent, who enlisted in the United States Army and is now a police guard in Missouri; Lulu is the wife of Charles Ford, a farmer near Sargent; Ralph, of San Francisco, is married and is a member of the United States Navy; Miss Nellie remains with her parents; and Hugh, who enlisted in the United States Navy, is stationed at San Francisco, California, at the time of this writing.

WILLIAM V. SPURGEON.—Mingled with the old settlers and extensive farmers of the south Loup country is a fine array of young men who are in the first flush of farming activities. These are the men upon whom the future must depend; they are the ones moving rapidly to the center of the stage and must soon take the place of the stalwart producers who to-day by their production are meeting the demands of the consuming class. William V. Spurgeon belongs to this coterie.

Mr. Spurgeon was born in Johnson county, Nebraska, and is a son of Albert V. Spurgeon, who is still active, and who is conducting a general farming and stock-raising business in Moffet county, Colorado. In the father's family were three children: Mattie Van Wey, whose husband is a plasterer, is living in Kearney, Nebraska; William V., whom this story concerns, was the second born; and Merle lives on a farm in Dawson county.

William V. Spurgeon was married in 1912,

at Burroak church, to Ruth McSherry a daughter of Mrs. McSherry Wodruff. They have one child, Bruce, who was born in Custer county.

The first farming operations of the Spurgeons were in Johnson county. From there they went to Missouri, and then to Louisiana, where they resided three years, and where the subject of this review had some experience in raising rice. From the south they moved to Kearney, Nebraska, and from Kearney to Custer county. At the present time Mr. Spurgeon is located on a ranch of 500 acres, where every department of general farming receives attention. Hogs of a high grade, belonging to the Duroc variety, come in for special attention; the cattle also are of a fine quality; the horse power by which ranch work is carried on is provided by horses of a fine type. The grade of stock and the careful cultivation of the land insure prosperity, and in a few more years this young farmer will rank with the most substantial in the community. Mr. Spurgeon is independent in politics and both he and his wife belong to the Presbyterian church.

Custer county is a splendid home for such young people; it is the land of opportunity, and with their energy and frugality they are bound to succeed.

JOSEPH FORTIK, JR., the vigorous young farmer whom this sketch concerns, is fast building for himself a modest fortune, in fortifying himself against that proverbial day in which much rain is supposed to fall. His history is not hard to tell and is closely identified with Nebraska, which has been his home from the time of his birth. He was formerly engaged in farming south of Ansley, Custer county, but now resides at Overton, Dawson county.

Joseph's history is not hard to tell. He was born in Saline county, Nebraska, in 1881, and is a son of Joseph Fortik, whose family history is outlined in other paragraphs of this volume. The majority of young Fortik's life has been spent in Custer county. Here he graduated from the youthful experiences of boyhood days, here he received his education, here he began farming operations for himself, and here, too, he was married, on the 15th day of October, 1917, at which time he led to the marriage altar Mary Stenbach, from Overton, Dawson county. The parents of Mrs. Fortik became prominent pioneers of Dawson county, where they are well and widely known. Joseph Fortik is a careful and painstaking farmer, is a splendid judge of live stock and is an adept

in caring for the same. He breeds good strains of all kinds of stock, believing that it is easier and cheaper to keep good stock than poor, and that greater profit can be expected from the better grades. He operated in Custer county a farm of 160 acres upon which are good improvements and which shows a high state of cultivation. Though still young in years, Joseph has gained an enviable reputation as a farmer, and recently he has transferred his stage of operations to Dawson county.

Socially, Mr. Fortik belongs to the Modern Woodmen and takes great interest in its promotion and benefit. He is an independent voter, claiming the right to vote always for the candidate whom he considers to be best for the office. Whether that candidate is Democrat or Republican matters little to him. The members of his family are communicants of the Catholic church. Mr. Fortik and his wife are likable people and well esteemed in their home community.

JOSEPH WOLNICZEK.—Down in the vicinity of the Cliff Table is the thrifty, independent farmer whose name heads this paragraph.

Joseph Wolniczek is thirty-two years of age and in the full vigor of his manhood. His father, Matt Wolniczek was a native of German-Poland and he died in the spring of 1918, at the age of seventy-five years. The mother, Julia (Scholz) Wolniczek, was born in Moravia and still living, at the age of sixty-five years. The parents were married thirty-four years ago, at Osceola, Nebraska. The father came to this country and homesteaded 160 acres and filed on a timber claim, in 1884. He commenced with nothing. When he landed at Columbus, Nebraska, his first stopping place, his exchequer contained just five cents; but frugality and thrift overcame all difficulties and settled all questions of the future, so far as finances were concerned. The primitive house of sod has been replaced with a better building, and Joseph Wolniczek, who has lived on the old homestead from the time of his birth, finds himself well located to-day, the possessor of 950 good acres, well stocked with good grades of cattle, hogs, and horses, while Mrs. Wolniczek has a flock of pure blooded Wyandotts that attracts the attention of all passers by. All the farm machinery and outbuildings, fences, etc., make a splendid equipment for operation. Part of the barbed wire with which the place is fenced came from the famous old Olive ranch.

In 1911, Joseph W. Wolniczek married Ida

Kropatsch, who since that time has not only been the partner of his joys and sorrows, who also is to be credited with much of his success. They have three children, all of whom give promise of future usefulness: Albert is six, Carl five, Helen three years of age at the time of this writing.

Mr. and Mrs. Wolniczek belong to the Catholic church and are prominent, useful citizens of the community. Mr. Wolniczek is school director, and politically he is an independent voter. He and his wife maintain a hospitable home and he confines his farming operations to 250 acres, the remainder of the ranch being rented.

JAMES HALOUSKA.—The people from Bohemia when transplanted in America make useful citizens—prosperous, industrious farmers, or competent, energetic business men. All the tributes paid to the blood belong to him of whom these paragraphs are written.

James Halouska was born in Bohemia, in 1845. His parents, Egdi and Theresa (Kratochvil) Halouska, were of Bohemian extraction for long generations. Their family consisted of four children, three sons and one daughter, all of whom, with the exception of James, are in Bohemia.

James Halouska came to the United States in 1878 and located first in Butler county, Nebraska, where he farmed for three years, for himself. The next two years he spent in Omaha, working in a smelter; from there he removed to Valley county, where he remained five years, and finally he came to Custer county, in 1888, and leased a half-section of school land; of this he farms 130 acres and uses the remainder for pasture land. He keeps good horses, breeds good hogs and combines stock-raising with agricultural pursuits in a very profitable manner.

Mr. Halouska's wife, whose maiden name was Anna Mary, is a native of the same homeland and was born the same year as himself. They were married June 18, 1870, and since that time have toiled together, meeting jointly the hardships and reverses and rejoicing together over victories and successes. Into their home four children were born, all of whom are now middle-aged and out in the world making a creditable showing for themselves. Fred, the firstborn, is forty-six years of age and lives on a farm near Finchville; John, forty-two and Frank forty-one years of age, are both Custer county farmers of a very successful type; Fannie lives in Colorado, where her husband operates a farm. In religious matters Mr. Halouska rates himself as a free-

thinker and claims allegiance to no denomination; his political affiliations are with the Democratic party, but he is a man of keen discernment, one who thinks for himself and votes according to the dictates of his best judgment.

DAVID T. ADAMS, the extent and variety of whose interests make him one of the leading business men of Sargent, came to Custer county with his parents in 1885. After a period devoted to farming he entered commercial lines, and since that time his activities have invaded the fields of stock dealing, grain elevators and real estate, all with equal and growing success, while he is likewise one of the county's large land-holders.

Mr. Adams was born at Indiana, the county seat of Indiana county, Pennsylvania, June 17, 1870, and is a son of Joseph W. and Elizabeth R. (Jones) Adams, the former a native of Maine and the latter of Wales. Joseph W. Adams was a farmer and a minister of the Church of God in Pennsylvania until 1883, when he moved to Clay county, Nebraska, where for two years he was engaged in farming experiments. In 1885 he brought his family to Custer county, where he homesteaded, pre-empted and took a tree claim, all adjoining land, and here he remained as a farmer until his death, about 1890. He was a man of strict integrity and high principles, of unflagging industry and energy. He was a Republican in politics and fraternally was affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mrs. Adams, who survives, is still in good health and very vigorous, in spite of her eighty-seven years. There were ten children in the family: Mary is deceased; Ocia is the wife of James McGlumphy, who is identified with blast mills at Martins Ferry, Ohio; Henrietta is the wife of Emery B. Moore, a farmer of Thomas county, Nebraska; Ida B. is the wife of Ernest U. McCoy, a farmer of Spring View, Nebraska; David F. is the immediate subject of this sketch; Samuel G., who married Ella R. Andrews, is a livery owner at Sargent; William is deceased; James B. and Sylvester are twins: the former married Nancy B. Pettit and is a farmer at Creigh, Colorado, and the latter is deceased; and Allen L., who married Rhetta Hommon, is a carpenter at Thedford, Nebraska.

David T. Adams was educated in the public schools of Pennsylvania, and was fifteen years of age when he accompanied his parents to Custer county, where he was engaged in farming for his father until shortly after he had passed his majority. He was married

December 13, 1891, at Somerford, Nebraska, to Ida E. Ferris, daughter of William and Emmeline E. (Huntley) Ferris, and to this union there were born three children: Ocia is the wife of Charles V. Gatliff, a farmer and stock-raiser near Sargent; John Q., who also is a farmer and stockman near Sargent, married Moselle Dudley; and Wesley E., who was born January 17, 1899, resides with his parents.

After his marriage Mr. Adams was independently engaged in farming in Custer county for sixteen years, and he then changed his center of activities to Sargent, where he entered the live-stock business, in partnership with Charles Parks, under the firm name of Parks & Adams. Later he purchased Mr. Parks' interest, but subsequently sold the yards to P. H. Leininger. He re-entered the business when he bought what were known as the Fred Cram yards, which he still owns. He entered the grain-elevator business when he purchased from F. A. Gustafson what was known as the Coburn elevator, which he operated three years, then increasing the business by buying the J. H. Currie elevator, which he still retains. During this time he also operated heavily in real estate, and he continues to be the medium through which some large transactions are conducted. In addition to the foregoing interests, Mr. Adams is an extensive farm owner, having 130 acres within the city limits of Sargent, as well as a ranch of 1810 acres in the northern part of Custer county, this being fully stocked with a good grade of cattle and hogs.

Mr. Adams' status as a business man is one generally recognized by his associates, who have come to depend upon his integrity no less than they have upon his judgment, astuteness and splendid ability. As a citizen he has always shown himself progressive, and his assistance has done much to promote and carry through to a successful conclusion measures which have resulted in a betterment of conditions in civic affairs. His political support is given to the Republican party.

WILLIAM POWERS.—In this title line is given the name of a very successful farmer and one who has helped to make present-day conditions in Custer county—a man who has reared a large family and is one of the dependable spirits in his local community.

Mr. Powers was born in Kendall county, Illinois, in 1851, which date brings him now seven years across the sixty-year line. His father was Luke and his mother was Ellen (Canfield) Powers, both natives of Ireland.

The father was married twice and by these unions became the father of eleven children. The parents came to this country and ended their days in Illinois. Both were adherents of the Catholic church.

In 1885 William Powers led to the marriage altar Miss Mary Foran, who was born in Illinois and who is a sister of James, Dominic, and Thomas Foran, all of whom are mentioned elsewhere in this volume.

The home established by Mr. and Mrs. Powers became the domicile of a large family of children: Loreta Dooley lives in South Dakota; Minnie Hickey lives in Custer county; Fannie Snyder also lives in the county and, like her sister, presides over a farm home; Rose Condon lives in Anselmo, this county; Florence Lynch lives in the county, on a farm; Kate, Lizzie, and Blanche are all successful school teachers; Dorothy lives at home; Evelyn is at home and is attending school; Martin, Arthur, and Leo are all at home and make themselves useful on the ranch.

In the early days of 1884 Mr. Powers located his homestead and began his career in this county. Later he took a pre-emption claim, and these government filings, augmented by land purchased, make to-day a splendid ranch, of which 275 acres are good farm land. The place is well improved and carries on an average 100 head of good grade cattle, aside from a splendid contingent of horses and hogs. During the early days the family occupied a sod house and they began their farming operations in an exceedingly modest way. They conquered their difficulties, however, and have reached the place of competency and comfort.

For the last thirty-one years Mr. Powers has been a member of the local school board and has been rated as one of the leaders in the local community. The religious connections of the family are with the Catholic church, and the political affiliations of Mr. Powers are with the Democratic party. Mr. and Mrs. Powers are splendid neighbors and both enjoy the confidence of a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

DOMINIC FORAN.—Over in the western portion of the county the name of Foran is widely known and belongs to a respected, industrious family in which there are several brothers—sons of a worthy sire who has reared his family in such a way as to make the name respected and influential in local circles.

The subject of this sketch, Dominic Foran, was born in the famous city of Joliet, Illinois, in the year 1863. At the age of twenty-two

years he came to Custer county and located a homestead, upon which he began his western career and ran the gamut of pioneer life. Hard work and privations could not daunt his courage, and to-day he has demonstrated what energy and good management can do. The homestead of 160 acres has grown into a full section, of which 175 acres are in cultivation. This, combined with the pasture land, makes an ideal and a profitable stock farm. The improvements are of a fair order and meet the requirements of the ranch.

Mr. Foran took unto himself a life partner when he led to the marriage altar Miss Minnie McGowan, who was born in Lawrence, Massachusetts, in 1869. Mrs. Foran is a lady of sterling qualities and deserves much of credit for the success her husband has achieved.

Denominationally, the Forans are connected with the Catholic church, to which they pay devotion commendable to themselves and profitable to the church. Mr. Foran helped to build the church in which he is a faithful constituent and contributor. Politically, the Democratic party lays claim to his support, and provided that the personnel of the ticket is reputable and competent, it generally gets his vote. He has small ambition for office; the township insisted upon electing him constable in the last election, but the office did not appeal to his aspirations and he failed to qualify.

The Forans are preparing to take life easy; they rent out most of the land, from which they receive profitable returns. Their neighbors and friends concede their right to comfortable retirement and give them the rating of good and respected neighbors.

ALFRED AMOS.—The pioneer families of Custer county who played their parts in the vital drama that has turned this section of Nebraska into a paradise for the homeseeker, developing the wilderness into busy, thriving communities of the country, have reason to hold themselves responsible for much of present-day progressiveness. While many of those who experienced the actual hardships of the early days have passed away, there still remain many who, through sheer force of will and energy, brought out of primeval conditions what have become twentieth-century actualities. Among these is found Alfred Amos, who was a homesteader of the year 1883, and who is now living in comfortable retirement at his home in Sargent.

Mr. Amos was born in Carroll county, Ohio, October 1, 1851, and is a son of John and Catherine (Thompson) Amos, the former

a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio. The parents were married in Ohio, where the father was engaged in farming for a number of years. Subsequently he spent six years on a farm in Fayette county, Iowa, and in 1883, he came to Custer county, where he took up as a homestead the southeast quarter of section 21, range 18, his son Alfred securing the northwest quarter of the same section. The father continued to be engaged in farming until his retirement, when he disposed of his farm to his son Alfred and moved to Wescott, where his death occurred about 1906. Mrs. Amos survived him until May 2, 1914. They were the parents of the following children: Alfred is the immediate subject of this sketch; Kirk, who married Belle Meyers, is a retired farmer of Sargent; Zachariah, who married Ara Love, is a retired farmer of Sargent; Angeline, who is deceased, was the wife of John Slates, retired, of Wyoming; the next daughter married Gene Westervelt, an editor of Scottsbluff; Emma is the wife of Alexander McCune, a farmer of Westerville; Nora is the wife of Eli Armstrong, a retired farmer of Broken Bow; and William, who married Eva Campbell, is living retired, at Sargent.

Alfred Amos attended the public schools of Ohio, where he worked on the home farm with his father, as he did also in Iowa, and when the family came to Custer county, in 1883, he homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 21, township 18, range 18. He farmed that property about twenty years, but when his father retired, he took over the elder man's property and sold his own farm to his brother William. For eleven years thereafter he continued operations as a farmer and stock-raiser, and through making the most of his opportunities, working industriously, managing his affairs carefully, and applying all his knowledge to his daily labor, he succeeded in accumulating the competence which permitted him to retire to his home at Sargent, where he is surrounded by the comforts and conveniences that serve to compensate him for the numerous hardships which he experienced during his earlier years, while he was endeavoring to get a start. He is still the owner of his property, which has fine buildings and modern improvements, and he also has investments in other paying propositions, into which he has been led by his keen business judgment and foresight. Mr. Amos is a Democrat in politics and while not an office-seeker is interested in his community's affairs. He is accounted both a man of public spirit and of integrity, — one who has the welfare of his locality at heart and who respects the

rights of his fellow men. With his family, he holds membership in the Christian church.

Mr. Amos was united in marriage March 1, 1883, to Miss Carrie Carnall, who was born in Iowa, a daughter of James and Caroline (Nicholson) Carnall, natives of England, the former born in Lincolnshire and the latter in Essex. To this union there have been born eight children: Wayne L., who is on the old homestead, married Esther Wooters; James L., who is a Custer county farmer, first married Ida L. Bruner, and he later married Alma Giser, who died March 30, 1911; Anna S. is the wife of Milton Copey, a farmer near Westerville; Glenn A. is a farmer in Dry valley; Bert, who married Hazel Thompson, is in the remount department of the United States Army, and is stationed at Camp Funston, Kansas, at the time of this writing; Catherine keeps house for her brother Glenn A.; Caroline, twin sister of Catherine, resides with her parents, as does also Edith M. All of the children were given good educational advantages, and Mr. and Mrs. Amos have proved themselves good friends to the schools, each having served in the capacity of director of the school board, the latter for about ten years.

SAMPSON GIVEN was an early settler of Custer county and to-day he is probably the youngest-looking sixty-one-year-old man one would meet in many a day's travel.

A native of West Virginia, where he was born March 17, 1857, Mr. Given is a son of Robert E. Given, a record of whom appears on other pages of this volume. Our subject was a young man of twenty-one years when the family home was established in Fillmore county, Nebraska. In 1883 he came to Custer county and took a homestead of 160 acres, in section 28, township 18, range 21, becoming one of the early settlers of the neighborhood. His first home was a sod house and the pioneer experiences and hardships incident to the opening up of a new country he met with the courage and determination characteristic of the men who ventured into this new country. As the years passed, he met with success in his efforts, bringing his fields to a high state of cultivation—yielding bountiful harvests in return for the labor he bestowed upon them. The old "soddy," gave way to a modern frame structure, and to the original tract was added another quarter-section of land, to the operation of which he devoted himself for many years. He then sold his farm, and after a residence of one year in Merna, he purchased his present farm of 320 acres—the south

half of section 15, township 18, range 23. This is a well improved property and he is devoting his time to general farming and stock-raising.

Mr. Given was united in marriage to Miss Ottie I. Reed, who was born in Illinois, a daughter of S. H. Reed, an early settler of Custer county. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Given has been made happy by the birth of six children: Edith married A. R. Horton and resides at Langtry, South Dakota; Mayplet is the wife of Roy Cramer, of Custer county; Esther Beatrice married Ed. Fox and they reside in Custer county; Robert Thurston is, at the time of this writing, in the national army and doing police duty on the Mexican border; Georgia, Mansel W., and Jay S. are still at home.

Mr. Given has been an eye-witness of the vast changes that have taken place in Custer county and in the work of development has contributed his full share. Having resided within its borders for thirty-five years, he has a wide circle of acquaintances and is held in the highest of esteem by all who know him.

FRANK S. ACKERMAN is one of the early settlers of Custer county and has been identified with its agricultural interests for more than thirty years.

Mr. Ackerman was born in Stark county, Ohio, August 29, 1862. His parents, Andrew and Mary Ann (Lauver) Ackerman, were natives of Ohio, the former having been born in Stark county and the latter in Harrison county; they were farming people and both passed the closing years of their lives in Stark county, Ohio. Concerning the name Ackerman, Frank S. remembers a story told about his grandfather, Christopher Ackerman. When the grandfather was a boy in school his teacher asked him his name and he answered Ackerman, giving the A the broad sound. The teacher told him if that was the way to pronounce the name it should be spelled with a "u", and the grandfather always spelled it that way.

The subject of this biography was reared in his native county and was a young man of twenty-four years when he came to Custer county. He walked from Kearney to Broken Bow and after paying for a night's lodging and a breakfast at the old Marble Top (Hull) hotel, his capital was twenty-five cents. During a conversation in the hotel he heard the names of Mr. Deal and Mr. Weimer mentioned, the former a minister, the latter a farmer, both of whom he had known in Ohio. Upon making inquiry and learning where Dan

Weimer lived, he made his way there, and for two years he worked for Mr. Weimer on the farm. He then took a pre-emption of 160 acres in section 2, township 18, range 23, proving up on same and conducting farming operations there for several years. His first home was a sod house and the hardships and trials of Custer county's early settlers are quite familiar to him. He is now operating 400 acres of the Philip Johnson farm, having sold his own land.

Mr. Ackerman was united in marriage to Miss Anna Johnson, who was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, a daughter of the late Philip Johnson, whose record is given elsewhere in this history.

Mr. and Mrs. Ackerman have three children: Harry married Addie Dutton and they have three children—Francis, Marquiss, and Orcheretta; May is the wife of Fred Hussey, and they have two children—Lloyd, and Opal; and Mary is the wife of Russell Rhodes, their daughter being named Inez Laurine. All of the children reside in Custer county.

GEORGE JACQUOT was born on the farm which is now his home, and the date of his nativity was October 30, 1884. He is a son of Nicholas Jacquot, one of the early homesteaders of Custer county, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this history.

George Jacquot was reared on the farm and attended the public schools. As soon as he was old enough, he assisted in the operation of the farm; and for several years before his father's death he had the management of the place, his father being interested in other business enterprises, which required his attention. George Jacquot to-day operates 400 acres of the estate, and the improvements are extensive and among the best in the county, the equipment being well adapted for general farming as well as stock-raising. Mr. Jacquot is energetic and progressive, and meeting with good success.

Mr. Jacquot married Miss Mary Mohatt, a native of Harrison county, Iowa, and they have four children—Harold, Cecil, Geraldine, and Hubert. Mr. and Mrs. Jacquot are members of the Catholic church and have a host of friends who value them for their genuine worth.

JOHN F. BAKER.—The agricultural interests of Custer county have a worthy representative in the person of John Finley Baker, who owns and operates a valuable tract of land.

John F. Baker was born in Appanoose county Iowa, December 19, 1870. His father James Richard Baker, was born in Davis county, Iowa, and as a young man he engaged in railroad work and coal-mining. He resided in Iowa until 1885, when he came to Custer county and homesteaded in township 18, range 25. After proving up on this place, he removed to township 18, range 23, where he purchased land. On this tract he made splendid improvements, and here he resided until his death, at the age of fifty-nine years. In Iowa he was united in marriage to Miss Frances Elizabeth Powell, a native of Kentucky, and she passed away on the old farm in Custer county, at the age of sixty-two years. James R. Baker was widely known in Custer and adjoining counties as a livestock auctioneer.

John F. Baker was one of a family of five children. His early boyhood days were spent in his native county, in Iowa, and he accompanied his parents to Custer county when a lad of fifteen years. On reaching manhood he engaged in farming, and he is to-day the owner of 400 acres. Here he carries on general agriculture and stock-raising. His is a well improved farm and the present condition is the result of the indefatigable labor of its owner.

Mr. Baker was united in marriage to Miss Callie Bell Winston, who was born in Missouri, a daughter of William and Fannie (Maupin) Winston, who are now residents of Custer county.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Baker has been made happy by the birth of three children: Lillian Florence, Etta May, and John Richard. The parents are members of the United Brethren church and in politics Mr. Baker is a Democrat. The family are held in unqualified esteem by all who know them.

NATHAN T. GADD, who has been a leading member of the legal fraternity of Broken Bow for nearly thirty years, has not confined his activities to the practice of his profession, but is popular in fraternal circles and has been prominent in public life. He is a native of Blakesburg, Iowa, and was born December 7, 1856, being a son of Dr. Joseph and Susanna (Rush) Gadd.

Joseph Gadd, the paternal grandfather of Nathan T. Gadd, was born in New Jersey, whence at an early date he moved to Ohio, settled on a new farm and continued to be engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death, which was caused by the fall of a tree. On the Ohio farm Dr. Joseph Gadd was born

in 1822, and in his native community he met and married Susanna Rush, also born in the Buckeye state, a daughter of Ezekiel Rush, who was a pioneer to Ohio from Pennsylvania. Dr. Joseph Gadd attended the Eclectic Medical College at Cincinnati and completed his professional preparation at Rush Medical College, Chicago. Sometime during the '40s he migrated to Iowa, where he practiced for a number of years at Blakesburg, became a leading member of the medical fraternity in his state, and assisted in the organization of Keokuk Medical College, with which he was connected for some years. As a religious man, he belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church, and his fraternal connections were with the Masons and Odd Fellows, while his political inclinations made him a Republican. In his later years he moved to Davenport, Iowa, near which city his death occurred, in 1887. Mrs. Gadd, born in 1824, survived until 1899. They were the parents of eleven children, of whom four are living: Anna, the wife of A. J. Rastebach, a shoe merchant of Davenport; Nathan T.; J. P., principal of the Dipsomaniac Hospital at Knoxville, Iowa; and Kate, the wife of James Myers, a mine owner of Buffalo, Iowa.

Nathan T. Gadd attended the public schools of Iowa, and prosecuted his law studies in the offices and under the preceptorship of Francis Murphy, Judge Benson, and W. A. Foster, all of Davenport, in which city he was admitted to the bar in 1879. He at once began practice there, but in the following year he came to Nebraska and first established himself in practice at Beatrice, where he remained until 1889—the year of his removal to Broken Bow. Since the year mentioned Mr. Gadd has continued in the general practice of law, in which he has attained a full measure of success, being accounted one of the leaders of his profession in Custer county. His practice has been interrupted on several occasions when he has been called to fill public office, he having been city attorney of Broken Bow for six years, and having been elected prosecuting attorney in 1908—an office in which he served two years. Various enterprises for the civic and general welfare have attracted his attention and had the benefit of his valued talents; at the present time he is president of the Public Service Club (1918).

Mr. Gadd was married in August, 1880, to Miss Sarah Miller, who was born in Madison county, Iowa, daughter of Joseph and Mary Miller, the former a successful farmer and blacksmith. Three children have been born to this union: Ray is a farmer near Dedham,



Yours Truly
A. J. Gass

Wisconsin; Charles is with the One Hundred and Ninth Engineers, a volunteer in the United States service, and is stationed at Camp Cody, New Mexico, at the time of this writing; and Eva is the wife of D. C. Wilson, chief electrical engineer of the Union Pacific Railway, at Omaha, Nebraska. Mr. Gadd and the members of his family belong to the Methodist Episcopal church. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and is chancellor commander of General Custer Lodge, No. 23, at Broken Bow. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party.

FRANK CRAMER. — Farming, combined with stock-raising, is a profitable industry in Custer county, if good business ability is shown in its management, and this has been conclusively shown by Frank Cramer, who has been exceptionally successful for the time he has been in this line of enterprise and who has extensive farm and stock interests in this section. Frank Cramer was born at New Helena, Custer county, Nebraska, in 1888, a son of Levier and Louisa (Hartman) Cramer.

During the first thirteen years of his life, Frank Cramer lived at the parental home, and afterward he made himself useful to the farmers in the neighborhood until his school days were over and he was eighteen years of age. Then, with his brother Henry, he began farming on three-quarters of a section of land belonging to J. D. Ream, situated five and one-half miles northwest of Broken Bow. The brothers soon added stock to their other interests and during the three years they continued in partnership they had wonderful success; later they bought a half-section of land together. Both Mr. Cramer and his brother seem to have remarkable foresight as to prospects and land values, and they soon sold their half-section at a substantial advance over the price they paid. Frank Cramer then bought the A. J. Routh farm, of 320 acres, situated northeast of Broken Bow, and four years afterward he sold it at a good profit. He then bought 440 acres adjoining the J. D. Ream property on the north, paying the sum of \$20,000, in 1917, just before the sharp advance in real estate in Custer county. Mr. Cramer takes much pride in this beautiful property and has continued to improve it, the while he has added modern conveniences to the residence until it ranks with the most desirable in the county.

Mr. Cramer was married December 25, 1908, to Miss Mable C. Routh, who is a daughter

of Douglas I. and Jennie (McDonald) Routh, the latter of whom died when Mrs. Cramer was very young. Mr. and Mrs. Cramer have two children: Marjorie G. and Cloyd. Mr. and Mrs. Cramer are members of the United Brethren church. Mr. Cramer is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America and in politics he is a Republican.

BENJAMIN F. SOMMER, who is one of the enterprising farmers of the younger generation in Custer county, is showing excellent judgment and discretion in the management of his land and the handling of live stock. Mr. Sommer was born near Merna, this county, February 16, 1892. His parents are Andrew and Melissa (Keedy) Sommer, who live on the place they homesteaded near Merna. The father is a native of France and the mother was born in Illinois. They have five children: Perry, Almore, Mrs. Eva Cole, Benjamin F., and Elizabeth. Andrew Sommer came to Custer county early in its settlement. He invested wisely and he retained his land-holdings when some of his neighbors grew discouraged, with the result that now he owns numerous valuable farms.

Benjamin F. Sommer remained with his parents until he reached manhood, assisting his father in the meanwhile and attending school. He has been well trained in agricultural industry and at present is very successfully conducting one of his father's farms near Merna. Mr. Sommer was married March 13, 1915, at Broken Bow, to Miss Nora Sharp, who is a daughter of Benjamin and Louisa (Zachary) Sharp.

ERNEST N. EMBREE is a native son of Custer county, where he was born January 21, 1892, in the township where he now makes his home. He is a son of Frederick C. Embree, whose record as a homesteader and successful farmer appears elsewhere in this volume.

Ernest N. Embree was reared on the home farm and after duly attending the district schools he completed his education in the Merna high school. His first business venture was the purchase of a quarter-section of land on West Table, but after holding this less than one year he sold the property at a profit of \$4,800. He then purchased a tract of eighty acres, which, with land he rents from his father, is devoted to general farming. Though a young man, he has demonstrated his business ability and there is no doubt but that the future holds bright prospects for him.

Mr. Embree married Miss Fern Cantrell, who was born in Hamilton county, Nebraska, a daughter of Jesse Cantrell, now a resident of Custer county. Mr. and Mrs. Embree have one child, Bernard Charles. They are members of the United Brethren church and in politics Mr. Embree reserves the right to vote independently, casting his ballot for men and measures, regardless of party ties.

The opportunities for a young man were never better in Custer county than at the present time, and while we are giving credit to the early settlers who blazed the trail and endured the pioneer hardships, and whose persistent labors made possible our present-day conditions, we must not be unmindful of the part being played by the younger generation, who have the courage and foresight to attempt greater things than the older settlers of Custer county ever dreamed of. Among the young men of the county who have proven themselves possessed of a large amount of good judgment and business acumen, none is more deserving than Ernest N. Embree.

JERRY HICKEY, JR.—Write the name of Jerry Hickey in prominent characters on the roll of successful young farmers who are making a reputation for Custer county. Jerry has made good, and he is entitled to all the emoluments incidental to the success he has achieved.

Jerry Hickey, Jr., is a native born Custerite and is now thirty-one years of age; here he has spent his entire life; here he received his education in the common schools; and here he learned the rudiments of practical farming and stock-raising. He is a son of Jerry and Lena (Michel) Hickey, very estimable people, who still reside in this county. There were seven children in the father's family, and all were taught the principles of thrift and industry. The father, Jerry Hickey, Sr., belongs to the Catholic church.

In 1908 was recorded the marriage of Jerry Hickey, Jr., to Mary Ellen Powers, a daughter of William Powers, of whom a life sketch is given on another page. In the comfortable home of Mr. and Mrs. Hickey are three bright and promising children. Cecil, aged nine years, and Leona, aged seven, are both pursuing the course of the country school; while William, aged two years, is the sole dictator and manager of the home.

Mr. Hickey owns 280 good acres of land, upon which are maintained good improvements that have been provided by Jerry himself, and on which a fine grade of live stock is kept the year round. Mr. Hickey depends

largely upon stock, and believes that there are few places where stock farming is more profitable than in this county. Mr. and Mrs. Hickey have been on this farm for ten years and if they maintain the same rate of progress for the next ten years they will have secured an ample competency, upon the basis of which they can retire from hard work. Socially, they are prominent in the community. They are communicants of the Catholic church and Mr. Hickey is affiliated politically with the Democratic contingent. They are rated as splendid people and obliging neighbors.

JAMES V. MILLIGAN.—The subject of this record is one of the progressive citizens of Custer county and since the early days he has been an influential factor in the affairs of his adopted county.

James V. Milligan was born at Port Huron, Michigan, January 13, 1862. His father, William Milligan was born in Ireland and was left an orphan when quite young. When sixteen or seventeen years of age William Milligan ran away and sailed for America. He located in Canada, and there later he married Elizabeth Burton, a native of Canada. Upon coming over into the United States they located in Michigan. In Macomb county, that state, William Milligan opened up a new farm, and there he and his wife spent the remainder of their days, he passing away at the age of seventy-six years, in 1893, and his wife having been called to eternal rest in the year 1890.

James Milligan was one of eight children and was reared on a farm in his native state. He remained under the parental roof until he had attained the age of seventeen years, when he found employment at farm labor, working by the month. At the age of nineteen he came to Nebraska, and he and a partner purchased 160 acres of land in Lancaster county. In the fall of 1883 he came to Custer county and took a homestead in section 30, township 18, range 22, his first home being a dugout. He witnessed and shared in the hardships and privations of those pioneer days, proved up on his homestead, purchased a tree claim and devoted himself to developing and improving the new farm. Some years ago he sought a change of location and moved to Kansas, where he remained five years, but it is sixteen years since he returned to the old place.

Mr. Milligan has followed progressive methods in his agricultural pursuits, has brought his land to a high state of cultivation, and the place is improved with one of the finest sets of buildings to be found in this part of the county.

In 1886, in Custer county, was solemnized the marriage of James Milligan to Miss Margaret McDermott, who was born in Canada, a daughter of the late Bernard McDermott, who was one of the pioneers of Custer county and a record of whom appears elsewhere in this history of Custer county. Mr. and Mrs. Milligan became the parents of three children — Blanche and Joseph, who are still under the parental roof, and Lyle, who died in infancy. The family are members of the Catholic church and are people who have the unqualified respect and esteem of all who know them.

JOHN H. McDERMOTT. — The Irish-Americans always succeed. Whether on the public rostrum, where they seem possessed of golden speech; behind the counter, where business acumen counts for capital; or on the farm or ranch, where energy and thrift are in demand, the Irish-American always succeeds. Mr. McDermott is an Irish-American; his father and mother, estimable people, were natives respectively of Ireland, and Canada, but he himself first saw the light of day in Calhoun county, Iowa, where he was born on the 22d of August, 1875. In the family of his father, Thomas McDermott, were four children, of whom John H. is the eldest; Frank is a street-car conductor in Omaha; Catherine is deceased; and Benjamin J. is a locomotive engineer, living in Omaha. The father, Thomas McDermott, came to Custer county in 1888. Here he homesteaded a quarter-section and made timber entry on another 160 acres.

His wife, Mary A. McDermott, was born in Canada, as before stated, and their marriage was solemnized in 1872, in Pocahontas county, Iowa. From that time they have maintained a creditable home, for which hard work has provided all comforts and necessities. The cultivated land on their Custer county farm consists of 115 acres, while the rest is in pasture land and is really a very profitable portion of the ranch. John McDermott put on all the improvements and owns a full contingent of farm machinery. The live stock is of a good grade and constitutes a very profitable department of the ranch operation.

Locally Mr. McDermott is rated as one of the leading factors in his community, and is counted an obliging neighbor and dependable citizen. For twelve years he has been treasurer of his school district and in all the war activities in Custer county after our nation became involved in the great world conflict he was one of the active promoters; he has been a contributor to all war appeals and in every possible way has displayed a loyal and pa-

triotic spirit. His political affiliations are with the Democratic party. He is a staunch supporter and respected member of the Catholic church. Meet Mr. McDermott, talk to him in his home, note the home premises, take counsel of his neighbors — and the truth of the declaration at the beginning of these paragraphs, "Irish-Americans always make good," becomes apparent.

DAVID MCGUGIN. — In noting the representative men of Custer county who qualify as earliest settlers, there are few who came here with more determined purpose to secure a permanent home in a section which seemingly offered rich opportunities. Undoubtedly a number of the early settlers came to the county in search of adventure, and later many passed on to other fields, but after a man has served for three years in battling for his country he scarcely looks for the excitements and adventures of life, even if he subsequently meets with many. In this way respectful attention is called to David McGugin, who now lives in comfortable retirement at Sargent, Nebraska, a pioneer of 1879.

David McGugin was born August 31, 1839, in Washington county, Pennsylvania, one of a family of twelve children born to James and Matilda (Campbell) McGugin. Both parents were born in Washington county. The father was a farmer and died on his farm in Pennsylvania, in 1865. He was a man of sterling worth, and both he and wife were members of the Presbyterian church, in which he was a trustee for many years. Five of their children are living, namely: David, whose name introduces this sketch; Lee, who is the wife of John Clark, a farmer near Cambridge, Ohio; William Milton and Margaret C., both of whom live at Burgettstown, Pennsylvania; and Angelina, who is living at Hickory, Pennsylvania, and is the wife of John Carlisle.

In boyhood David McGugin had district-school advantages, mainly in the winter seasons, and during the summers he assisted on the home farm. He thus continued until the outbreak of the Civil war, when he enlisted in a Pennsylvania regiment. The long period of peace secured for the country by the soldiers of 1861-5 was not won without danger, struggle, and suffering, and during his service of three years and one month, Mr. McGugin bravely bore his part, besides which he carried a wound from one of the big battlefields. He was honorably discharged, returned to his home and, after full recovery, resumed his old vocation. It was in 1879 that he came to Ne-

braska, and in September of that year he acquired his homestead in Custer county. It was a lonely section in which it was located, there being but one house north of the river and Comstock at that time, so his nearest neighbor was far away, but he had not expected the comforts of civilization, and immediately set about developing his land, in Lillian township, accepting the inevitable hardships that pertain to pioneering, with the fortitude of a sensible, hopeful, practical man. As years passed, his condition constantly improved, and the time came when his was numbered with the valuable farms of the county and his farming and stock-raising were prosperous industries. Mr. McGugin continued on his farm until 1912, when he retired from active labor and moved to a comfortable home in Sargent.

Mr. McGugin was married November 27, 1884, to Miss Jennie A. Robinson, a daughter of Henry and Jane (Barnard) Robinson, residents of Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. McGugin have no children, but they have a very wide circle of attached friends. They are faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church, Mr. McGugin being one of the first movers in the matter of establishing church and school in his neighborhood. He served a number of terms as school director of school district No. 13, Lillian township, and also as township treasurer. He is a Republican in politics but in local matters has always acted with some independence when affairs affecting the welfare of the whole community came under the consideration of the leading citizens. Mr. McGugin is known all over the county.

JOHN C. MILLS, farmer, stock-raiser and public official, is a representative of one of the earliest pioneer families in Clear Creek valley, Custer county, and has lived here since he was ten years old. Mr. Mills was born in Crawford county, Wisconsin, December 24, 1869. His parents were Fabius D. and Louisa (Copsey) Mills, his father being a native of Mercer county, Ohio, and his mother of Dane county, Wisconsin.

Fabius D. Mills was an educated, able man, and while living in Crawford county, Wisconsin, he was engaged in the practice of law, besides which he also served as county superintendent of schools. After locating in Custer county he continued his law practice to some extent and also wrote insurance, while carrying on farming as his main business. He was foresighted also in business. He came to Custer county in 1878 and bought his first farm

for five dollars an acre, this property having been subsequently sold by him for \$100 an acre. In 1879 he brought his family to the farm near Westerville, and he also took a tree claim about this time. While the Mills family found pioneer life a little easier, perhaps, than did many others, this was because of the resourcefulness of Mr. and Mrs. Mills and their ability to adapt themselves to existing conditions. However, they also had a share of deprivation and hardship. Like all the first settlers, their earliest home was a sod house, which under certain conditions was a comfortable dwelling, but sometimes was not reliable as a shelter. Mr. Mills tells of one occasion when the evening meal was about to be eaten and all the family had assembled, when the sod roof gave way and fell on the table, but fortunately injured no one. It was difficult to provide a healthful variety of food at first, the only meat procurable being that bought from hunters who killed elk and deer, and an occasional catch of fish from Clear creek. Determined to get a few potatoes planted, so that they would have an opportunity to mature, Mrs. Mills cut the heavy sod with a carving knife, for the first potato hills. To her energy and industry the family was indebted also for a plastered wall in their first house, although she had patiently to lay on the plaster with no better tool than a case knife, no emergency seeming to be too great for her to meet. Her many children all recognized how much was due her in the upbuilding of the home and the subsequent preservation of home ideals.

To Fabius D. Mills and his wife the following children were born: John C. is the immediate subject of this review; Douglas, who married Ollie Gardner, is a farmer near Lee Park; Ella is the wife of John Robbins, who is a stock-raiser in Sheridan county, Nebraska; Blanche and Arthur both died in infancy; Aris was drowned in Clear creek, when he was twelve years old; Bessie is the wife of Dennis Leman, a stockman in Douglas county, Wyoming; Edna is the wife of Andrew Allen, a farmer near Westerville; Milton died in infancy; Mabel is the wife of Dr. McArthur, a physician at Broken Bow, Nebraska; Charles, who married Ollie Runner, is a farmer near Westerville, Nebraska; Roscoe, who married Tina Baker, is a farmer near Westerville; Alice is the wife of M. E. Goddard, a farmer north of Westerville; Frank is in the American army in France at the time of this writing; Bayard, who likewise is a soldier in the national army, is in France; Sylvia is a school-teacher in Custer county; and Edward R. resides with his brother Charles. The parents of the above family

were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics Mr. Mills was a Democrat. He and H. N. Hopkins were the men who located the trail from Westerville to Broken Bow, which was known as the Hog Back Trail. Mr. and Mrs. Fabius D. Mills are both deceased.

In his boyhood John C. Mills attended school near the home farm and later he took a course in the Nebraska Wesleyan college at Lincoln. Farming and stock-raising have mainly engaged his attention all of his life, thus far, but he has not permitted his personal affairs to make him unmindful of public duties, and occasionally he has accepted local offices. At the present he is serving usefully as a member of the Westerville town board. He gives his political support to the Democratic party.

Mr. Mills was married April 2, 1905, to Lulu Slingsby, a daughter of William and Mary (Smith) Slingsby, and they have five children: Walter, born January 16, 1906; Ellis, born April 12, 1907; Mabel, born May 11, 1909; Grace, born September 1, 1914, and Lloyd, born November 28, 1917. A twin brother of Ellis died at birth. The family belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church at Westerville in which Mr. Mills has been class leader for twenty years.

JAMES W. LUNDY, who has been prominently known in business circles of Sargent for a number of years as a realty man, furniture dealer, and undertaker, and who prior to his advent in the city had carried on large operations as a ranchman in Custer county, is now engaged in an enterprise which, when completed, will be of immense commercial value to Sargent and the entire surrounding community as a public utility. This is a hydro-electrical plant at Doris, which will provide light and power in great quantity, and Mr. Lundy is deserving of the appreciation of the whole community for his progressiveness in working out a plan for something that cannot fail to be an asset of incalculable benefit.

James W. Lundy, or "Bill," as he is familiarly known to his numerous friends, was born at Atalissa, Iowa, October 30, 1872, a son of Ira J. and Maria G. (Ady) Lundy, natives of the same place. The father, a farmer in Iowa, brought the family to Custer county in 1882, on September 12th of which year he took up a homestead in Cummings Park, section 9, township 20, range 19. There he continued to be engaged in farming and stock-raising until his death. He also operated a threshing outfit for many years, and, being a

man of industry, business capacity and good judgment, he succeeded in the making of a comfortable home. He was a Republican in politics. There were four children in the family: James W. is the subject of this sketch; Benjamin W., who married Grace Barnes, is the operator of a dray line at Sargent; Ada M. is a resident of Davenport, Iowa; and Vinton A., a member of the United States Army, is stationed at Camp Pike, Arkansas, at the time of this writing.

James W. Lundy received his early education in the public schools of Custer county and grew up on the home farm, but his first ambition was to become an educator, and in order to prove himself capable, he passed the second teacher's examination. His career as a teacher lasted only six months, however, during which time he had a school in district No. 189, and he then returned to farming, with which basic industry he continued to be actively identified until about 1906. That he still has large ranching interests is shown in the fact that he is the owner of 1,600 acres of splendid Custer county land. When he left the farm Mr. Lundy located at Sargent, where he entered the furniture and undertaking business, and later he became interested in the real-estate business, with H. A. Sherman as partner. They have built up a large business and have figured prominently in many large deals.

It has been only recently that Mr. Lundy has been engaged in the building of his hydro-electrical plant at Doris, which will furnish Sargent and the entire vicinity with light and power. The power now to be completed as the first unit will develop 225 horse-power, using a Leffel turbine wheel, and a 100-kilowatt generator. The old power plant was purchased by Mr. Lundy from R. G. Carr, in 1912, Mr. Carr having been a pioneer in the flour-milling business here but using a seventy-horse-power drive and out-of-date wheels. The flume of the new plant has a twelve-foot head, one and one-half feet of concrete for a flooring, sixteen feet Wakefield piling, a steel re-enforced side way fourteen feet high, three feet at the base and twelve inches at the top. The pit of the turbine is seventeen by twenty-three feet, and ten feet deep, with two-foot side walls and back wall, while the floor of the pit rests on 35-25-foot piling of cedar. In this unit of the power house there have been used 36,000 feet of yellow-pine dimension lumber two inches thick; 110 25-foot cedar piling; 13,000 pounds of steel re-enforcement; 1,650 sacks of cement and 350 yards of gravel. The side gates contain 28,000 feet of Wakefield piling of yellow pine; fifty-six 25-

foot cedar piling; 550 sacks of cement; 150 yards of gravel; and 4,000 pounds of steel reinforcement. Mr. Lundy has a patent to take care of sand that fills up the head and in ordinary cases causes a great deal of trouble and expense. He also has forty-two 30-foot piling, with a 14-inch top, which is to prevent ice from clogging up the head-gates, and guaranteeing a full flow of water all winter. Heretofore, ice protectors have never been used anywhere in the state. There are 24,000 feet of lumber used in the headgates, and the head-gates, and side-gates are large enough to furnish water for two more units of 200-horsepower each when demand requires it, which will be the goal the owner is working toward. The power unit consists of 56-inch Leffer special turbine, Samson rope drive. Woodward oil governor, 100-kilowatt A. C. generator and switch-board. In addition, this plant has a hydraulic ram which will furnish water at an elevation of 125 feet for fountain, irrigation and stock use. The power house will be covered with steel lath and cement. The mill race is one and nine-tenths miles long, the mill dam fourteen feet high, and the river is the most even of any place in the world, because of its sand land on each side of head waters and the fact that it is fed by springs, the volume of flow being 600-second feet per minute. Mr. Lundy has been fortunate in employing men of marked capacity in this great enterprise and much credit rests with Harry Gardner, foreman, and John Wykoff, assistant foreman. Of this fine plant further mention is made in the general historical section of this volume, where also appear illustration of the plant.

Mr. Lundy was married October 31, 1894, to Miss Laura E. Anderson, daughter of Frank and Rebecca Anderson, homesteaders of Loup county in the year 1881. Mr. and Mrs. Lundy have four children: Sadie A., Alpha D. and Lela M., all of whom reside at home with their parents; and Albion L., who in 1918 enlisted in the United States Army and who is, at the time of this writing with the Forty-eighth Regiment, Battery D., C. A. C., in France.

Mr. Lundy is a man who does large things in a large way. He is a leading factor in every important, public-spirited movement promulgated and his high standing in business circles makes his influence a valued and valuable one.

WESLEY N. BAKER. — Among the prominent and progressive farmers and stock-raisers of Custer county, there are found a number who make a specialty of certain departments of agricultural work, believing that

in this way they reap the greatest amount of success from their labors, in that they are able to centralize their energies and attention upon one definite thing. In this class is found Wesley N. Baker, of the vicinity of Ansley, who, while he follows general farming to some extent, has for a number of years past made a specialty of raising sheep. He is accounted one of the energetic and progressive men of his community and belongs to a family which is well known in Custer county, and a review of which will be found elsewhere in this work, in the sketch of Frank Baker.

Wesley N. Baker was born February 15, 1881, and has the distinction of being a native son of Custer county, his birth having occurred on the family homestead near Westerville, on Clear creek. The public schools of that community furnished him with his early educational training, and during the summer months he assisted his father and brothers in the fields, while being trained in all the arts and methods of agriculture as practiced in this locality. His choice of an occupation when he reached years of maturity rested upon farming, and this he has followed in a methodical, careful and practical way, adopting modern methods only when they have proved worthy. His long experience in the business of raising sheep has made him more or less of an authority upon the subject, and he is frequently called upon by his associates for counsel and advice. Politically a Democrat, politics and public affairs have had a small share in his career, but his actions have always shown him to be a public-spirited citizen, ready to support good measures. He and the members of his family belong to the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Baker was married February 21, 1907, at Westerville, Nebraska, to Miss Amy Copsey, daughter of A. H. and Anna (Wallin) Copsey, and to this union there have come two children: Irene, born January 1, 1908; and William J., born January 20, 1909. The pleasant home of the Baker family is located in section 21, township 35, where are to be found modern buildings and other improvements of an up-to-date character.

CHARLES A. WORRELL, a retired farmer of the Arnold section, has made good in more ways than one. He has run the gamut of pioneer experiences and has accumulated a competency by farming and stock-raising in the good old county where his home has been for many years.

Charles A. Worrell was born April 20, 1857, in Hancock county, Illinois, and is a son

of John and Mary (Butler) Worrell, the former a native of Baltimore, Maryland, and the latter a native of the Buckeye state. John and Mary Worrell became the parents of six children, all of whom are living — Abarilla Worrell, Matilda E. Hunt, Charles A., Ida A. Hunt, Eva Clark, and William H. The parents were of the old-time and substantial families, and the father was a farmer. The entire family were connected with the Baptist church. The father moved to Davis county, Iowa, when his son Charles was eight years old, and there the boy had his first introduction to farming as it was conducted in that part of the central west. His first money was made by husking corn, and in this manner he earned enough to buy a suit of clothes. In addition to this clothing enterprise he worked long enough to buy 100 pounds of flour, and as wheat flour was very scarce in those days, this hundred weight of white flour was utilized for making the biscuit which made the larger portion of the Sunday dinner, while some of it was used for white bread for the children's school luncheons.

Charles A. Worrell worked at home until he was twenty-one years of age. January 22, 1882, recorded his marriage to Miss Mary J. Bybee, who was born in Iowa, a daughter of John H. and Frances J. (Clark) Bybee. Her father and mother were Kentuckians. Her family, like her husband's, were Baptists and the family circle numbered six children — Drury S., William H., John J., Sarah E. Atwood, Mary J. Worrell, Izey C. Stoak.

Mr. and Mrs. Worrall have maintained an excellent home, for which every provision possible has been made. They have three sons in their family circle: John H. lives on a farm of his own, near Stapleton. He married Effie Marrs and they have one son and three daughters. They belong to the Baptist church. William H. married Frances Goodyear and owns his father's old farm which was homesteaded on the Tallin Table. They have no children. C. Alva likewise farms his own land. He married Elva Goodyear, and they have one daughter.

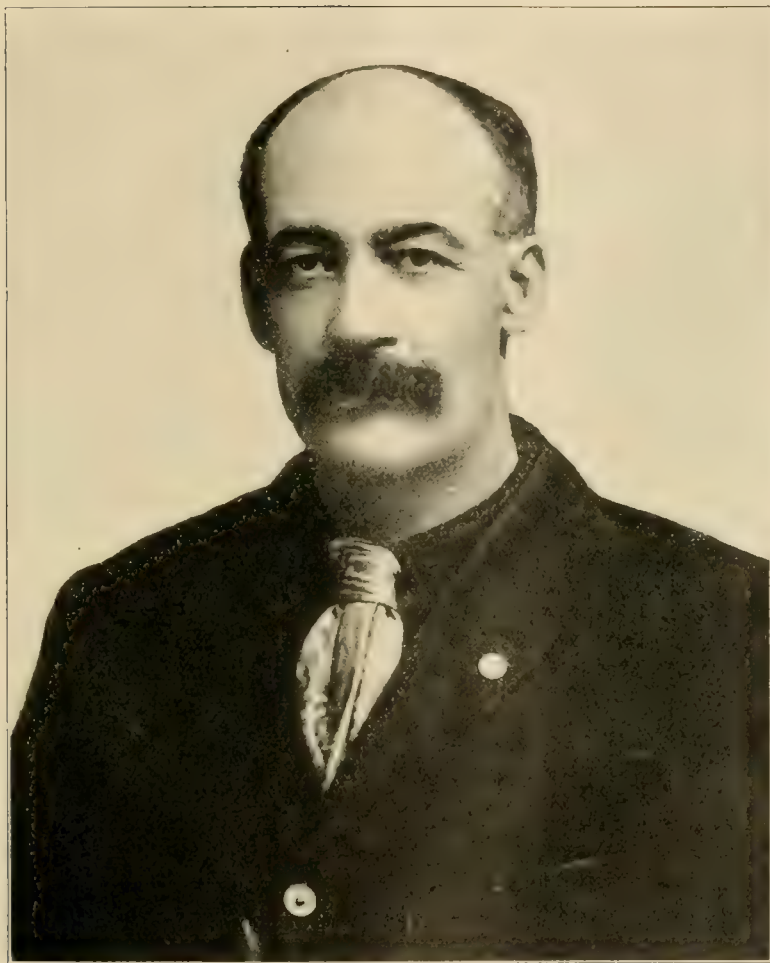
Mr. and Mrs. Worrell came to Custer county in the fall of 1885, and, in the spring of the next year they located a homestead on the Tallin Table, eleven miles south of Arnold. At that time Mr. Worrell's worldly possessions, after he had paid for a relinquishment, consisted of a team of horses, one cow and \$7.50 in cash. This was the capital upon which he began his farming career. Many hardships had to be endured. There was no fuel obtainable except corn stalks, and to obtain these he often had to wade through the

snow and cut the stalks with the corn knife. At one time a sleet, which lasted several days, covered the stalks with ice and made them very poor fuel. Water was another difficult proposition of the early days. For five years Mr. Worrell hauled all the water for house and stock use. The distance water had to be hauled ranged from one and one-half to eleven miles, but all this has been overcome and the Worrells are now well fixed, and prepared to take life more easily than in former years. After giving each of his sons a good 160 acres of land, Mr. Worrell still has 490 acres in the home tract. He and his wife have now retired from the farm and are living on a ten-acre tract in Arnold. They have a nice home and are substantial, respected citizens of the community. They belong to the Baptist church. During all the years of his residence in Custer county, Mr. Worrell has been active and foremost in community affairs, and he has served on the school board and as road overseer for a number of years. The family are to be rated among the best people of the county.

U. GRANT BROWN.—Down in the region south of Ansley is the home place on which this splendid citizen lived his life, applied his ability and energies, established his home, and finally responded to the call which removed him from the earthly sphere of action to that "undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns."

Mr. Brown was born May 31, 1871, in Indiana. His parents were Dr. John G. and Martha (Tucker) Brown. The father was a native of Indiana, where he was born August 10, 1840, and he was one of a family of eleven children, in all of whom were the predominating traits of thrift and integrity, inherited from their worthy parents. In the fall of 1872, when U. Grant Brown was but one year old, his parents moved to Danville, Illinois, and from that place they came, in 1883, to Polk county, Nebraska, where they grazed their cattle for two years. They then continued their journey to the promised land of Custer. In 1885 they settled here, securing a home in Loup township where they resided until the father's death, eight years later. Dr. Brown was one of the able and honored physicians of Custer county, and his services are well remembered by his contemporaries of the pioneer days. He was influential in community affairs and served two terms as county coroner.

U. Grant Brown homesteaded in 1893, being a practical farmer all his life. He made



U. GRANT BROWN

a success of his farm developments and farming activities. Like his father, he was a useful citizen, active in all local affairs, and supporting every enterprise that tended to up-build the community.

On Christmas day in 1895 Mr. Brown was united in marriage to Anna Fortik, a daughter of Joseph and Anna (Cline) Fortik. (See sketch of Anton Fortik.) To this union were born four children: Guy Floyd, the firstborn, is at home and operating the home farm; and Mary Ruth, Charles William, and Dorothy May are all at home. The earthly career of Mr. Brown ended on the 19th day of March, 1918, on the home place, and thus ended the career of a widely known and useful citizen.

The family are keeping the estate intact and are conducting the farming operations much as the father directed. Mr. Brown, the man who endured the hardships, who experienced the privations of pioneer life, who was domiciled in a sod house and called it home, has left behind him a splendid monument in the well improved place which he named Cat Creek Ranch, and upon which he himself made the fine improvements. He rendered the community a good service and it might be said none could have done better for his family than did he.

He was a member of the Christian church, was independent in politics, and he served a number of years in the office of road overseer. He leaves a memory and example which are a valuable heritage to his children, who are coming on to walk in the paths he had marked for them.

ELISHA BUDD DALEY, farmer and financier, is one of the best known and most esteemed citizens of Custer county and has spent almost his entire life in Nebraska. He was born in the village of Digby, Nova Scotia, March 16, 1874. His parents were James and Marian E. (Budd) Daley, the former of whom was born in Ireland and the latter in Nova Scotia. The grandfathers, James Daley and James Budd, were natives of Ireland and Nova Scotia, respectively. E. Budd Daley had one brother, Ernest, who died December 6, 1886. The father's vocation was farming and it was in the hope of extending his agricultural activities profitably that he brought his family to the United States and, in the spring of 1880, secured a homestead beautifully located in Dale valley, Custer county, Nebraska. This he developed into a valuable property. He was one of the earliest settlers in that section and he served as postmaster of Dale Valley in 1884-5

The office was then removed to the village of Dale and Daniel Lohr became postmaster. The Catholic church still stands on the site of that village. James Daley lived in Custer county for thirty-four years to a day, his death occurring May 10, 1916. His widow survived until January 5, 1917. They were highly esteemed people in every relation of life and were faithful members of the Presbyterian church. James Daley gave his political support to the Prohibition party.

E. Budd Daley grew up on his father's farm and attended the public schools. He has always been interested in farming and stock-raising and his operations in these industries are extensive. He owns 760 acres of fine land, included in which is the old family homestead of 320 acres, and he cherishes the hope that his sons will develop like tastes and, after they have been thoroughly educated, make this old valley homestead their preferred home. In addition to his agricultural activities, Mr. Daley has prominence in the banking field and is vice-president of the Farmers' Bank of Merna.

Mr. Daley was married April 14, 1897, in Ortello Valley, this county, to Miss Eliza A. Jones, a daughter of John D. and Amelia (Edwards) Jones, and a granddaughter of Thomas J. Edwards. Mr. and Mrs. Daley have three children: Gladys E., who is a graduate of the Merna high school; James R., who is attending school; and Elden R. Mr. and Mrs. Daley are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics he is a Democrat, and fraternally he is identified with the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Modern Woodmen of America.

ZACHARIAH THOSTESEN, a member of the retired colony of Broken Bow, is one of the sturdy sons of Denmark who came to this community when it was still new and here lived through the period of development. As a farmer and stock-raiser he maintained through many years a high standard of productive industry, and now, as a retired citizen, he is accounted one of his community's helpful and constructive representatives in civic movements.

Mr. Thostesen was born in Denmark, May 31, 1848, a son of Ove and Barbara (Jesperdaten) Thostesen and a grandson of Thost and Bodil Thostesen, there being nine other children in the family. He is one of five surviving children, the other four being Claus, Christen, Mrs. Bodil Jessen and Miss Anna M. Zachariah Thostesen, the tenth of his parents' children in order of birth, was educated in the

public schools and remained on the home farm until he was eighteen years of age, his first money being earned by mowing grass for a neighboring farmer. In 1866 he gathered together what small resources he could accumulate, and set out alone for the United States, eventually arriving at his destination, the town of Dwight, Illinois. He had no knowledge of the English language or of the customs of the country, but he was strong, eager and willing, had no trouble in finding employment, and industriously applied himself to whatever work opportunity placed in his hands, the while he gradually learned the language of his adopted land and began to make progress. By 1870 he was ready to establish a home of his own, and on April 7th of that year he married Miss Anna Miller Nielsen, daughter of Peter and Marie (Jepsen) Nielsen, and a sister of Peter Nielsen. To their union there were born six children: Ove N., who is a railroad man of Bridgeport, Nebraska, married Catherine Reeder, a daughter of Henry Reeder, and following is given a brief record concerning their children: Marenus B., who is a retired miner of Seattle, Washington, married Edith Johnson, and they have one son and one daughter; Barbara is the wife of John A. Meryes, a farmer twelve miles southwest of Merna, Custer county, and they have one son and six daughters; Marie, is the wife of Peter A. Hartvigson, of Ephrata, Washington, and they have one son and one daughter; Florence married Frederick Cram, of Bridgeport, Nebraska, who died in 1914, leaving a son, Wayne; and John, who is an engineer on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, living at Bridgeport, Nebraska, married Esther Swanberg, and has one daughter. The members of this family belong to the Lutheran church, and at elections Mr. Thostesen's support is given to the candidates of the Republican party.

Following his marriage, Mr. Thostesen continued to follow farming in Illinois, with a measure of success, until 1883, when he came to Custer county, and on September 28th of that year he located on Cliff Table, twenty-four miles west of Broken Bow, this being a pre-emption claim. After proving up, he took a homestead, on which he resided from 1884 until 1900, in which latter year he retired from active pursuits and moved to Broken Bow, where he now has what is considered one of the most beautiful homes of the county seat. He is still the owner of his old pre-emption claim on Cliff Table, a tract of 160 acres of valuable and highly cultivated land which is being operated by a renter.

JOHN TALLIN.—The blood originated in Sweden, but its exhibition of thrift was transferred to America, and in the regions south of Arnold, on the famous Tallin Table, it has been demonstrated that Scandinavian thrift makes good in the middle west of the great American republic.

Mr. Tallin's native land was Sweden, in which country he was born October 15, 1852. His parents Peter, and Carrie (Erickson) Tallin, were of long Scandinavian lineage, and they came to the United States in 1868, when their son John was sixteen years of age. Their first residence was in Burlington, Iowa, where one year later the father died, leaving the mother with four children, of whom John was the eldest, the others being Alec, Peter, and Louis. After the death of his father, much responsibility fell upon the shoulders of John Tallin. The family must be supported, and accordingly he applied himself. His first money was made by trapping or snaring wild turkeys. In the paths of the wooded section he placed the snares, arranging brush on either side, so that the fowls had to confine their meandering to the path which lead them over the traps or into the snares. This was very profitable. He worked the farm in the summer time and put in the winter cutting cord wood. In 1870 the lure of the west got the better of him, and he and the rest of the family came to Nebraska, settling in Burt county, on rented land. By this time his younger brother was able to assist in the farming operations, and things went fairly well. All the family necessities were obtained and the foundations of thrift and energy were deep laid in the character of young John. Four years later, in Omaha, he took unto himself a wife, by his marriage with Ida S. Nelson, a daughter of Peter and Caroline Nelson, both of whom were of Swedish extraction. With the establishment of their own home, Mr. and Mrs. Tallin began the earnest and well directed efforts that resulted in the accumulations of the present time. Their home was blessed with two children—Carrie is the wife of Robert Blackburn, a farmer living near Armode, Washington, and they have three children; Mabel is the wife of Axel Nordland, a farmer living in Alberta, Canada, and they have two children.

Mr. and Mrs. Tallin became residents of Custer county in the spring of 1884, when they became the first settlers on the table which now bears their name, twelve miles south of Arnold, and here Mr. Tallin has been a pioneer resident since that day. The shadows sometimes fell upon the home. In April,

1885, Mrs. Tallin was called to the life eternal, leaving her husband with two small children. His mother came to his aid and for a time made her home with him, caring for the little girls. August 3, 1892, Mr. Tallin married Miss Minnie Nelson, a daughter of Larson and Carrie (Johnson) Nelson, and since that time this good lady has presided over the destiny of affairs and made for him a splendid home. He farms a half-section of land and conducts a general stock-raising industry in connection with his agricultural pursuits. From these operations he has been enabled to equip the farm with splendid improvements and contribute to all the calls of the war-time days through which all have so lately passed. He and his wife are favorably known and highly rated in the community. Their religious affiliations are with the Swedish mission of their locality. America, with her opportunities and boundless resources, is indebted to northern Europe for many such stalwart citizens as Mr. Tallin.

LYMAN PIERCE. — Down in the Arnold region, where farming and stock-raising constitute the chief industry, lives the subject of this sketch, Lyman Pierce, who operates a splendid farm and holds precedence as a successful agriculturist and stock-raiser.

Mr. Pierce was born March 12, 1865, in Crawford county, Wisconsin, and is a son of Samuel and Lucinda (Smith) Pierce, the father a native of Massachusetts and the mother of Illinois. In the father's family were three children, the other two being Ada (deceased) and Helen Wells. The mother died April 5, 1887, and the father later contracted a second marriage, when he wedded Adaline Lathrop. Of this union were born six sons and one daughter.

The youthful years of Lyman Pierce were spent on the home farm in Wisconsin where he assisted in the arduous task of cutting timber from the farm and thus clearing up the land so that it could be cultivated. It was here that he received his education in the country schools, and to this preliminary discipline he has constantly been adding, by extensive and well directed reading. He made his first appearance in Custer county in 1882. He remained two years, and then went to LaSalle county, Illinois. In 1887 he returned to Custer county, and here he located ten miles southeast of Arnold, where he has lived ever since. His wedded life dates from November 30, 1893, when at Gothenburg, Nebraska, he led to the marriage altar Miss Ada Hansberry, a gracious and popular young lady of

Pawnee county. Mrs. Pierce is a daughter of Albert and Mary (Hainning) Hansberry. In her father's family were six children — Mary Pierce, William, Olo Tabor, Charles, Lemuel, and Ray.

Immediately following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Pierce established a home which in many ways has been ideal. Into the family circle the years have brought two sons, L. Loyd, who is now farming for himself. He married Edna Gion, and they have one daughter, Signa Doris, who, in addition to her high-school education, has had a two years' course in the Grand Island Business College. The younger son, A. Hugh, an eligible young bachelor, lives at home and farms on his father's place. Mr. Pierce has 960 acres of good land to show for his work in Custer county. This is splendidly improved and well stocked. He has a fine home and his farm is well equipped for profitable operations. All that he has accumulated represents the result of toil and splendid judgment.

Recalling the early days, Mr. Pierce states that his first money was made by catching catfish in the Kickapoo river and selling the same for ten cents apiece. At the time they were caught, the fish weighed from six to ten pounds each. What they weigh now depends upon the dimensions of the fish in the story Mr. Pierce has to match. Mr. Pierce has long been regarded as one of the prominent, substantial farmers of his community. He has made a decided success of his chosen occupation and in a social way enjoys the confidence of a large circle of friends and neighbors. His political affiliations are with the Republican party, and he is a man well informed in current events, and thinks for himself.

ALVIN M. SCHUDER. — One of the prosperous and busy men of Sargent, Nebraska, is Alvin M. Schuder, carpenter and builder, who has resided here for thirty years and has watched and helped in the development of this bustling town from a grain field to its present proportions and varied interests. He was born September 28, 1856, in Marshall county, Indiana, and is one of four children born to his parents, Simon B. and Margaret B. (Alms) Schuder.

Simon B. Schuder was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, and in early manhood moved to Indiana, where he was engaged in farming when the Civil war broke out. In response to President Lincoln's first call, he enlisted in Company E, Seventy-fourth Indiana Volunteers, and during his first term of service he was with the armies of Grant and Rosecrans.

He re-enlisted, and continued a brave and courageous soldier in the ranks until just before the end of the war, being wounded and incapacitated in one of the last battles, and he was honorably discharged. Despite the hardships of military life, the exposure and the wounding, he recovered his normal health, and to-day, when eighty-five years old, is an example of vigorous old age. After the war he resumed work at the carpenter trade, which he had previously followed in connection with farming, but later he removed to a farm in Indiana and lived there until he retired. He now resides in Columbia City, Indiana. For his first wife he married Margaret B. Alms, who was born in Pennsylvania, and who died in 1865. They had the following children: Alvin M., whose name initiates this sketch; William H., who is deceased; and Minnie M. and Susannah E., both of whom live at Joliet, Illinois. During early manhood the father of Mr. Schuder was a Democrat, but the issues of the Civil war changed his opinions and he became a staunch Republican. He is a member of the Church of God, and the mother of Mr. Schuder belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church.

Alvin M. Schuder had fair school advantages in his youth and had both farm and mechanical training in his native state. In September, 1884 he came to Custer county, driving over the country from Greenwood, Nebraska, to Broken Bow. He pre-empted a half-section of land north of West Union, and also secured a timber claim. Through all the hardships of pioneer times, he preserved his holdings, and several years ago he disposed of his half-section to great advantage. When he recalls Sargent's beginnings, he remembers the waving grain that once covered its site. The land was owned by E. P. Savadge and J. W. Thomas, the latter of whom is a banker in Omaha. In the early days Mr. Schuder was engaged in freighting quite extensively, and before the railroad reached this section he carried freight, with more or less danger, to almost all the surrounding towns. His reminiscences of those days are full of interest, and prove how rapid and substantial may be the growth of a community when practical and enterprising men take sufficient interest. In Custer county Mr. Schuder has done a large amount of carpentering and building that stand to his credit, and he still keeps active in his chosen vocation. In politics he is a Democrat. He is not married.

HENRY TIETJENS.—Ever and again the American citizen must take off his hat to

the thrift and prosperity of the foreign-born. Written above is the name of a prosperous and substantial farmer in whose veins flows the blood of frugal German parents and who himself was born in the German empire, so that his discovery of America, as well as his residence here, was an act of his own volition.

Mr. Tietjens was born July 18, 1848, and is a son of Henry and Anna A. (Hoelweig) Tietjens, representatives of long lines of sterling German ancestry. Henry Tietjens is the eldest in a family of four children, the others being Rebecca, Andrew, and Jacob. In addition, Mr. Tietjens had two step-brothers and two step-sisters. His father was a farmer and hotel keeper in Germany.

The first eighteen years of the life of Henry Tietjens were spent in Germany, where he received a creditable education and earned his first money as messenger boy, running errands for the guests in his father's hotel. When he was eighteen years of age, the call of America brought him to this country, and from the seaboard he made his way direct to Holt county, Missouri, where he worked for two years on a farm. Then he came to Nebraska and settled in Madison county. In this county, on December 10, 1876, he married Miss Catherine Peck, who was born in Iowa, a daughter of George and Anna (Ruck) Peck, natives of New York and Pennsylvania, respectively. In the Peck family were four children: John, Scott, Earl, and Catherine. The members of this family belong to the Lutheran church.

The family history of Mr. and Mrs. Tietjens, as connected with their own home circle, give the following record of their children: George, who is a plumber living at Bow, Washington, married Lizzie String, and they have three sons and one daughter. Anna is the wife of Moses Irvin, who runs a restaurant at Arnold, and they have one child. Nanna, who married Roy Nansel, and has since been divorced, has one child, a little daughter named Vera. Jacob is a bachelor and lives at home with his parents. Lenore is the wife of Charles Woodward, who is in the navy, and located at Norfolk, Virginia, at the time of this writing. Mr. Woodward was formerly on a submarine carrier and went around the world with the Roosevelt fleet. Scott is at Camp Funston, in Company H, Twentieth Infantry.

Mr. and Mrs. Tietjens located in Custer county in 1889. Their first home was in Merna, where they conducted a hotel about two years. Then they located eight miles southeast of Arnold. Mr. Tietjens now owns 1,680 acres of good land and is rated as one of the prosperous ranchmen of the county. He

has made good and is well and favorably known among the people of the community. Always ready to assist any worthy enterprise, he has contributed to the betterment of the community in which he lives. Politically he affiliates with the Republican party, believing that it represents the principles of a common democracy in which the burden of government rests upon the intelligent voter.

DORCAS HOGUE LEO.—Here follows the story of a woman who has had a remarkable career; who has experienced the hardships and privations of pioneer days; who, as the mother of a large family of children, has done well her part in the years that have passed; and who has contributed largely to the present-day development of the county's resources. Hers has been an active and useful life.

Mrs. Leo was born August 4, 1860, in Pike county, Missouri. She was the last born of the children of Andrew and Jane (Wilkison) Hogue, both of whom were native Kentuckians. Aside from herself, the children of these parents were: Hardin, and Susan, both of whom are deceased; Shannon A.; and Alice Kruser. In his younger days, Andrew Hogue, the father, lived in Clarksville, Missouri, where he had a small grocery store. When Mrs. Leo was nine years old her parents moved to Lincoln county, Missouri, where her father engaged in farming and where her mother died, leaving Mrs. Leo motherless at the age of twelve years. Later her father married Mrs. Jennie Nally Blackmore. To this union three children were born: Myrtle King, Zella M. (deceased), and Andrew J. Mrs. Leo received a common-school education and after experiencing the common lot of young womanhood in the rural districts of those days, she was united in marriage, in her twenty-first year, at Ellensburg, Missouri, to Henry W. Leo. Mr. Leo was born in Germany, coming of sturdy German ancestry. He was a member of a large family, in which there were fourteen children. He came to America when twenty-one years of age and located in a small town in Indiana, where he opened a blacksmith shop and worked at the trade for several years. With his wife he came to Custer county in 1885 and located southeast of Arnold, on the South Loup river, where he and his young wife had their first induction into pioneer experiences. Selling his relinquishment, they moved to Dale, a little town in Ortello valley and there Mr. Leo built a sod blacksmith shop and again worked at his trade. Later when the principal business

interests of Dale moved to the new town of Merna, Mr. Leo re-established his shop in the new town and here the family home has been maintained for twenty-five years.

Mr. and Mrs. Leo became the parents of eleven children, nine of whom are still living. Rollie F. is the eldest. Stella A. is the widow of Charles Grissom, who was an employe of the Standard Oil Company, at Wood River, Illinois, at the time of his demise, which occurred December 16, 1916. He is survived by his wife and two children—Leo, twelve years of age, and Lillian, nine years old. Russell A. married Leona Cash, who lived only a few months thereafter. He is a farmer near Gary, South Dakota. Joseph A. was a sergeant in Company M, Fifth Regiment Nebraska National Guard, and died at Grand Island, this state, July 2, 1917. Mary F. is deceased. Wilhelmina is the wife of Lawrence Welton, superintendent of the Standard Oil Company's refinery at Casper, Wyoming. Helen is single. Theresa is the wife of Walter Shoemaker, and they reside at Lincoln, Nebraska. They have one daughter, Deetta, eight years old. Henry A. is single and works on a farm near Arnold. Bernard A. also is single and an Arnold farmer. George M. is a student in the Arnold high school. Mrs. Stella Grissom and Miss Helen Leo, daughters of Mrs. Leo, are operating an up-to-date eating establishment in the town of Arnold and their mother, who is an adept in that line, has charge of the culinary department. Mrs. Leo comes from a family who were connected with the Baptist church. Her husband was a Catholic and accordingly her children incline to the faith of that church.

WILLIS M. STEBBINS not only owns a large body of valuable and well improved land in Custer county but is also a leading business man at Gothenburg, Dawson county, and has been prominently identified with public affairs in the latter county. He was born near Wattsburg, Pennsylvania, on the 20th of January, 1863, and is a son of John C. and Polly J. (Swatland) Stebbins, the former a native of Yates county, New York, and the latter of Chautauqua county, that state, the parents having returned from Pennsylvania to Chautauqua county, New York, when the subject of this review was but six months old. On the maternal side Willis M. Stebbins is a grandson of Silas and Abigail (Rose) Swatland, natives respectively of Connecticut and Vermont. Mr. Stebbins has three brothers—Monroe D., Laverne G., and Virgil A.

Willis M. Stebbins completed his education in Sherman Academy, at Sherman, New York, and practically his start in life may be dated from 1884, when he came to Nebraska and took a homestead claim near Farnam, Dawson county. He proved up on this claim, and in 1889 he moved to Gothenburg, where he engaged in business, which has since been expanded to include dealing in hardware, agricultural implements and real estate. For many years he has owned section 9, township 64, range 25, Custer county, and he is very proud of this land, because of its fine location, remarkable fertility, and superior improvements.

Mr. Stebbins was married January 1, 1891, in Hastings, Nebraska, to Miss Avis W. Wilcox, who was born at Albany, New York, a daughter of Schuyler C. and Olivia H. (Cheeney) Wilcox. Mr. and Mrs. Stebbins became the parents of five children: Verna A. is the wife of Professor Arthur Greenslit, superintendent of schools of Baxter, Iowa, and they have one daughter, Kathryn; Guy L. died September 15, 1914; Willis Earl served eight months at Llana Grande, Texas, on the Mexican border, as a member of Company L, of Gothenburg, and after his company was called into the service of the United States, July 15, 1917, he was made mess sergeant: as a soldier in the national army preparing for foreign service, Willis L. Stebbins, on February 8, 1918, entered the aviation school at Austin, Texas, and in August, 1918, he was commissioned second lieutenant pilot: Alice I. and Virge W. remain at the parental home and are attending school.

When Mr. Stebbins came to Dawson county he not only showed an interest in forwarding his own enterprises, but immediately identified himself also with public affairs, as becomes a progressive citizen, this attitude soon winning to him the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens, which he has never lost. He has been prominent in civic matters at Gothenburg and has contributed time and money to make this a business center and a desirable residence location. In 1911 he was elected to represent Dawson county in the state legislature, his public services meeting with such approval on the part of his constituency that he was returned in 1913 and again in 1915. He has always been identified with the Republican party. Mr. Stebbins is well known in Masonic circles in the state, has attained the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite, and is also a member of the Mystic Shrine. With his family he belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church, and at all times he has been liberal in his charities.

MERLE M. RUNYAN, deputy clerk of the district court of Custer county, has the distinction of having been the first white child born at Mason City, this county, which accounts for his middle name being Mason. He is one of the energetic and progressive young men of his locality, is a lawyer by profession and for several years has been prominent in public affairs. During the time that he has thus been before the people he has conducted himself in a way that has won him uniform esteem and confidence.

Mr. Runyan was born at Mason City, Nebraska, May 23, 1886, and is a son of George and Medora H. (Amsberry) Runyan. George Runyan located at Mason City in 1878, being the first postmaster of that village, and for some years he was prominent in its mercantile affairs and in the agricultural life of the community. He became successful as a farmer and accumulated a substantial property. He is now living retired from active affairs, his home being situated at Broken Bow. He is a staunch Democrat in politics, and he and his wife are consistent members of the Baptist church. They are the parents of seven children: Ira G., Mrs. Ada Watson, William A., Glenn E., Mrs. Blanche Rumery, Merle Mason, and James W.

The early education of Merle M. Runyan was secured in the public schools of Mason City, and when he was not employed at his studies he assisted his father, while at times he worked out among the neighbors, besides earning odd sums by selling roasting ears of corn to the people of the surrounding villages. He completed his course at the Mason City high school in 1906, following which he went to the Grand Island Baptist College, where he completed the curriculum of five years. Returning to his home, he was engaged for a time in the real-estate business, and while thus occupied he became interested in the law—first in order that it might assist him in his business ventures and later that it might serve as his profession. For nearly four years he studied in the office of N. Dwight Ford, a well known Mason City attorney, and after duly passing the examination he was admitted to the Nebraska bar in 1915. He had already settled down to practice, however, when, in 1915, he was appointed deputy county clerk of Custer county and moved to Broken Bow to assume his duties of office. So capably were these discharged that he made a distinctly favorable impression upon the minds of the people, and in 1918 he was appointed deputy clerk of the district court of Custer county, a position which he still retains. Mr. Runyan has been conscientious in handling the re-

sponsibilities of his position and all matters coming before him have been treated in a thorough, able and expeditious manner. He is one of the influential members of the Democratic party in Custer county, but is popular with those of other political belief, and has many warm friends in both large parties.

On November 26, 1913, at Broken Bow, Mr. Runyan was united in marriage to Miss Grace Duke, a daughter of Charles W. Duke, and to this union there have been born two sons — Byron D., and Howard G.

JOHN CAMERON, who for thirty years has been a resident of Custer county, resides on his farm near Callaway and is well known throughout the county, having taught school for eight years, in different neighborhoods, and having done his part in furthering the various developing agencies that have changed a sparsely settled wilderness into a wealthy, prosperous, and intelligent community. John Cameron was born at Wellsville, Ohio, December 25, 1869. On the paternal side he is of Scotch ancestry, his father, David Cameron, having been a native of Scotland. After coming to the United States and locating in Ohio, David Cameron married Elizabeth Figgins, a native of that state, and of their eight children the survivors are the following: Simon D., David F., John, and William. The parents were members of the Presbyterian church.

John Cameron was reared in Ohio, was well educated in the public schools and was variously employed until he was nineteen years old, when he came to Nebraska, to which state many young men in the east were turning their eyes at that time, for here land was to be easily secured and great rewards were offered for thrift and industry. When Mr. Cameron came to Custer county he bought 160 acres of land adjoining the Brighton ranch on the north, and set about its development. But he lacked the experience that would probably have made his venture profitable, and after three years of effort he sold his land. His next purchase was more carefully made and consisted of 160 acres about six miles southeast of Callaway. When he bought this land, in 1891, there was not a tree to be seen on the place, and Mr. Cameron has done a wonderful amount of improving, his comfortable bachelor home being now surrounded by orchards and shade trees.

While Mr. Cameron has devoted much time and attention to his agricultural industry and land improvement, he has served the county in the capacity of school teacher, his labors

in this direction covering eight years. Mr. Cameron has accumulated a comfortable competency through steady industry, for he has never, as have some of his acquaintances, been led into land or other speculation. In this connection he relates an experience of his youth that opened his eyes to the uncertainty of the "sure thing." As a boy he was obliged carefully to regulate his expenses in consonance with his income, and there never was any great surplus. In the hope of overcoming this condition, at one time he was persuaded to invest his sole capital of five dollars in oil stock. From that time on he has never been tempted to pay any attention to the alluring promise of oil, land, or mining stocks. As a thinking and educated man, Mr. Cameron occupies an established place in public affairs, but he has accepted no political office. He votes the Republican ticket, is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is a member of the Presbyterian church.

HARRY JACOBSEN, who is a substantial farmer of Custer county, owns 380 acres of some of the finest land in this part of the state, the same being located four miles east and south of Merna. He is a native of Nebraska, and is a scion of a sterling pioneer family that was here established in the territorial days — about one year prior to the admission of Nebraska to the Union. Mr. Jacobsen was born in Saline county, May 3, 1868, and is a son of John and Sarah (Cooper) Jacobsen, the former of whom was born in Ohio and the latter in Maryland. John and Sarah (Cooper) Jacobsen gained territorial pioneer distinction in Nebraska by immigrating to this now opulent state in the spring of 1866. They made the overland journey from Rutland, LaSalle county, Illinois, with team and covered wagon, and they took a homestead near the West Blue river in the north part of Saline county. There they bravely faced the problems and trials of pioneer life and there they proved valued members of the community, the while they bent their energies to the reclamation and development of the frontier farm. It is worthy of record that John Jacobsen assisted in the organization of the first school district in Saline county, the same having been designated as district No. 1. The name of John Jacobsen merits enduring place on the roster of the honored pioneers of Nebraska. He and his wife became the parents of seven children, concerning whom brief record is here offered: Lawrence E., who is a farmer near Genesee, Louisiana, has four sons; Harry, of this review, was the next



JOHN CAMERON

in order of birth; Frank A., who is unmarried, is a school teacher near Hammond, Louisiana, and is a member of the Episcopal church; Ross, who is overseer of a large farm near Rutland, La Salle county, Illinois, married Susan, a daughter of George H. Fougerson, and they have one daughter; Lydia, who died in 1900, was the wife of George Willis, and they had three daughters; Paul, who lives in Louisiana, is married, and he and his wife, Maggie, have four sons and one daughter; and Frederick A., who is a carpenter and farmer, is married and has one son. The father of the above family died in 1879, and the mother subsequently married John Imhoff. Two daughters of this second marriage are living—Lillie D., and Bertha. Miss Lillie D. Imhoff became a skilled stenographer and in that capacity worked for eight years in the government agricultural department at Washington, D. C. She then became the wife of Paul Anderson, who is connected with the government printing office, and they have one son. Bertha Imhoff also is married and is the mother of four daughters, and they all live at Osyka, Mississippi.

Harry Jacobsen was eleven years old when his father died and he was largely thrown on his own resources—industrious habits and natural thrift enabling him to overcome many disadvantages. He began early to help on the farm and believes the first money he earned and received was fifteen cents a day paid him by a neighbor for plowing corn, with a double-shovel plow and one horse. Mr. Jacobsen has made farming his life work. He came to Custer county in 1906 and bought 320 acres on East Table, near Merna, and this he has developed into a fine property. His residence, on the edge of the table, is beautifully situated and it can be seen from a distance of many miles in several directions.

Mr. Jacobsen was married April 30, 1890, in Saline county, Nebraska, to Miss Mary Elizabeth Fougerson, a daughter of George H. and Mary K. (Landon) Fougerson, and a granddaughter of Munson Landon. Mrs. Jacobsen's father was born near Buffalo, New York, December 8, 1836, and her mother January 18, 1840. Mr. and Mrs. Jacobsen have nine children: Edna G. is the wife of Wendell Cosner; John H., at the time of this writing, is serving his country as a soldier in France; George A., who is operating on a large ranch near Rushville, Nebraska, married Grace Mauck, a daughter of Daniel Mauck, and they have one child; Ross E. is the home farmer; Charles V. also lives at home and assists on the farm; Hazel E. was a member of the graduating class of 1918 in

the Merna high school; and Elmer E., Mildred, and Elsie B. are all doing well in their classes at school. The eldest daughter, Mrs. Cosner, a very talented lady, has been secretary of the Nebraska State Grange for five years. She was thoroughly educated along business lines and after completing a course in the Grand Island Commercial College went into the stenographic field and for some years was identified, as a stenographer, with such important business concerns as the Old Trusty Incubator Company, at Clay Center, the Broken Bow Abstract Company, and the Farmers Mercantile Company at Anselmo, Nebraska. She resides eight miles northeast of Merna, where Mr. Cosner is engaged in farming.

HERMAN BURROW, who is well known over Custer county, has carried on general farming here for many years and owns 440 acres of fine land, with a beautiful home situated three-quarters of a mile southeast of Merna. Mr. Burrow was born in Germany, August 1, 1854, and is a son of Christian and Anna (Hebbe) Burrow. His father was born in Germany, February 12, 1809, and died September 3, 1907. His mother was born in Germany, February 20, 1812, and died April 9, 1874. They had six children, namely: William C., Christian, Gustave, Julius, Herman, and Mrs. Christena Kruger. They were members of the Lutheran church. The father was a farmer all his life.

Herman Burrow remained with his parents in Germany until he was seventeen years old, when he came to the United States, where he has lived here ever since, and for thirty-six years he has been a resident of Custer county. He first found work on a farm near Sauk City, Wisconsin, and continued there for two years. He then went to Illinois, where for four years he worked on farms, with good wages. From Illinois he went to Osceola, Iowa, and in the fall of 1882, he came to Custer county and located two and one-half miles northwest of Merna. Through his industry in his earlier years, he is now able to live at ease, his sons taking care of the hard work, although Mr. Burrow continues general supervisor.

Mr. Burrow was married July 15, 1880, at Osceola, Iowa, to Helen Thomas, a daughter of Henry and Johanna (De Marse) Thomas, and they became the parents of three daughters and two sons, as follows: Cora is the wife of Kearney G. Kellenbarger; Dorris is the wife of William Hannah; Eunice became the wife of Claude James, who died November 20, 1918, and she passed to eternal rest

only a few days later, her death having occurred on the 29th of November, 1918; and Henry and Homer, conduct their father's farming operations. The surviving daughters all have comfortable homes of their own. Mrs. Burrow is an excellent housekeeper and not only looks after her domestic affairs but also takes a great deal of interest in her poultry yard. The family attend the Methodist Episcopal and Lutheran churches. Mr. Burrow has always given his political support to the Democratic party, and he is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America.

WILBER M. SPEER, was possessed of two teams and the sum of seven dollars and fifty cents at the time of his arrival in Custer county, in 1889; to-day he is one of the well-to-do men of his community and a citizen who at various times has been called upon to fill public offices. His rise has not been spectacular, but has been steady and consistent, for his success has been gained through hard and persistent industry and not through any sudden, lucky chance or circumstance.

Mr. Speer was born at Rutland, Dane county, Wisconsin, December 20, 1861, and is a son of John D. and Sarah J. (Lockwood) Speer, the former a native of Michigan and the latter of Vermont. The father, who was a blacksmith by trade, enlisted in the Union army in 1862, and not long after his entrance into the war he was wounded in battle, and after being captured by the enemy he contracted black measles, his death having occurred on the boat that was carrying him to a southern prison camp. He was but twenty-two years of age at this time, and Wilber M. was his only child. Mrs. Speer later married Amasa J. Parker, who was a farmer of the Rutland community, and there Mrs. Parker passed away. Mr. Parker now lives at Onaway, Iowa. They became the parents of six children, of whom four are living: Ida May, who married George Hook and lives at Whiting, Iowa; Mary A., who married James Hook, of the same place; Evelyn, who married Charles Waterman and resides at Onawa, Iowa; and Jay M., who is also residing at Whiting, and who is married and has a family.

Wilber M. Speer was educated in the public schools at Rutland, where he passed through the eighth grade, and at the age of sixteen years he started to learn the blacksmith trade, a predilection for which he had probably inherited from his father. He spent two years and three months as an apprentice, following which he worked at his trade about

one year and he then engaged in railroad work, following that vocation for three years, during a part of which time he was employed on farms during the summer months. In 1889 he came to Custer county, with the small capital noted above, and shortly after his arrival he traded one of his teams for a tree-claim right. His experiences during the early days were full of excitement, and he also had his full share of difficulties and discomforts, but eventually he got a start and began to make money. He continued to be engaged in farming until 1894, when he moved to the town of Wescott and engaged in the blacksmith business in an independent way. He continued the business until 1899, at which time his health failed and he was compelled to give up his trade. For one year he was in the livery business at Sargent, and then he moved to the Douglas Grove district, where he resided until 1911, having served in all the township and school offices within the intervening period. In 1911 he located at Comstock, where he has since been engaged in the blacksmith business, and he now has two large and well equipped establishments, in addition to which he is contemplating the erection in the near future of a garage and blacksmith shop, 50 by 100 feet, to be modern in every feature and department. He enjoys at present a large and prosperous trade, all of which has been attracted by his expert, expeditious, and reliable work.

Since coming to Comstock Mr. Speer has been prominently identified with civic matters, having served in the capacities of member of the village board and justice of the peace, and his public record is an honorable and creditable one. He is a member of the local lodge of Odd Fellows, and Mrs. Speer belongs to the Christian church. Mr. Speer is the owner of a farm of 176 acres, near Comstock, on which his son is now carrying on extensive and profitable agricultural and stock-raising operations. On this farm Mr. Speer, several years ago, was in the business of raising race horses, but he finally retired from that line of enterprise.

In 1879 Mr. Speer was united in marriage to Miss Edna C. Warner, at Paoli, Wisconsin, and they became the parents of one son: Joseph A., who graduated in all branches from the public schools at the age of seventeen years, and is now a traveling salesman with headquarters at Butte, Montana, and he is married. Mr. Speer's first wife died, and in May, 1883, he married Miss Katie M. Owens, at Rutland, Wisconsin. Her parents, natives of Wales, were early settlers of Wisconsin, where they passed the remainder of

their lives. Mr. and Mrs. Speer have had six children: Cora, who died in November, 1916, was the wife of Clifford I. Roth, a farmer; Percy W., who is a farmer and blacksmith of Comstock, married Eva Wood; Elza, who is a drayman at Comstock, married Leona Goodner; John E., who is a farmer of Douglas Grove, married Alice Squier; Frank E., who is a farmer near Comstock, married Sylvia Ohme; and Zella L. is the wife of Ira Rickett, a garage proprietor at Comstock.

CHARLES L. SMITH, of Broken Bow, has more than a local reputation as a shrewd stock-buyer, and has been a farmer and dealer in stock in this county for the last thirty years. Mr. Smith was born at Covington, Virginia, June 11, 1866. His parents, who were also born and who still live at Covington, are Josiah and Mary J. (Andrews) Smith. Of their nine children the following survive: Charles L., of this review; Wright, a resident of Hot Springs, Virginia; and Elizabeth, the wife of George Smith.

Charles L. Smith lived at home with his parents until he was twenty-one years of age, the while he worked on the farm in the summer and went to school in the winter until he was sixteen years old, when he went to work in a saw mill, in connection with which he continued his labors two years. He taught school during the winter of 1886 and in the spring of 1887, he came to Custer county and went to work for his uncle, Harvey B. Andrews, near New Helena. There he learned the cattle business, in which he has met with a large measure of success. Mr. Smith is credited with the possession of an almost uncanny amount of correct conjecture when he judges a load of cattle or hogs, and this wisdom has not only been helpful in his business but has also caused his friends to believe that it is a natural gift. In support of this theory, Mr. Smith tells the story of his earliest trading exploit. He was only a boy when he earned his first money, twenty-five cents a day for four days of plowing with an ox-team. In place of cash he consented to take oats at fifty cents a bushel, and he then traded the oats for a pair of shoes worth twice as much. Without doubt the trading instinct is a gift that every dealer does not have.

Mr. Smith was married July 15, 1891, at Burwell, Nebraska, to Miss Rosa McGraw, a daughter of James and Frances (Walker) McGraw, and the following children have been born to them: Velma is the wife of W. E. Heaps, a farmer in Custer county, and they have three children; Zelma, who resides at

home, is a teacher; Henrietta is the wife of Leroy Snyder, a railroad man, and they have one child; John is a Custer county farmer; and William E., Louanna, and Aubrey remain at the parental home. The family belong to the Episcopal church. Mr. Smith is a Democrat in politics and is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and the Modern Woodmen of America.

LEWIS NEVE.—The agricultural interests of Custer county have a worthy representative in the subject of this record, who owns and operates a valuable farm of 200 acres, on West Table.

Lewis Neve was born in Juneau county, Wisconsin, September 3, 1873. His father, Samuel Neve, was a native of England and came to America when a boy of fourteen years. He became a farmer, and resided in Wisconsin until 1883, when he came to Custer county and took a homestead on West Table, where he spent the remainder of his days, and where he passed away at the age of seventy-five years. In Wisconsin he married Roxy Ackers, a native of that state, and there she passed away. For his second wife Samuel Neve chose Miss Jane Drew, who is still a resident of Custer county.

Lewis Neve was a son by the first marriage and was reared in Wisconsin until the family came to Custer county, where he joined them in the fall of 1883. He remained in his father's home until he reached years of maturity, when he became a farmer, renting land for a few years. He was successful and acquired sufficient capital to justify the purchase of a farm of his own. His holdings consist of 200 acres, in section 27, township 18, range 23, and his land is in a high state of cultivation.

For a companion and helpmeet Mr. Neve chose Miss Laura Butler, who was born in Illinois, a daughter of Marion and Millarin Butler, who came to Custer county in 1882. Mr. and Mrs. Neve have one child, Clarence, a young man who is assisting in the operation of the farm. Both Mr. and Mrs. Neve represent early families of Custer county and they are held in high esteem by all who know them.

FRED C. WARNEMUNDE, who is manager of the Gilcrist Lumber Company, at Oconto, Nebraska, was born at Plau, Germany, March 13, 1891, a son of Fred C. and Ida (Sellman) Warnemunde, the father being a representative farmer near Winside,

Wayne county, Nebraska. Of the other children in the family the following brief record is consistently entered: William is thirty-two years of age at the time of this writing, in the autumn of 1918; Erna, aged twenty-nine years, is the wife of O. Roland, of Hoskins, Wayne county; Antonie, aged twenty-five years, is the wife of Fred Rathman, of Dalton, Cheyenne county; Henry is nineteen years old; and Erwin is a lad of fourteen years.

Fred C. Warnemunde is a somewhat recent acquisition to Custer county, coming here in 1915. He was reared in Wayne county and remained on his father's farm until he was nineteen years of age. Thus he understands all the industries connected with ranch life in Nebraska and he earned his first money by herding cattle. He has had excellent educational training and was graduated in the Fremont Business College, June 10, 1912, having earned the money to pay his tuition. After completing his business course he plowed corn for one week for his brother and then accepted work with the Nye, Schneider, Fowler Lumber & Grain Company, at Emmet, Nebraska. He continued with that concern until September 13, 1915, when he came to Oconto and became foreman for the F. H. Gilcrist Lumber Company. This is a large business concern that has lumber yards in fifteen towns in Nebraska and not only handles lumber but also machinery, and implements. Mr. Warnemunde is manager of the company's business at Oconto.

December 2, 1914, at Rushville, Nebraska, Mr. Warnemunde wedded Miss Olga M. Rohwer, a daughter of Claus Rohwer, and they have one son, Fred E.

JOSEPH D. KENNEDY, who is cashier of the Oconto State Bank, at Oconto, this county, has been identified with this financial institution since coming here, in 1910, and is held in high esteem in banking circles over the state. Mr. Kennedy was born at Osceola, Iowa, October 15, 1867, and is a son of Edwin R. Kennedy.

The Oconto State Bank was founded in 1903, with a capital of \$5,000, the first officers being: M. F. Paul, of St. Paul, Nebraska, president; George Mary, vice-president; and S. A. Robinson, cashier. Banking was carried on at first in a building which was the only available one at the time and the dimensions of which were sixteen by twenty-four feet. The banking company leased quarters here, but as it was also the court room of T. B. Buckner, justice of the peace, it was sometimes necessary for the bank to suspend busi-

ness while the judge held court. In the following year, however, a bank building was erected, with dimensions of twenty-four by forty-two feet. As the bank became a flourishing institution, changes came about and greater expansion ensued, and on June 15, 1910, the bank was reorganized and the capital stock increased to \$25,000, a paid in capital, with surplus of \$5,000. The present bank officials are: G. E. Stuckey, president; George Mary, vice-president; Joseph D. Kennedy, cashier; and George Mary, Jr., assistant cashier. All deposits in this bank are protected by the depositors' guaranty fund of the state of Nebraska, there being a law which provides that deposits in the state banks of Nebraska shall be protected by the depositors' guaranty fund of the state of Nebraska, which fund the state of Nebraska shall levy and collect from the state banks of the state. This is called the Nebraska guaranty law. The bank at present is housed in a spacious new building that was erected in 1913. It is of brick construction, with dimensions of twenty-four and one-half by fifty-eight feet, and with every modern comfort, convenience and bank appliance, its cost having been \$7,200. The old frame building, which was moved to the north side of the lot, was for a time used as a postoffice building, and it is now utilized as the township hall.

Mr. Kennedy was married August 19, 1892, at Lexington, Nebraska, to Miss Mamie E., a daughter of Thomas Watkinson.

EVENS BARRETT.—Among the successful farmers of Custer county is Evens Barrett, who was born in Montgomery county, Iowa, September 14, 1872. His father, Hercules Barrett, was born in England and when a young man came to the United States. In Jackson county, Iowa, Hercules Barrett married Miss Julia Kinsey, a native of that county. They later moved to Montgomery county, Iowa, where they resided until 1891, when they came to Custer county, Nebraska, and purchased the farm on which they spent their remaining days, the father having been one of Custer county's successful agriculturists and at his death having been the owner of 320 acres of land. They had a family of seven children: The eldest, Frank, is deceased; John resides in Custer county; Evens is the subject of this record; Hulda is the wife of James Butler, of Montana; Henry and Sylvester remain in Custer county; and Susan is the wife of Carl Fitz, of this county.

Evens Barrett was reared in his native state

and was nineteen years of age when he accompanied his parents to Custer county. When twenty-two years old he began an independent career. After working for others for three years he engaged in farming on his own account. Fourteen years ago he purchased his present farm, which at that time was but slightly improved, having a sod house, etc. To-day the place is improved with good buildings, and the air of neatness which pervades the premises bespeaks the progressive spirit of the owner.

Mr. Barrett chose for a wife and helpmeet Miss Anna Butler, who was born in Illinois, a daughter of Martin and Anna (Huffman) Butler, early settlers of Custer county. Mr. and Mrs. Barrett have one child, a son named Lloyd, who assists in the operation of the farm, and who was registered for military service at the time when the great world war came to a close.

The family are members of the Christian church and in politics Mr. Barrett is a Republican. By diligence and progressive methods Mr. Barrett has made a success of agriculture and is one of the substantial men of his community.

JOHN T. BRIDGES, who is postmaster at Oconto, is a leading business man of this place and is one of Custer county's dependable and patriotic citizens. Mr. Bridges was born at Ramsey, Illinois, April 16, 1863. His parents were James I. and Sarah J. (Sturgeon) Bridges, and his maternal grandfather was Simpson Sturgeon. James I. Bridges was born near Louisville, Kentucky, and in later life removed to Illinois. Here he married Sarah J. Sturgeon and the following children were born to them: Mrs. Ellen Wear, William T., John T., Edward F., Mrs. Minnie Van Schick, Isaac T., Eugene H., and Mrs. Ida Smith.

John T. Bridges may justly be called a self-made man. He left the parental roof when he was about twelve years old, and from that time on he provided for his own necessities and showed good judgment in making bargains with his employers, mostly farmers in his earlier career, as he was able to attend school in winter and even secured high-school training. He also learned the art of telegraphy, and in 1884 he worked as a telegrapher for the Clover Leaf Railroad, in Illinois. From 1888 to 1890 he was in the service of the Rock Island Railroad, in Kansas, and after telegraphic work at different points on the Black Hills branch of the Union Pacific Railroad, he was agent at Lodi, Nebraska, from

1892 to 1904, at the same time being postmaster for six years and also having charge of the local business of the Omaha Elevator & Grain Company. When he came to Custer county, in 1890, he bought 400 acres of land at Lodi. In 1904 he moved to Oconto and established his present hardware and furniture business, and since April, 1917, he has been postmaster. Mr. Bridges, although thrown upon his own resources in early boyhood, has proved a good business man, possessing perhaps a natural faculty in that direction, as is indicated by a little story he tells of the way he "turned over" his first earnings, when a little boy on the home farm. He worked at planting corn, for twenty-five cents a day, and when he had accumulated enough he bought a pocket knife, later trading the same for a goat, and he then traded the goat for two pigs, which he proudly, no doubt, carried in his arms a distance of three miles to his home. This amusing story illustrates the principle by which many a man has won affluence.

Mr. Bridges was married November 5, 1893, at Mexico, Missouri, to Miss Lena A. Farrah, who was born at Rush Hill, that state, a daughter of William and Jane (Moffit) Farrah, whose children were: Everett, William, Charles, Cora, Alice, Lena, and Lulu. Mr. and Mrs. Bridges have two children: Marie O., who is in school at Le Mars, Iowa; and John A., who has attended the St. James School at Kearney, Nebraska. Mr. Bridges has been shown many marks of public confidence in relation to the citizenship responsibilities occasioned by the world war, and at the time of writing (1918) he is serving Oconto as federal food commissioner, as recruiting officer for the army and navy and as chairman of the four-minute speakers on patriotic subjects.

THOMAS CHRISTENSEN was born in Saunders county, Nebraska, July 22, 1875. His father, Christ Christensen, was born in Schleswig-Holstein, which was then a province of Denmark. He came to America when a young man and secured a homestead in Saunders county, Nebraska, where he became a successful farmer. His last days were spent at the home of his son Thomas, in Greeley county, where he passed away at the age of seventy-two years. The mother of our subject was Maria (Thompson) Christensen, who was born in Jutland, a province of Denmark, and, who came to America when a young woman. She, too, resides at Merna, Custer county.

Thomas Christensen spent his boyhood days on a farm in Saunders county and when a young man of twenty-one years, he began farming for himself, operating his father's farm a couple of years. He then went to Greeley county and purchased 240 acres, which he improved and on which he carried on agricultural pursuits until eight years ago, when he came to Custer county, where he is to-day the owner of 800 acres, well improved, and devoted to diversified agriculture and stock-raising.

Mr. Christensen married Miss Anna Jensen, who was born in Custer county, a daughter of M. C. Jensen, an early settler whose record appears on other pages of this volume. Two children have come to brighten the home of Mr. and Mrs. Christensen, and their names are Eleanor and Thomas Pershing. The parents are members of the Lutheran church and in politics Mr. Christensen casts an independent vote. Though a resident of the county only eight years, he is fast making a place for himself as a progressive and substantial citizen.

JOSEPH P. McCORMICK. — Custer county has a wealth of young farmers upon whom it can depend to maintain its well earned reputation as a county of progress and great production. This story concerns one of them.

Joseph P. McCormick was born in Pocahontas county, Iowa, in 1873, and is a son of James and Nora (Flynn) McCormick. The father was a Canadian by birth and the mother a native of Ireland. James McCormick was a prominent member of the community in which he lived, occupied a position as road overseer, and was prominent in the affairs of the Catholic church. Concerning his children the following brief data are available: Rosa, Anna, and Mary are deceased; Mrs. Nora Harlow resides on a fruit farm in the state of Washington; Michael and James are deceased; Frank is a farmer in McPherson county, Nebraska; and Joseph P., is the subject of this sketch.

On the 5th of February, 1908, was solemnized the marriage of Joseph P. McCormick to Miss Anna Nolan, a native of Kansas, who comes of splendid family and who has been a very dependable helpmeet in her husband's fortunes, sharing the trials and hardships incidental to establishing a home on a Nebraska ranch. Mr. and Mrs. McCormick became the parents of three children: Joseph died at the age of three years; Theresa is six years old; and Violet is four years of age (1919), both

being bright little girls who add much to the joy and sunshine of the home.

The McCormick ranch consists of 760 acres, of which 158 acres are in cultivation, the rest being pasture land. The foundation of this ranch consisted of an original 160-acre homestead, to which were added 240 when the Kinkaid homestead act became effective. The rest of the tract was acquired by purchase. The improvements are of first order. A new farm home has just been erected and makes a creditable showing, as well as affording convenience and comfort to the family. In his stock-raising operations Mr. McCormick inclines to the best blood obtainable and maintains always a high grade in his cattle production. He claims the best are the most profitable; likewise, his taste, as well as his judgment, runs to good horses, with the result that the horses found on his ranch are blocky specimens of the best types.

He owns his own farming machinery and is well equipped for extensive operations. He and his wife are highly respected in their home community, where they have a host of friends. They are faithful devotees of the Catholic church and are counted among the supporting constituency of that denomination. In political affairs Mr. McCormick generally trains with the Democratic party, but he reserves the right to exercise his own judgment.

OREL JONES, who has just completed a term of five years as a member of the Nebraska state board of pharmacy, is the proprietor of a drug store at Oconto, which he has been conducting since 1910. Mr. Jones was born at Malvern, Iowa, February 6, 1877, and is a son of Norvel Jones, a Civil war veteran who now resides on the old farm which was his home, near Galesburg, Illinois, when he entered the Union army, in 1864.

Orel Jones was reared on his father's farm and attended the country schools until he was twelve years old. In 1887 he came to Madison county, Nebraska, and in 1893 he was graduated in the Madison high school. During the next five years he taught school during the winters and worked on the farm in the summers, besides which he was, for a season, a clerk in a dry goods and clothing store. In 1899 he entered Highland Park College of Pharmacy, Des Moines, Iowa, and in this institution he was graduated in 1900. Subsequently, in company with his brother, Newell Jones, he bought a drug store at Madison, Nebraska, his brother having been employed in this store for four years previously. The brothers conducted this store in

partnership for two years and then sold, Newell Jones entering a medical school in the city of Chicago, and Orel Jones becoming a clerk in a drug store at Sheridan, Wyoming. In 1910 Mr. Jones established himself at Oconto, as above stated.

At Little Sioux, Iowa, on the 6th of June, 1904, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Jones to Miss Eva P. Hope, who is a daughter of William Hope. Mrs. Jones was graduated in the Highland Park College of Pharmacy, as a member of the same class in which her husband was graduated, that of 1900.

WALTER M. HENDERSON. — Forty-one years ago a traveler could journey many miles over Custer county without finding even a settler's hospitable "dugout" or seeing evidences of farm activities, and Walter M. Henderson, an early pioneer here, mentions that when his parents came and located on Lillian creek, there were no houses between the home of Captain Comstock and J. L. Oxford's place — a distance of twenty miles. As habitations were few and far apart, social intercourse was not general, and with no schools and no churches, and with a natural cessation for a time of political agitation and ambitions, the very early settlers were largely thrown upon their own resources. Fortunately the country settled rapidly and civilizing conditions were brought about that have continued in increasing volume to the present day, when Custer county takes a front rank in steady progress with all other counties in the state.

Walter M. Henderson was born in Harrison county, Missouri, January 21, 1861. His parents were John F. and Mary J. (Williams) Henderson, the former of whom was born at Paterson, New Jersey, and the latter in Muskingum county, Ohio. John F. Henderson was a cooper by trade but turned his thoughts toward farming when it became possible to secure a homestead in so desirable a section of the country as Custer county, Nebraska. He came here with his family in the fall of 1877 and homesteaded on Lillian creek, but in the spring of 1879 he received an injury that crippled him. In 1882 he sold his interests, and afterward, until the time of his death, May 9, 1914, he lived with his son Walter M. He was widely known in the community and was highly respected. In religious faith he was a Universalist, while his wife belonged to the Presbyterian church. They had five children, two of whom survive: Walter M. and Frank E., the latter of whom conducts a produce market at Comstock,

the maiden name of his wife having been Martha Smith.

Walter M. Henderson was seventeen years old when he accompanied his parents to Custer county. He had been well educated in the public schools of Harrison county, Missouri, and had determined to make farming his vocation. Four years later he secured his present homestead, which is situated in section 32, township 19, range 17, Custer county. Here he has resided ever since, becoming financially independent through well advised methods of farming and stock-raising and being now numbered with the county's substantial citizens. In his early political life he was a Republican and for a time he was interested in the doctrines of the Populist party, but for a number of years he has been identified, as was his father, with the Democratic party. He has never been anxious to serve in political office, although just such intelligent and trustworthy men as Mr. Henderson might well be chosen when public interests are at stake.

Mr. Henderson was married December 22, 1881, at New Helena, Nebraska, by Justice C. R. Mathews, to Miss Emma G. Greenwood, a daughter of G. B. Greenwood, of Weissert, this county. Mrs. Henderson passed away May 3, 1912. They became the parents of three children: Walter L., who is a farmer on the homestead, married Myrtle Henderson; Elmer F., who was formerly a farmer, and who is now traveling representative of the Williams-Murphy Mercantile Company, of Omaha, married Katie Applegarth; and Ethel B. is the wife of G. H. Todd, who is a blacksmith and engaged in business at Westerville, Custer county.

ROLLAND T. BAKER. — Among the men whose long and industrious careers have been devoted to agricultural pursuits and whose labors have been so well directed and ably prosecuted that they are now able to pass their declining years in the peace and comfort of retirement, one who was for thirty-seven years a farmer of Custer county and who is now a highly respected citizen of Broken Bow is Rolland T. Baker. Mr. Baker was born February 15, 1849, in Jackson county, Indiana, a son of Martin and Margaret (Spall) Baker and a grandson of Samuel Baker.

The boyhood of Rolland T. Baker was one in which he acquired a thorough education in the school of hard work and experience, for his father died when he was but nine years of age and it was necessary that he contribute



MR. AND MRS. ROLLAND T. BAKER

to the family support. When he was twelve years of age he was earning his first money in the harvest fields of a neighboring farmer, and during such time as he could be spared from his duties he attended the district schools. He remained at home until he was twenty years of age and March 6, 1869, in Jennings county, Indiana, he married Margaret J. McClain, daughter of John and Elizabeth McClain. Mrs. Baker has two sisters living: Mary, the wife of George King, a Minnesota farmer, with a son and daughter; and Anna, the wife of John Irwin, a farmer of Iroquois county, Illinois.

For several years after his marriage, Mr. Baker continued to work on the farm during the summer months and in the winter seasons entered the timber and made staves for a barrel factory. Thus he acquired some small capital, and in 1877 he removed to Iroquois county, Illinois, where he engaged in farming. Not securing the measure of success that he felt should reward his efforts, he decided to try his fortunes still further west, and in 1888 he came to Nebraska, settled in Custer county, and acquired a farm about ten miles west of Anselmo, on which he resided about five years. Subsequently he removed to Clear creek, north of Broken Bow, and during a long period was engaged in successful operations there, being for nine years a resident of the Brenizer ranch. He retired from active labors in March, 1917, and came to Broken Bow, where he has since lived quietly, in the enjoyment of the comforts that have rewarded his long career of industrious labor. During his life, through his honorable conduct and integrity, Mr. Baker has established and retained an excellent reputation, and his good citizenship has been exemplified in many ways. He belongs to the Modern Brotherhood of America, a fraternal organization in which he has numerous friends. As a voter he staunchly supports the principles and candidates of the Democratic party, although he has not been an office-seeker. Mr. and Mrs. Baker are consistent members of the Broken Bow Baptist church. To them have been born seven children, as follows: William Albert, a carpenter in Broken Bow; Syrenus M., a farmer seven miles west of this city; Bessie, the wife of Dr. J. D. Wilson, who is, at the time of this writing, in the medical service of the national army; Ernest, a farmer in Custer county; Lillie, the wife of E. L. Tooley, a farmer of this county; Ruby, the wife of Floyd Holcomb, a farmer and garage man who is individually mentioned on another page of this work; and Edward, who is at Camp Funston, as a member of the

Two Hundred and Tenth Engineers, at the time of the preparation of this article.

VENCEL KRIKAC. — The beautiful land of Bohemia, famed for its picturesque valleys, silvery streams, romantic mountain scenes, and its handsome, gay and music-loving people, has sent to the United States, some of its most industrious, loyal and constructive citizens, among whom, in no small degree of prominence, stands Vencel Krikac, of Comstock. When he arrived in this country Mr. Krikac was a youth with an ordinary education, unlearned in our language or customs, in modest circumstances, and with only his own ambitions to aid him. It speaks much for his determination, ability and industry that today he is one of the leading citizens of his community, president of the Farmers and Merchants Bank, a prominent and successful operator in real estate, and the owner of much valuable Custer county land.

Mr. Krikac was born in Bohemia, December 29, 1865, a son of Bartholomew and Mary (Fiala) Krikac, natives of Bohemia. The family immigrated to the United States in 1883 and located in Valley county, Nebraska, on a homestead, where the father continued to be engaged in farming operations until his death, about the year 1896. He was a carpenter by trade, and in his native land had served two years in the army, during which service he had contracted an illness from which he never fully recovered. While carpentry was his trade, he became a skilled farmer and raiser of stock, and if his life had been spared he would no doubt have made a success of his career. In politics he was a Democrat, and his religious faith was that of the Catholic church, to which his widow, who resides on the homestead, also belongs. They were the parents of eight children, of whom five are living: Andrew, who is engaged in the confectionery business at Butte, Boyd county, Nebraska; Joseph T., who follows the real-estate business at Chico, California; Frank T., who is a farmer in Valley county, on the old family homestead; Vencel, whose name initiates this review; and Catherine, who is the wife of J. J. Waldmann, living in Valley county. Of the other children it may be recorded that Thomas died in Valley county, at the age of thirty years; Mary died in childhood; and one child died in infancy.

Vencel Krikac received his early education in the public schools of Bohemia, and was variously employed until accompanying his parents and the other children to the United States, in 1883. Here he was taught the rudi-

ments and principles of farming, which he adopted as a vocation, but the work was slow and hard, for he also had to learn a strange tongue and assimilate methods and customs entirely foreign to what he had known. However, he proved that he was possessed of the ability to overcome these obstacles, and he steadily rose in fortune until he became the owner of a large and valuable property of his own and had a comfortable income from his operations. In 1909 he was made president of the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Comstock, in recognition of the abilities he had shown as a financier and business man, and two years later he ceased active labor as a farmer and moved to Comstock, to engage in a general real-estate, loan and insurance business, with which he has since continued to be identified. In this direction he has been unusually successful in building up a large and important business in all departments, and his many connections with big deals have brought him to a position where he is justly accounted one of the leading men in his line in this part of the county. He has interested himself in matters of a civic character, and at all times has given his support to public-spirited measures, movements and enterprises.

In 1891 Mr. Krikac was united in marriage to Miss Josephine Klima, and they became the parents of five children, of whom one died in infancy: Vencel, Jr., is assistant cashier in the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Comstock; Miss Emma is bookkeeper in that institution; Miss Rosie is a teacher in the public schools; and Edward is attending school. The members of the family belong to the Catholic church.

DANIEL THOMAS. — Representing the younger element of Custer county farmers, Daniel Thomas has already demonstrated the possession of qualities which should gain him success, and is further adding to the reputation for solidity, worth and integrity established by his pioneer father. He was born October 13, 1893, three miles from Berwyn, Custer county, and is a son of Henry J. and Catherine (McMackin) Thomas.

Mr. Thomas is one of a family of eight children, the others being: Samuel A.; John I.; James P.; Mrs. Anna Scharnow; Mrs. Mary Brownell; Elizabeth, who is single and resides with her parents; and Ellen, who is single and taking a nurse's course at the General Hospital at North Platte, Nebraska.

Daniel Thomas, or "Dan" as he is familiarly known, was educated in the schools of Broken Bow, and was reared amid agricul-

tural surroundings. When still a lad he was given the opportunity of earning some extra money, driving a stacker team for Judge Sullivan. The Judge had promised him a wage of fifty cents a day, but was so pleased with the lad's work that he added twenty-five cents a day to the sum, and young Thomas thus earned eight dollars — sufficient to buy a new suit of clothes. Mr. Thomas has always followed farming, and there are few among the younger generation who have been more progressive and enterprising. At the present time he is not only the owner of 160 acres of his own but also has the management of the 160 acres owned by his father, and on both of these properties he is achieving splendid results.

CLAY D. READ. — For many years the late Clay D. Read was held in high esteem in Custer county. He came here when a youth of nineteen years and until his death, February 27, 1915, was identified with the agricultural development of this section, the while he was recognized as a man of sterling character and of useful and loyal citizenship. Mr. Read was born at Oxford, Johnson county, Iowa, and his parents were Charles J. and Charlotte Brown Read.

Charles J. Read, who was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, left home when he was fifteen years of age and entered the British army, in which he served as a soldier for three years, and subsequently he was in the Crimean war. After coming to the United States he served as a soldier in the Civil war, until it closed, and during three years of this time he was in the United States navy. For eleven years after the war he was a railroad man. He married Mrs. Charlotte Brown, who, by her first marriage had one son, Albert Brown, who is still living. Mr. and Mrs. Read had but one child, the late Clay D. Read, the subject of this memoir.

Clay D. Read remained with his parents in Oxford, Iowa, and attended the public schools. He was born August 3, 1874, and in 1893 he came to Custer county, Nebraska, where he made his home during the rest of his life. He followed farm pursuits and eventually acquired a large property, which he developed and improved. He was industrious and enterprising, and was very practical withal, so that in carrying on his agricultural industries he knew how to make them profitable.

Mr. Read was married December 25, 1902, at the home of the bride, situated four miles southwest of Oconto, Nebraska, to Miss Elva

O. Narragon. She is a daughter of Lyman J. and Mary E. (Willison) Narragon. Her father was born in the state of New York and his occupation was lumbering. Her mother was born in Ohio. They were early settlers in Custer county, where they became well known and were highly respected. Mrs. Read has four brothers and two sisters, namely: Austin A., William S., Elisha L., Charles C., Mrs. Rosa A. Miller, and Mrs. Eula F. Toby. Mr. and Mrs. Read became the parents of six children—Ralph V., Leota M. (deceased), Mary O., Charles L., Florence E., and Lawrence L. The Read homestead, consisting of 265 acres and situated two and one-half miles north of Oconto, is the family home, and its industrial activities are carried on under the supervision of Mrs. Read.

ARVID GUSTAFSON, who is one of the enterprising farmers and dependable citizens of Custer county, owns an extensive, well developed property in the vicinity of Broken Bow. He was born in Sweden, March 11, 1860. In Sweden his father's name was Gustaf Bearstrom and the maiden name of his mother was Eva Samuelson. On both sides, the family is notable for marked longevity, the father, born in 1809, living to the age of ninety-four years, and the mother, born in 1823, dying at the age of ninety-two years. The father had seven children by his first marriage and three by his second. Eight of his children came to America, but all do not live in the same section. Arvid Gustafson is the only one living in Custer county, Nebraska, but Charles and Andrew live in Lancaster county; Carolina Madsen lives in Kearney county and Clara Smith lives in Dawson county. Anna Johnson lives in Kansas, and Theda Jacobson lives in Illinois. The children were all reared in the Lutheran faith.

Arvid Gustafson was thirteen years old when he accompanied his half-brother to the United States. He had attended school in his native land and afterward had school opportunities in both Illinois and Nebraska. In 1877, when he came first to Nebraska, he found a home at Lincoln, and in that vicinity, he at first worked on farms, but eventually he bought land, on which he resided until 1884, when he decided he could better his prospects by moving to Custer county. He came into this county with a wagon load of household goods, a span of mules and \$200 in cash as the sum of his worldly wealth, and while that was a fortune when compared with the property of many other early settlers, it by no means satisfied Mr. Gustafson. He secured a homestead of 160 acres, and through hard work and

good judgment he has added to the original farm until he now has 320 acres of fine land, together with more than merely comfortable home surroundings.

At Lincoln, Nebraska, August 4, 1884, Mr. Gustafson married Miss Matilda Bowman, who was ten years old when she came with her parents from Sweden to the United States. Mr. and Mrs. Gustafson have one daughter, Minnie, who is the wife of Herbert Hall, of Broken Bow. Mr. and Mrs. Hall have two sons: Arvid Victor, and Vernon Richard. In politics Mr. Gustafson is a Democrat and fraternally he belongs to the Woodmen and the Odd Fellows. He is a member of the United Brethren church.

FRANCIS X. MOHATT. — As a follower of one of the oldest occupations known to the human race, Francis X. Mohatt has achieved that success which comes to a man who finds his work congenial and who invests it with determination, enthusiasm and natural ability. The agriculturist has ever before him the chance of making himself an enormously useful factor in a community, and a realization of this fact has come to Mr. Mohatt in Custer county, where he has maintained his home since his fourteenth year.

Mr. Mohatt was born on a farm in Douglas county, Nebraska, November 29, 1870, a son of Peter and Anna (Nason) Mohatt, natives of New York state. As young people, the parents of Mr. Mohatt went to Iowa, where their acquaintanceship was formed and they were married at Council Bluffs, that state, after which they located on land owned by the young husband. Peter Mohatt served for a short time as a soldier in the Civil war, in 1865, and at its close he returned to Iowa, but subsequently he came to Nebraska and located on a farm in Douglas county. In later years he made a short stay in Iowa, but in 1884 he came again to Nebraska — this time to make a permanent home. He homesteaded a tract in Custer county, in addition to which he purchased other land. He was successful in his operations and at the time of his death, in 1895, was the owner of an entire section, upon which had been made numerous improvements of a valuable character. He was a Democrat in politics, and he and his wife were earnest communicants of the Catholic church. Mrs. Mohatt was a woman of superior intellectual attainments, was widely read, had been a teacher prior to her marriage, and at her death, in 1912, she left many friends to mourn her loss. There were six children in the family, and of the number five are living: John B. and James P., of Council Bluffs, Iowa;

Francis X.; J. R., a Canadian farmer; and A. P., of Council Bluffs.

Francis X. Mohatt was educated in the public schools of Pottawattamie county, Iowa, and came to Custer county, Nebraska, when he was fourteen years of age. He was reared as a farmer, and when he reached man's estate he adopted as his vocation the basic industry in which he had been trained and in which he has since met with substantial success. He is now the owner of one-half section of land, of which he farms 200 acres, and he has also succeeded well with his cattle. His property is well improved with good buildings and reflects the progressive nature and good business ability of its owner.

Mr. Mohatt was married in February, 1899, to Miss Cecelia McLean, daughter of Hugh McLean, a pioneer of Custer county, an Irishman by birth and a former sailor. To this union there have been born four children: Ella, Esther J., Reta, and Francis. Mr. Mohatt is a Democrat but not a politician. He and Mrs. Mohatt are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church at Broken Bow, in the work which they have been very active.

FRED W. BECKLER.—The life record of Fred W. Beckler illustrates what can be accomplished by untiring industry when coupled with good judgment. Mr. Beckler was born in Germany, October 31, 1855. He was reared and educated in his native land and when a young man of twenty years he came to the United States. After living in New York for a time he made his way to Milwaukee, and he resided in Wisconsin until 1882, when he came to Custer county, Nebraska, and secured a homestead on section 32, township 18, range 23, becoming one of the first settlers on West Table. His first home was a sod house, and in this he lived until fifteen years ago, when the present house was erected, the same being a very comfortable building that is made of cement blocks. The place is equipped with good barns and outbuildings and for many years Mr. Beckler successfully carried on general farming. His holdings now embrace a half-section of valuable land, all in one body and in a high state of cultivation.

In Clay county, Nebraska, Mr. Beckler was united in marriage to Miss Mary Herzog, a native of the same province of Germany as her husband, and they have four children: Ella is the wife of G. L. Luce; Rosa is the wife of Frank Holuska; William married Emma Schmidt; and Benjamin B., a bachelor, is still at home. The father of this family is

now living retired, while the sons operate the land.

The family are members of the Christian church and in politics Mr. Beckler is a Republican. He has seen Custer county grow and develop from a wilderness to a country dotted with innumerable farms and thriving towns and villages, and to the work of progress such men as Mr. Beckler were the main contributors.

In recording the lives of the men and women who have made Custer county what it is to-day, the historian would be remiss in his duties if he failed to give a prominent place to Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Beckler.

ROY L. LONGMORE.—The subject of this narrative was born October 12, 1884, in Henry county, Iowa, and is the sixth son of a family of nine children. His father, William B. Longmore, is a native of the Buckeye state, and his mother, whose maiden name was Martha Runyan, was born in the state of Iowa. The children in this estimable family are: Mrs. Hallie Shaffer, Ray R., Alva J., Henry B. and Louis C. (twins), Roy L., Mrs. Grace Cudaback, William, and Mrs. Minnie M. Hanes. The father, who was a farmer, came to Custer county in 1884, and located on a claim six miles northwest of Mason City.

When Roy L. Longmore was a small boy he ran away from home and helped Ben Morris load hay, for which service he received eleven cents. This tangible recompense he carried proudly home, and asked his father's counsel as to what could be done with so much money. Mr. Longmore does not state what final disposition was made of the eleven cents, but it is safe to say that it was properly invested and, for all we know, may have become the cornerstone of Mr. Longmore's present-day possessions. He has always been a farmer and, it might be added, a very successful one.

On October 3, 1906, Mr. Longmore married Miss Jennie M. Miller, whose father, William L. Miller, is a resident of Brown valley, this county. In 1899 Mr. Longmore moved to Callaway, where for eight years he was a renter. He proved himself a hard worker and frugal manager, and by virtue of these characteristics he was enabled to buy the Thomas Goodyear farm, one mile west of Callaway.

In the community where Mr. Longmore resides he is regarded as a "live wire"—an active, progressive, enterprising citizen, as well as a successful farmer and stock-raiser. He is still young; the years of a successful career are still before him. The past makes

this statement more of a declaration than of a prophecy. The family is connected with the Evangelical church, to which they are liberal contributors. Politically, Mr. Longmore is affiliated with the Democratic party, but he is neither hide-bound nor partisan, as he carefully selects the man, and votes according to his convictions.

JAMES DAVIDSON.—Incomplete would be any list of the leading citizens and successful farmers of Custer county which did not contain the name of James Davidson, whose splendid farm and place of residence is located in the vicinity of Berwyn. A resident of this county since 1882, in which year he came here to take up a homestead and blaze the way for those who came after, his success has been marked, and his position as a prominent figure in the agricultural fraternity here is generally recognized and acknowledged.

Mr. Davidson was born in Waukesha county, Wisconsin, November 14, 1855, a son of Nathaniel and Margaret (Otto) Davidson, natives of Scotland, who emigrated to the United States separately when young people. Nathaniel Davidson was born in 1828 and in his youth learned the trade of stone-mason, which he followed in his native land. On locating in America he settled in Wisconsin, where, in Waukesha county, he met and, in 1854, married Margaret Otto, who was born in Scotland, December 7, 1831. Mr. Davidson continued to follow his trade at odd times in Wisconsin but engaged more and more in farming, and in 1882 he came to Custer county, Nebraska, where he secured a homestead. He thereafter resided on his farm until his death, in 1892. He possessed the sturdy and reliable traits of character peculiar to his race, and was a man of marked industry and thrift—one who worked hard for what he had and who at all times maintained an integrity and probity that gave him standing and reputation. He was a supporter of the candidates of the Republican party, was a member of the Masonic fraternity, and in his religious faith was affiliated with the Presbyterian church. Mrs. Davidson, who survives him, belongs to this church, and she now resides at the home of a daughter, at Anamosa, Iowa, being nearly eighty-seven years of age (1918). Mr. and Mrs. Davidson were the parents of ten children, of whom seven are living: James, of this review; Jennie, the wife of J. M. Elwood, of Custer county; Maggie, the wife of J. C. Hunnicutt, a stone-

mason of Anamosa, Iowa; Henry, engaged in farming at Conway, Missouri; Minnie, the wife of A. D. Johnson, a farmer of Merna, Nebraska; Aggie, the wife of J. D. Anderson, a farmer and banker of High River, Canada; and Charles, employed in a mercantile establishment at Broken Bow, Nebraska.

James Davidson received his education in the public schools of Iowa, where he was taken as a child, and there he began his career as an independent farmer. In 1879 he there married Miss Mary A. Wobeter, who was born in Bohemia and who was brought to the United States as a child. They became the parents of five children, of whom three are living: Nathan is residing at home and is his father's assistant in the operation of the broad acres; James, of Berwyn, is working on a farm; and Arthur lives at home and assists his father and brother. Mr. Davidson was gradually making a success of his efforts in Iowa, but in 1882 he decided to come to Nebraska and try his fortunes as an agriculturist of Custer county. He accordingly secured a homestead, not far from Berwyn, and from that time forward his progress was rapid and consistent and he began accumulating land in large tracts. At the present time he has 1,120 acres, the greater part under cultivation, upon which he has a fine home and many improvements. For the greater part he does mixed farming, but he has also met with success in his efforts as a stock-raiser and has a herd of full-blood Hereford cattle. Mr. Davidson is a Democrat in politics, but has not sought public office.

CHARLES E. BLAKEMAN.—The gentleman whose name introduces this paragraph is one of the well known farmers and stockmen of Custer county—one who from a humble beginning has become one of the large land-owners and successful men of this part of the state.

Charles E. Blakeman was born in Lake county, Indiana, November 28, 1856, and is a son of John and Lucinda (Williams) Blakeman, both of whom were natives of the Buckeye state. They were married in Ohio and became pioneer settlers of Lake county, Indiana, where they purchased land at seven dollars an acre. John Blakeman hauled freight to old Fort Dearborn and saw the city of Chicago grow from a small village. He was the owner of a farm in Lake county, Indiana, devoted his life to agricultural pursuits, and there passed away at the age of eighty-seven years. He served in the Civil

war, with an Indiana regiment. His wife also passed away on the old farm, more than thirty years ago, at the age of fifty years.

Charles E. Blakeman was one of a family of five children and has a sister living in Custer county, Mrs. Charles Hepsley, of Broken Bow. He was reared on a farm, attended the public schools in the acquirement of an education, and when a young man went to Chicago and found employment with a railroad company.

In 1884 he came to Nebraska and found employment in Saunders county. Early in 1885 he married and came to Custer county, where he secured as a homestead the north-west quarter of section 6, township 17, range 22. His first home was a sod house, and all the experiences of those early days are quite familiar to him. Water had to be hauled from a considerable distance, until a well could be provided. His second house was likewise built of sod, and was located on land he purchased in section 36, township 18, range 23. Here he later erected the present commodious frame dwelling, and the improvements to-day are among the best to be found in the county. Mr. Blakeman dealt extensively in cattle and has become one of the large land-owners of the county, where he has 2,700 acres at the present time.

February 3, 1885, Mr. Blakeman was united in marriage to Miss Josephine Teeple, a native of the same county in Indiana as her husband. Her parents, Philip and Margaret (Pringle) Teeple, were natives of Canada and both are now deceased.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Blakeman has been blessed with six children: John married Julia Smith and owns a ranch in Custer county; Howard is assisting in operating the home farm; Homer C. also is engaged in farming; Wallace is married and is operating one of his father's farms; Otto C. is in the national army at the time of this writing; and Bessie is still at home.

When working at railroad work in Chicago, an old foreman who did not own a home and was probably too old a man ever to expect to own one, advised young Blakeman to go west and get a home of his own. Mr. Blakeman often thinks that the words of the old foreman were not bad advice. While those early years meant hardships, yet by hard work and good management he is to-day one of the prominent men of the county, and his success is the due reward for patient industry and judicious investment. In politics he is independent and has never aspired to public office. He remembers the first election of his precinct, when there were but twenty-three

voters. He has taken commendable interest in those movements which promote progress and development and is a member of the board of directors of the Security State Bank of Broken Bow. He has contributed his full share to make his adopted county what it is to-day and he and his family are held in the highest of esteem wherever they are known.

LEVI W. HUFFMAN, a man who contributed the best years of his life to this county and who was an industrious, hard-working pioneer, departed this life on August 4, 1907, leaving behind a record of which anyone might well be proud, and a family that does honor to his name.

Mr. Huffman was born June 24, 1856, in Vermilion county, Illinois, and was a son of Jacob and Mary (Rudlidge) Huffman, a splendid couple of native-born Americans. They had six children, all of whom grew to maturity — John C., William, Levi W., Alice Neth, George W., and Charles W.

When Levi W. Huffman was but nine years of age his father died and left the mother with the care of the family. The mother still lives on the same farm in Vermilion county. It was here that she reared her six children, and it is recorded to the credit of Levi that he stayed at home and rendered his mother valuable assistance until he was twenty-one years of age. He did all kinds of work and earned his first money when a mere lad, by riding a horse on the threshing floor where they were tramping out wheat in the old-fashioned way.

Early in the spring of 1882 Mr. Huffman found his way into Custer county, where he located a claim in section 9, township 15, range 22. He worked on the Brighton ranch, breaking sod and building fences, at the time when Virgil Allen was the foreman. In this way he made the money which paid for the improvements on his place. He often walked to Broken Bow, a distance of twenty miles, for provisions, and when he was lucky enough to get them he sent them to his home with some ranchman. He helped to haul lumber for some of the buildings in the county seat and in so doing made the trips to Lexington, time and again. Gradually "bachelor's hall" began to lose its attractions. Six years was all that he could stand. When 1888 brought the June time, he claimed a June bride. Miss Emma Dixon became the partner of his life and fortune and during the remainder of his life was a faithful companion and helpmeet. Mrs. Huffman is a daughter of James and Catherine (Cook) Dixon, very excellent

people, from whom she inherited enviable characteristics.

The Huffmans made a pleasant home, and, with all the courage and heroism of young people, girded themselves for the enterprise of farm development. The years brought them four children: Jesse A., who married Miss Ollie Sipes, a daughter of Edward Sipes, farms a part of his mother's place, and he and his wife have three children. Leona is the wife of Joseph John, who also is farming part of the mother's farm, on the South Loup. They have two children. Hazel B. is a high school graduate of Callaway, and after teaching school three years she accepted a position as cashier in a bank at Tyron, Nebraska, where she now makes her home. Opal M. is at home with her mother and in the eleventh grade of her high-school course.

Levi W. Huffman departed this life August 4, 1907. During his life he had been a kind and loving husband and an affectionate father who counted nothing a sacrifice that was done for the family. After his death Mrs. Huffman resided on the farm for nine years, and by her native pluck and energy she added to the farm improvements until to-day they have a valuable, well improved ranch of 480 acres. This makes a beautiful home and as she looks back over the years of trials and hardships, endured for the sake of the family, the pioneer days seem like a dream and the experiences often come back in the reveries of the present day.

Mrs. Huffman remarried July 26, 1915, and is now the wife of Joseph Van Emans, a railroad man of good standing and excellent repute. In order to finish the education of her younger children, Mrs. Huffman-VanEmans makes her home in Callaway, where she runs an up-to-date millinery store, but she expects some day to move back on the farm.

NORMAN DWIGHT FORD has been a resident of Custer county since 1907 and has not only gained distinct prestige as one of the representative members of the bar of the county but has also given thorough proof of his professional ability and judicial acumen by his able and timely service as county judge. He was first elected to preside on the bench of the county court in the autumn of 1914, and re-elections to this office have since testified to the estimate placed upon him by the citizens of the county. He is retained on the bench of this tribunal at the present time, through re-election in November, 1918. It is needless to say that Judge Ford is a man of

prominence and wide influence in Custer county, and his unequivocal personal popularity is based on worthy characteristics and worthy achievement. It has consistently been said that "His list of personal acquaintances will equal that of any man who has resided in the county from the time of its organization, and that the number of his friends is limited only by that of his acquaintances."

Norman Dwight Ford was born at Oak Hill, Greene county, New York, on the 21st day of February, 1878, and is a son of Emerson and Addie L. (Carpenter) Ford, both likewise natives of the old Empire state, where the mother stood as a representative of a patrician family long established in that commonwealth. Emerson Ford was a prominent and successful merchant in New York, and was a sterling citizen who commanded unqualified popular confidence and esteem. Both he and his wife are now deceased. Judge Ford is the elder of the two children and the younger, Ernest Emerson Ford, is now a resident of New York.

After having duly availed himself of the advantages of the public schools of his native place, Judge Ford completed a course in the Albany Business College, in the capital city of New York. In this institution he was graduated in 1896, and thereafter he was graduated in Greenville Academy, at Greenville, New York. In the meanwhile he had formulated definite plans for his future career and in consonance with these plans he began the work of preparing himself for the legal profession. In 1904 he passed the technical examination of the regents of the state of New York, and was thus enabled to enter the celebrated Albany Law School, which is the law department of Union University. In this institution he was graduated in May, 1906, with the degree of Bachelor of Laws, his admission to the bar of his native state having been recorded in the following September. Thereafter he served his professional novitiate by opening an office in the city of Albany, where he continued in practice about one year. In February, 1907, Judge Ford came to Nebraska and established himself in practice at Ansley, Custer county, his admission to the Nebraska bar having occurred in March of the year just mentioned. His ambition and thorough technical preparation gave the future jurist excellent reinforcement for the successful work of his chosen profession, and within a short time he had gained a substantial and representative clientage. That he made a most favorable personal and professional impress needs no further voucher



NORMAN DWIGHT FORD

than the statement that in November, 1914, he was elected to the bench of the county court. In assuming his judicial functions Judge Ford, as a matter of course, removed to Broken Bow, the county seat, and his administration on the bench was such that he proved the logical candidate for re-election. He was thus re-elected for a second term, and that without opposition, and in November, 1918, he was again elected, this being an additional testimonial to his ability and personal popularity. On the bench his rulings have been marked by the true judicial attitude and by an accurate knowledge of the law, so that few of his decisions have been reversed by courts of higher jurisdiction. The Judge had no opposing candidate when he was re-elected for his third successive term.

Admirably fortified in his political convictions, Judge Ford is a strong and loyal advocate of the principles and policies for which the Republican party stands sponsor, but he has not consented to become a candidate for any office save in line with his profession. In the time-honored Masonic fraternity he has received the thirty-second degree of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, the while he is likewise active in the York Rite bodies and the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He is past master of his lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, is a valued member of the commandery of Knights Templars at Broken Bow, and is past grand patron of the Nebraska grand chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. In the Independent Order of Odd Fellows he is past noble grand; he is past grand chancellor of the Knights of Pythias, is past venerable consul of the Modern Woodmen of America, and past high priest of Horeb chapter, Royal Arch Masons, at Broken Bow. In patriotic service in connection with the great world war, Judge Ford has been specially earnest and zealous and has been in constant demand as a platform speaker and as committee adviser. Under his direction was organized the Custer county legal board to render service to men of the draft age, in connection with the filling out of their questionnaires, and this board gave most effective service until the signing of the historic armistice brought a close to the war.

In the suburbs of Broken Bow Judge and Mrs. Ford maintain a beautiful home, and the same is known for its gracious hospitality, with Mrs. Ford as its popular chatelaine. He and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church.

At Oak Hill, New York, on the 5th of

September, 1899, was solemnized the marriage of Judge Ford to Miss Millie B. Mackey, who was born and reared in that state and who is a daughter of Omar and Nora (Bear) Mackey, both likewise natives of the Empire state. Mrs. Ford is the elder of two children, and her brother, Perry Richard Mackey, is a resident of Albany, New York. Judge and Mrs. Ford have two children: Theodore Lionel, who was born on the 13th of May, 1902, is, in 1918, a student in the Broken Bow high school, and the younger child, Kathleen Elizabeth, was born on the 9th of February, 1918.

L. NOLAN STEEL.—One of the active citizens upon whom rests heavily the responsibility of food production in these days of wars and armies and who is responding to the demands made upon him in a very creditable way is L. Nolan Steel. Mr. Steel is essentially a Nebraska product. It was in this best state of the central west that he made his debut into life and present-day activity.

He was born at Western, Saline county, Nebraska, May 26, 1879. His father, Samuel Steel, was then a substantial farmer of that vicinity and is to-day a resident of the same place. Samuel Steel was born in Pilot Grove, Iowa, and in 1872 he came to Saline county, Nebraska, and took a homestead near Western. There he was united in marriage to Abbie Chamberlain, a native of Illinois. They became the parents of six children. L. Nolan was the firstborn. His brothers and sisters are Edward O., Blanche H. Akins, Zola (a teacher, who makes her home with her parents), Fred, and Everett.

Young Nolan Steel grew up under the family roof and had the advantages of the common schools and the Western high school. It was on his father's farm that he learned the first principles of agriculture by practical application. In February, 1902, at Daykin, Jefferson county, he was united in marriage to Miss Ellen Marsh, an attractive young lady, who was born in Nebraska and who is a daughter of Henry and Catherine (Myers) Marsh. The story now turns to Mrs. Steel's family. Two children were born into the Marsh home. Mrs. Ellen Steel and Mrs. Jennie Backes. September 1, 1885, Mrs. Marsh died, and a few years later the father was again married, this time to Caroline Carl. Of this second marriage three children were born—Frank, George H., and Leola M. The last mentioned is living at home with her parents, at Callaway.

Mr. and Mrs. Steel were no sooner married than they began preparations to establish their

home in Custer county, and in the fall of the same year they landed in Merna and moved on to land that Mr. Steel's father had bought the year before, and here they have resided continuously until the present time. As an indication of the thrift and prosperity that have attended their labors in Custer county, it might be stated that they own a half interest in 480 acres of land, which brings in a fine income, as it rarely fails to produce good crops. They have seventy-five head of cattle, forty head of horses, and a splendid complement of the high-prized porkers which in these days contribute so materially to profitable farming.

Nolan Steel tells us that when a boy he used to feed stock and grease a windmill once a week for an old gentleman and that for this service he received twenty-five cents a week. This was the initial money earned by Mr. Steel and was, perhaps, the foundation of his present accumulation.

Mr. and Mrs. Steel have but one child, Cecil F., a son, who is fifteen years of age, in 1918, and who is in his first year of the high-school course, while he is ambitiously looking forward to an agricultural course at Lincoln and also a business-college course.

Mr. and Mrs. Steel are fine people, highly respected in the community, and members of the Methodist church. Mr. Steel is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America, and in connection with political affairs he generally votes the Democratic ticket.

CHARLES H. SANDERSON.—In the famous Powell canyon of Custer county there resides, near Arnold, a sterling and popular citizen who has the distinction of having been born in Sweden but who is not of Scandinavian lineage, as a glance at the family record clearly indicates. On the contrary Mr. Sanderson is a scion of a fine line of staunch New England ancestry. It may thus be conjectured that the shrewdness and thrift of the subject of this review come to him as a heritage from this worthy New England stock. When it is stated that Mr. Sanderson was born in Sweden, the significance of the notation, from a pure American standpoint, is enforced by the fact that the Sweden which he thus claims as the place of his nativity is a thriving town of that name in the county of Oxford, Maine. At that place in the old Pine Tree state he was born on the 10th of May, 1857, and he is a son of Edwin and Betsey (Warren) Sanderson, both of whom were likewise born in Maine. The respective families were early founded in New England, that gracious cradle of much of our national history, and the pa-

ternal grandfather of Charles H. Sanderson was Stephen Sanderson, his maternal grandfather having been Daniel Warren. Edwin and Betsey (Warren) Sanderson became the parents of six children—Marion (deceased), Mrs. Marilla Kneeland, Eugene E., Stephen F., Charles H., and John B. Edwin Sanderson was a sturdy New England farmer and was true and loyal in all of the relations of life. His political support was given to the Republican party, he was affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, and he and his wife were earnest members of the Congregational church.

Charles H. Sanderson was but four years old at the time of his mother's death, and as a boy he began to learn the dignity and value of honest toil and endeavor. He duly availed himself of the advantages of the common schools and supplemented this discipline by attending Bridgeton Academy, at Bridgeton, Maine, and later Dover Academy, in the state of New Hampshire. In pursuing his studies in Dover Academy Mr. Sanderson defrayed his expenses through funds which he earned by working Saturdays and during vacation periods. In this connection it may be noted that he earned three dollars a week by caring for the horses of a local jeweler in the town where he was attending school.

After leaving school Mr. Sanderson was for several years in the employ of the Berlin Lumber Company, of Berlin, New Hampshire, and at intervals his services for this company were required in the Dominion of Canada. The major part of the money which he earned while he was thus engaged, was sent home to his father, to aid in the support of the family. Later Mr. Sanderson was employed three years in the drug store of his brother Stephen, at Rochester, New Hampshire, and finally he made his way to Chicago, Illinois, where he was for three years in the employ of the Deering Harvester Company. At that time the late L. H. Jewett, who later became well known in Custer county, Nebraska, was cashier for the Deering Company, and a close friendship was formed by Mr. Jewett and Mr. Sanderson—a friendship severed only by the death of Mr. Jewett. In 1884 the two friends came to Nebraska and numbered themselves among the pioneer settlers of Custer county. Mr. Sanderson succeeded in acquiring a homestead claim, a timber claim and a pre-emption claim in the Powell canyon, these claims being adjacent and being situated six miles northeast of the present village of Arnold. Mr. Sanderson vigorously set himself to the task of reclaiming and improving his land, and he continued to reside on the pre-emption claim for thirty years, the while success attended his

earnest and well directed efforts. At the present time he is giving special attention to the improving of his original timber claim, with the intention of developing the same as his model farm home. The Sanderson ranch comprises 560 acres, and Mr. Sanderson owns also a valuable tract, of forty acres, adjoining the town of Arnold. His accumulations and substantial prosperity represent the direct results of his successful enterprise along the lines of farming and stock-raising, and while he has made a success of raising both cattle and hogs, he has given a greater preference to the latter branch of animal industry. He has contributed his quota to the civic and industrial development of Custer county and is one of the well known and highly esteemed pioneer citizens of this favored section of the state. He has been definitely progressive and public-spirited and has been influential in community affairs, as shown by the fact that he has been a member of the school board of his district for nearly thirty years. He gives his allegiance to the Republican party and he and his family are affiliated with the Christian church.

At Morganville, Clay county, Kansas, on the 5th day of April, 1889, was recorded the marriage of Mr. Sanderson and Miss Mary C. Conkright, of Jacksonville, Illinois. Her father, James C. Conkright, was a native of Kentucky, and was two years of age at the time of his parents' removal to New Salem, Illinois, where he remained until his early manhood. He married Miss Clarinda Mace, who was born at Bowdoinham, Maine, and their two children were Hannah and Mary C. For several years Mr. Conkright operated an iron foundry in Illinois, and thereafter he became one of the early pioneer settlers of Wilson county, Kansas. In the Sunflower state he had his full share of the hardships entailed by the scourge of grasshoppers, for during those memorable years he was there engaged in farm enterprise. Finally he established his residence at Morganville, Kansas, where for many years he was a prominent figure in both private and public life. He served many years in offices of public trust, including those of judge, and assessor, and he was one of the honored and influential men of his community.

The genealogy of Mrs. Sanderson, on both the paternal and maternal sides, traces back to sturdy New England origin. Edwin, the only child born to Mr. and Mrs. Sanderson, died at the age of fifteen months, but in their home they have reared an adopted son, Valentine P. Sanderson, who remains with them and accords to them true filial solicitude.

J. M. BATES.—Few families of Custer county are better or more favorably known than that which bears the name of Bates. Its members have been prominently identified with the various interests of central Nebraska ever since the general early settlement of this locality—as farmers, stock-raisers, large landholders, merchants, and public officials—and men bearing the name are listed among some of the wealthiest in the state. A worthy representative of the family is J. M. Bates, of Berwyn, for a long period identified with large affairs, particularly in the line of agriculture, but now living in retirement.

Mr. Bates was born in Windsor county, Vermont, August 19, 1850, and he is a son of James O. and Louisa Amanda (Martin) Bates, natives of the same county, where the former was born September 4, 1825, and the latter August 24, 1831. The parents were married in Vermont, in 1849. James O. Bates in early life was a school-teacher, but he subsequently turned his attention to merchandising, and finally became a farmer and stock-raiser. In 1866 he removed to New Hampshire, where he made his home until 1879, in which year he turned his face toward the west, with Omaha, Nebraska, as his destination. In the vicinity of that city he farmed for four years, but in 1883 he disposed of his interests there and came to Custer county, where his death occurred in 1895, his widow surviving until 1904. Three daughters also died on the homestead, and only the two sons now remain: J. M., of this review, and Claude E., of Lillian, Nebraska, a bachelor, who is reputed to be the third wealthiest man in Custer county. The parents were originally members of the Baptist church, but in later years joined the Congregational church. A Republican in his political views, James O. Bates was postmaster at Lillian for a number of years, and at his death he was succeeded by his widow, who served as postmistress until her death. The office was later held by a daughter of J. M. Bates, and when she died it was taken over by her brother, who now acts in that official capacity.

J. M. Bates attended the public schools of Vermont and New Hampshire and went to college for two or three terms, graduating in bookkeeping and also studying commercial law. As a youth he was variously employed, principally on his father's farms, but after coming to Nebraska he became a collector for a wholesale house of Omaha, a position which he held for several years. Later he entered mercantile pursuits at Clarks, in Merrick county, where he was thus engaged for eight years, and he was engaged also in the grain-

buying business for four years. As his interests grew and succeeded, he began investing his capital in land and gradually accumulated a good farm property in Custer county, on which he carried on operations both as farmer and breeder of stock for a number of years. This land, consisting of 800 acres, he now rents, his home being located at Berwyn, where he also has large, important and valuable interests, including real estate to the value of \$40,000. All that he owns to-day he has accumulated through the medium of his own efforts. He has been the pioneer in a number of movements that have demonstrated his progressive spirit, and has ever been one to foster and promote beneficial enterprises. When he rode a mule into the newly formed town of Broken Bow, this animal was the first that was ever "put up" as a transient in that community, where it was housed in an old sod blacksmith shop. Mr. Bates it was who hauled the first lumber to erect a house at Sargent. As a citizen he has been public-spirited and as a business man his reputation is of the best. He is a Republican in politics and he and his family belong to the Christian church.

In 1875 Mr. Bates married Miss Elizabeth Page, who was born at Orford, New Hampshire. She is a daughter of Albert Page, who was a resident of Nebraska for five years, but later went to New Jersey, where he died. Mrs. Bates died in 1884, having been the mother of two children: Fred, postmaster at Lillian, and a prominent business man, whose interests approximate \$100,000; and Helen, former postmistress at that place, now deceased. Mr. Bates was married again in 1884, to Miss Frances Simpson, who was born in Pennsylvania, a daughter of Jotham Simpson, whose death occurred in the state of California. Six children were born to this union: Clyde, who is engaged in farming on his father's property nine miles north of Broken Bow; Clemens, who is engaged in farming and raising stock in the vicinity of Lillian; Amy, who is the wife of George Howell, who carries on agricultural operations on one of her father's farms in Custer county; Zelma, who is the wife of George Raymond, farming on a property six miles southwest of Broken Bow; Jessie, who is unmarried and resides with her parents at Berwyn; and Verne, who is farming five miles southwest of Broken Bow.

ELMER V. WILKERSON.—One of the substantial men who are conducting successful operations in the Callaway vicinity is Elmer V. Wilkerson, who was born March 31, 1878, in Lynn county, Missouri. He is a

son of Aaron J. and Mary (Gooch) Wilkerson, the former a native of Missouri and the latter a native of the Blue Grass state, famous for good horses and beautiful women. In the family of Aaron J. Wilkerson were five children, all of whom grew to maturity, namely: John F., Florence Fore, Katherine Salee, Harvey (deceased), and the subject of this sketch. The parents by religious faith were Presbyterians and were counted as substantial people in the community of their residence.

Young Elmer V. Wilkerson worked at home, attended school, improved his opportunities and by being unusually studious, became so far advanced in his studies that he was able to teach school during the winter time from the time he was sixteen years old. Farming became the order of the day, work during the summer, teaching school during the winter. He recalls that one summer he pitched hay for fifty cents a day, but he has always believed that the work was worth more money. By this means he secured enough money to attend the Missouri Normal School at Chillicothe, for a year and one-half. He continued to reside at home, working and teaching, until he reached his majority.

October 22, 1899, at Meadville, Missouri, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Wilkerson to Miss Esther W. Sidebottom, who was born and reared in that town and who is a daughter of William W. and Mary (Ogan) Sidebottom. Mr. and Mrs. Wilkerson then established a home of their own, and they have maintained it in comfort and plenty during the years that have followed. They have three sons: Lawrence Wayne is a graduate of the high school at Wheeling, Missouri; Dayton W., eleven years of age; and Raymond Earl, six years of age, are both in school and are candidates for higher education.

During the first part of his independent career, Mr. Wilkerson made his home on a farm. He farmed during the summer, handled some stock and taught school in the winter time. This was the program until the winter of 1917, when he gave up the last part of an unexpired term of school and came to Custer county and purchased part of the old Penn ranch, on Spring creek. This he has recently sold, making a splendid profit on his investment. He is well pleased with the county and expects to reinvest his money in other land in this county. Mr. and Mrs. Wilkerson are fine people, and the citizens of Custer county will be glad to have them remain and here make their future home. They are members of the Methodist church and Mr. Wilkerson is affiliated with the Knights of the Maccabees.

His political allegiance is given to the Republican party.

WESLEY MILLER, who is numbered among the prominent representatives of the farming and stock-raising interests of Custer county, and who is now the owner of the homestead secured by his father in 1885, has made his entire career within the borders of the county. He is a native of Linn county, Iowa, and was born August 10, 1869, being a son of William and Loretta (Hagey) Miller, both natives of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania. His paternal grandfather was Michael Miller, a blacksmith by trade, who died in Linn county, Iowa, while his maternal grandfather was Adam Hagey, who was born in Pennsylvania and who moved to Iowa and spent his last years in farming.

William Miller was born in 1830 and was educated in the public schools of the Keystone state, where, in Westmoreland county, he learned the trade of blacksmith. About the year 1861 he moved to Iowa, where he followed his trade, as he did also after coming to Nebraska, in connection with carrying on farming on his homestead, in Custer county, on which he settled in 1885. Later he turned his entire attention to farming and the raising of live stock, and he was so engaged at the time of his death, in 1902, although at that time he was a resident of Oklahoma. Originally a Republican, in his later years he transferred his allegiance to the Populist party, and he held several local public offices. Mrs. Miller, who was born in 1833, died in Greene county, Iowa, September 10, 1887. They were members of the old line Presbyterian church, and had eight children, of whom seven are now living, Wesley having been the seventh in order of birth. Only one other child lives in Nebraska: John C., who is engaged in farming in the vicinity of Ansley.

Wesley Miller was educated in the public schools of Greene county, Iowa, and Custer county, Nebraska, and from his youth has been engaged in farming. He remained on the homestead, which he secured by purchase from the heirs of the estate after his father's death, in 1902, and at the present time he is the owner of 440 acres of good land, all accumulated through his own efforts. From time to time he has made modern improvements on his property, which now has a set of good buildings, including his pleasant home, erected by him in 1909, and a large barn, built in 1911, as well as substantial outbuildings. In addition to general farming, he has always carried on stock-raising, and in each direction

he has met with well deserved success. Fraternally Mr. Miller is well known, being a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America, and he is now serving his third term as master of the local Grange. He is an independent Democrat in politics. As a citizen he has been a staunch and generous supporter of public-spirited movements, and has fulfilled his responsibilities in an efficient manner in the offices of constable for several years and justice of the peace one term.

In September, 1892, Mr. Miller was united in marriage to Miss Anna L. Littler, who was born at Lincoln, Nebraska, a daughter of Oliver Littler, who conducted a transfer business in Lincoln for a number of years and who died in that city. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Miller—Myron W., who is, at the time of this writing, with the American Expeditionary Forces in France; and Elnora, who is residing with her parents and is one of Custer county's successful school-teachers.

CHRIST HELMUTH, who is a prosperous and well contented farmer living in Custer county, Nebraska, where he owns several valuable properties and has a fine home, has lived here for thirty-four years and is highly respected in his neighborhood. Mr. Helmuth was born in Germany, February 10, 1860, a son of John and Mary Helmuth, whose children were: William, John, Christ, and Carrie.

Christ Helmuth was fourteen years old when he accompanied his mother, his sister Carrie, and August Wirshing, who was a half-brother, to the United States. His people belonged to the working class and, as the law provided, he was given three hours of schooling in the forenoon of each day. Thus, although not acquainted with any language except that of his native land, he was a well informed youth when he came to America. Agricultural conditions, however, were not encouraging at that time in Germany, and thus the family sought a new home in a land where their industry would be certain to be rewarded by a chance to secure farm land. When Mr. Helmuth and his mother, sister and half-brother reached Illinois, they stopped in Jo Daviess county, and all went to work on farms. In February, 1884, the Helmuths came to Lexington, Dawson county, Nebraska, and immediately afterward located claims on the Buffalo Table, eight miles west of Oconto, Custer county. At that time it was a somewhat arid region and there was considerable hardship endured for a period, because of

lack of water. John Helmuth secured the first well on the Buffalo Table, in 1890, and in the same year Ernest Snyder also found water. Other settlers also sunk wells, and the critical situation of those early years passed away. Mr. Helmuth remembers hauling water for drinking purposes a distance of about five miles during a period of six years, securing water for other purposes from Buffalo wallows and lagoons. This lack of water interfered with farming and stock-raising industries for a time, but the Helmuths were not discouraged. They held on to their land and the old homestead now belongs to Christ Helmuth, who still lives on the place, and is prosperous and satisfied. He has always been a hard and steady worker, and through his industry has secured a second farm, of 160 acres, besides which he has everything comfortable around him. He earned his first money when he was ten years old, by working on a farm in Germany, his wages being five cents for a half-day.

Mr. Helmuth was married May 4, 1889, to Miss Barbara Snyder, a daughter of Ernest and Johanna (Kape) Snyder, natives of Germany, who had the following children: Ernest, Mrs. Lillie Helmuth, Mrs. Barbara Helmuth, George, John, Lawrence, Mrs. Maggie German, Mrs. Susie Helmuth, Mrs. Anna Helsel, and Mrs. Louisa Lewis. Mr. and Mrs. Helmuth have five children, as follows: Mary L. is the wife of Robert Robison, of Mathersville, Illinois, and they have one daughter; George C., who has been his father's helper, was looking forward to service in the national army, in the world war at the time when the great conflict came to a close; Matilda D. is the wife of Raymond Badgley, a farmer living three miles west of Oconto, and they have one son; and Carrie G. and Daisy R. are attending school. Mr. Helmuth and his family belong to the Lutheran church. He is an independent voter and is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America.

CHARLES L. MOUGEY, a retired farmer of Custer county, now residing at Kearney, is a well known and much esteemed citizen and is a worthy representative of that sturdy band of settlers and homeseekers that came into the county in 1883. He was born in Scioto county, Ohio, August 30, 1855. His parents were Charles C. and Eugenia (Magnet) Mougey, the father a native of France and the mother of Ohio, born of French parents. Charles C. Mougey and wife had the following children: John, Peter, Mary, Joseph W., Mrs. Catherine Powell, Charles L., Mrs. Ma-

tilda Deaver, Edward J., Eli, Mrs. Josephine Baker, George, Mrs. Bertha Schlistamier, Mrs. Ellen Mougey, and Lewis and Ezra, both of whom died in infancy.

Charles L. Mougey came to Custer county thirty-five years ago and located one mile south of Lodi. He developed a fine farm there and lived on the place until within recent years, when he moved to Kearney. He has since lived retired from business activity but still owns the homestead. He was married, at Mount Pleasant, Nebraska, December 24, 1884, to Miss Flora Bird, on her twenty-first birthday. Her parents were Lewis and Emeline (Currant) Bird, and she has five sisters, namely: Rachel J. and Rebecca A., twins, their wedded names being Webster and Moffit, respectively; Mrs. Olive M. Searles, Mrs. S. Margaret Mougey, and Mrs. Osta E. Eddy.

Mr. and Mrs. Mougey have had four children: Raymond, Bird, Orpha, and Florence. Raymond, who now operates the old homestead farm, married Margaret E. Nichols, and they have four children, Margaret, Maurice, Arthur, and Eleanor Jean. Raymond Mougey and his family belong to the Evangelical church. In politics he is a Democrat, like his father. The second son, Bird, is a cement contractor, engaged in business at Manhattan, Montana. He married Eloise Whitaker and they have two children, Lloyd E. and Florabird. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Orpha died at the age of three years. Florence, the youngest of the family, is a highly educated young lady, she being a graduate of the Kearney high school and the Kearney State Normal, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Mr. and Mrs. Mougey are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Wherever known, the family has high social standing.

AUSTIN A. NARRAGON, who is a well known citizen and successful farmer, has been a resident of Custer county for thirty years, and during this time has witnessed wonderful progress along every line. He was born near Anamosa, Jones county, Iowa, October 5, 1866, and is a son of Lyman J. and Mary E. (Willison) Narragon, the former of whom was born near Oswego, New York, and died in Nebraska, in August, 1913, and the latter of whom was born in Ohio, seventy-six years ago: since the death of her husband she resides with her son, William Narragon, in Custer county. Of the ten children the following survive: Austin A., William S., Elisha L., Charles C., Mrs. Rosa Miller, Mrs. Elva E.

Read, and Mrs. Ula Toby. By trade the father was a millwright, and the building of mills called him to different sections.

In his early boyhood Austin A. Narragon went to school in his native county. In 1874, when he was eight years old, his parents moved to western Iowa and two years later they went to Crystal Lake, Michigan. It was while living there that young Austin consummated what was probably his first business transaction, which consisted of picking blackberries, carrying them four miles and receiving three cents a quart for them thus delivered. It was over ten years later that the family came to Custer county, in 1888, and located on Elk creek, ten miles south of Mason City, where the father rented and operated land for one year. In 1890 Lyman J. Narragon and his sons Austin A. and William S. came to the neighborhood of Oconto and located three claims, five miles southwest of the village, all this land being valuable at the present time. Austin A. Narragon remained at home with his parents, looked after them in their declining years and has never married. He is a Republican in his political principles, as was his father, and he was reared in the faith of the Evangelical church.

Nc GEORGE, who is one of the substantial and representative farmers of the South Loup country, is numbered among the well known and influential pioneer citizens of Custer county, within whose borders he has maintained his residence for more than forty years, so that his personal experience covered virtually the entire period marking the development and progress of this now favored section of Nebraska.

Mr. George claims the historic old Bay state as the place of his nativity. He was born in Danvers, Essex county, Massachusetts, on the 31st of May, 1852, and is a son of Lorenzo D. and Harriet (Gilford) George, the former of whom was born in Carroll county, New Hampshire, and the latter of whom was born and reared in Massachusetts. Mr. George is a scion of staunch Welsh ancestry, and it may consistently be said that he has inherited many of the predominating characteristics that have always made the representatives of the Welsh stock leal and loyal, sturdy and upright, in all of the relations of life. Mr. George is the eldest in a family of five children, and concerning the others the following brief record may consistently be entered: Mrs. Ella Trew was the second in order of birth and she and her husband are residents of Custer county;

Mrs. Ida Sleeth, the third child, is a resident of the state of Washington; Cora Jane, recently deceased, was the wife of Allie L. Morgan, who resides not far distant from the George homestead in Custer county; and Mrs. Flora Silvernail, who resides in Milltown, Washington, is the widow of Frederick Silvernail, who was engaged in lumbering operations in that state.

Nc George is indebted to the common schools of Massachusetts for his early educational discipline, which included that of the high school, and as a youth he gained a due quota of experience in connection with farm enterprise in his native state. The year 1871 recorded the arrival of Mr. George in Nebraska, and he passed the first two years in the vicinity of Gibbon, Buffalo county. In 1873 he married, and about two years later, in 1875, he and his wife numbered themselves among the pioneer settlers of Custer county. Here Mr. George filed entry on a homestead and forthwith began the development and improvement of the pioneer farm, his operations being along both agricultural and live-stock lines. As the years passed, his well directed industrial activities, in which he received the assistance of his wife and his sons, were marked by cumulative success, and thus was laid the foundation for the substantial material prosperity which is his at the present time. He and his wife endured their full share of of the discouragements and trials that marked the pioneer era in Custer county history, but the gracious rewards of later years have made these hardships and frontier experiences but matters of pleasing reminiscence. In the historical department of this publication mention is made of an interesting incident in the career of Mr. George, and the same may well be repeated in this immediate connection. In the pioneer days he applied for appointment to the position of postmaster of a newly established postoffice in the vicinity of Georgetown. In his petition he signed his name Nc George. The postoffice authorities in Washington mistook his first name for initials and wrote that he must supply his full name. He found it impossible to convince the postoffice department that he had no other personal or Christian name save that indicated by the two consonant letters, and thus the appointment was denied him. It may further be stated that the town of Georgetown was named in honor of the subject of this review.

Mr. George has long been a progressive and successful exponent of agricultural and live-stock enterprise in Custer county and has been one of the influential and valued citizens of the



NC GEORGE AND FAMILY

community in which he has maintained his home for more than two score years. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party and he is well fortified in his opinions concerning public policies. He has been called upon to serve as precinct assessor and for a number of years he held the office of township clerk, though he has never been imbued with any ambition for political preferment and in his service has been animated only by civic loyalty. He is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America and he and his wife are zealous members of and liberal contributors to the First Eudell Baptist church, at Cumro. They were instrumental in effecting the organization of the Old Settlers' Association of the South Loup country and have been prominent and influential in its subsequent maintenance and social activities. It is interesting to record that this association holds its annual picnics on the George homestead. Mrs. George is a woman of distinctive literary ability and some of her papers, read at the old settlers' picnics and at church meetings, have attracted much attention and favorable comment, the while they constitute a valuable contribution to the historic and general literature of the county. It may well be said that Mr. George and his wife are known to virtually all of the pioneer citizens of Custer county and that the circle of their friends is limited only by that of their acquaintances. They have been prominent in public and social affairs and have done well their part in furthering the civic and material prosperity of their home county and state.

In 1873 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. George to Miss Ruth Emogene Allen, a daughter of Josiah N. and Mary Allen, who were at that time residents of Gibbon, Nebraska. In conclusion is entered brief record concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. George: Llewellyn D. is a prominent and highly esteemed citizen of Broken Bow; Ethel is the wife of Walter B. Curtis, and they reside in the vicinity of Anselmo, this county; Ralph, who is conducting successful operations on a Custer county farm, married Mrs. Viola (Barr) Lesh, and their pleasant home is a center of generous hospitality; Eunice is the wife of Rev. W. F. McNiell, a clergyman of the Baptist church, and they reside in the city of Chicago; Clarence remains at the parental home and is his father's coadjutor in the work and management of the farm; Arthur, who married Miss Ruby Nichols, at Grand Junction, Colorado, their home being now in the city of Lincoln, Nebraska, became associate editor of the *Nebraska Ruralist* and

field man, but he entered the nation's military service in connection with the world war and at the time of the close of the great conflict he was stationed at Camp Pike, Arkansas, and is now commissioned second lieutenant of reserves, and honorably discharged; he has resumed his duties with the *Nebraska Ruralist*; Bertha is the wife of Hervy Hinote, who is a carpenter by trade, and they reside on the George homestead; Vincent, who married Miss Marian Gillespie, of Polk county, is a teacher of mechanical engineering in the University of Wisconsin at the time of this writing, in the winter of 1918-19; and Marguerite, the youngest of the children, is attending school in the city of Chicago, she being a young woman of talent and engaging personality.

FELIX BERNERT, who is one of the most extensive and prosperous farmers in his part of Custer county, is not one who has had fortune and property thrust upon him by inheritance and, perhaps, increased it by careful management. On the contrary, his large competency, his valuable properties and his high and substantial standing as a citizen, have been acquired by individual force of character, by industry, perseverance, and intelligent effort, founded upon the strictest honor. Starting as a simple homesteader, about thirty-three years ago, he is now the owner and active operator of 1,120 acres of as fine land, on the whole, as can be found in Custer county.

Mr. Bernert was born in Moravia, Austria, March 19, 1857, a son of Joseph and Josepha (Witche) Bernert. His father was a brickburner in Austria, which country he never left, nor did his wife or the other ten children of the family. Felix Bernert, the youngest of his parents' children, was educated in the public schools of his native land, and was variously employed there until he reached his twenty-fifth year. At that time he immigrated to the United States, and February 26, 1882, he settled in Cook county, Illinois, where for two years he was employed by the day as a farm laborer. Thus he was able to secure a start and to save a small amount of capital, with which he came to Nebraska in 1884, locating in Thayer county, where he worked on a farm for another year. In 1885 he came to Custer county and filed on a homestead, which proved the nucleus for his present large property, and which he still owns and holds for his home property. At the time of his arrival he erected a sod house of the same type as those used by other early settlers, but, along with other

misfortunes, he lost this place of habitation, in a cyclone. He built a more pretentious abode to replace the one destroyed in 1890, and this was his residence until 1909, when he erected the modern house in which he now has all the comforts and conveniences of civilization. Mr. Bernert has added to his improvements, his buildings and his general equipment as the years have passed, and the prosperity of the present day compensates him for all the hardships that he passed through before he was able to get his start. He follows general farming, in which he has met with remarkable success, probably because of his skilled management and his knowledge of his vocation, together with his unceasing industry and an intelligent use of modern methods and appliances. He has been successful also in raising live stock, and at this time he has ninety-nine head of cattle, at the head of his herd being a thoroughbred Hereford individual. He also has 119 head of hogs of a good grade, and is accounted a good judge of live stock.

Mr. Bernert is a Democrat in politics, but while he is a loyal and progressive citizen he has never sought public office. He is a friend of education and constructive civic movements, and has given his support to worthy enterprises tending to advance the general welfare. Reared in the faith of the Catholic church, he has remained true to its teachings, and his wife and their children likewise adhere to the faith of this great mother church of Christendom.

In 1887 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Bernert to Miss Clara Drechsler, who was born in Moravia, Austria. She is a daughter of Edward Drechsler, who came to Custer county, Nebraska, July 20, 1890, and who here passed the rest of his life in farming. To Mr. and Mrs. Bernert there have been born nine children, of whom six are living: Frank resides at home and assists his father in the work and management of the farm operations; Mary is the wife of H. Langer, of Custer county; Joseph, who was twenty-six years of age, enlisted October 5, 1917, in the United States service, and was killed on the 6th of October, 1918, while a member of a regiment with the American Expeditionary Forces in France; Felix, Jr., is the owner of a farm near that of his father; and Carl and John reside with their parents.

EUGENE M. WEBB was born in Buffalo county, Wisconsin, on the 18th of December, 1859, and is a son of Alfred P. and Ellen J. (Olds) Webb, the former a native of the state

of New York and and the latter of Connecticut. The two children born to the parents are Eugene M. and Bertina M. Pardoe. Alfred P. Webb was a gallant defender of the Union in the Civil war, in which he served on the flag ship of Admiral Farragut.

In 1870 Eugene M. Webb came to Nebraska in company with his widowed mother, and here he attended school for a year, after which his mother located on a homestead in Butler county. There she taught school for several years—until her son had completed his education and attained to his legal majority. Mr. Webb earned his first money by dropping corn by hand for a German farmer, but he did not manifest much predilection for farm life in those days. Being of studious disposition, he became imbued with a desire to enter the field of journalism, and at the age of twenty-one years he became an apprentice in the office of the *Butler County Press*, where he learned the printer's trade under the instruction of Hon. C. D. Casper, one of the oldest and best known newspaper writers in Nebraska.

After being graduated from Mr. Casper's office, Mr. Webb became editor of the *Brainard Enterprise*, and in 1886 he established the *Ulysses Herald*, which he conducted until the fall of 1888. He then located in Broken Bow and launched the *Nebraska Citizen*, a pioneer reform sheet which preached the old Greenback gospel and was a potent factor in blazing the way for the Farmers Alliance and the first Populist victory in Custer county. Mr. Webb claims the distinction of having written the first editorial ever written by a Nebraska editor in favor of independent political action. He attended the first Populist convention and was a strong supporter of Kem in his first race for congress, being at that time a partner of Hon. C. W. Beal in the publication of the *Custer County Beacon*. Two years later he established the *Custer County Independent*, at Callaway, and for six years this was recognized as one of the most aggressive Populist newspapers in Nebraska. Within that period, in 1896, Mr. Webb was elected a member of the state legislature, as representative of Custer and Logan counties. After concluding his term as a legislator, he returned to Callaway and resumed the editorial management of the *Independent*. He vigorously opposed the fusion policy which had been forced upon the Populist party by its leaders, and warned the rank and file of the party against the political machinations of the politicians who had bartered principles for office, at the party's expense. The politicians and office-holders retaliated by a withdrawal

of patronage from the *Independent*, in an effort to force the paper out of business, but the paper waxed hotter as the patronage grew less.

In the spring of 1898 Mr. Webb entered a homestead eight miles southwest of Callaway, but he continued the *Independent* and his fight against fusion, setting the type for the editorial pages in "the little old sod shanty" at night, after a hard day's work in the field, and on publication day making the trip to Callaway with the type, which was placed in the forms and "shot into the enemy" on much the same plan that Mark Twain's poetry was shot into the Indians. And thus the *Independent* eked out its existence until the fall of 1898, when Mr. Webb retired from newspaper work. He has since devoted his energies to the development of his farm and the raising of live stock.

In 1912 Mr. Webb was elected overseer of the Nebraska State Grange, and he is serving his sixth year in that capacity. He has always been an active worker for the advancement of the agricultural interests of the county and state.

At Bellwood, Butler county, Nebraska, on the 3d of August, 1884, Mr. Webb was united in marriage to Miss Lily May Freiday, a daughter of John G. and Pauline (Postman) Freiday. Mr. and Mrs. Webb have three children, concerning whom the following brief data are entered in conclusion of this review: Eugene M., Jr., who is a farmer by vocation, married Miss Grace Province and they have two sons and three daughters; Alfred Vernon Webb, who likewise follows the basic industries of farming and stock-raising, married Miss Gertrude Ashley; and Thomas M. Webb, the youngest son, also is to be found arrayed with the sturdy yeomen who are actively identified with farm enterprise.

JAMES V. DEVINE.—The financial interests of any live and growing community are among the most important, because upon these rest the possibility for progress or the probability of retrogression. Therefore those communities that are possessed of sound financial institutions are those best fortified for constructive growth and substantial development, and for this reason conservative banking houses are among the most valuable assets of any city or town. The thriving community of Oconto is fortunate in the possession of such a reliable financial institution as the Farmers Bank of Oconto, which is now in its fourteenth year, and the growth of which has been steady and consistent, in just por-

portion with the confidence in which it has been held by the people of the community. Since the time of its organization this bank has had the service of sound and well informed officials, among whom has been since its inception its present and only cashier, James V. Devine.

Mr. Devine has been a resident of Custer county for nearly thirty years, during which time he has become, in several capacities, well known to the people here. In 1889 the Devine family located not far from Broken Bow, settling on a homestead farm, and the boyhood and youth of Mr. Devine were passed amid agricultural surroundings, his training being one in which were impressed upon him the dignity of labor, the value of industry and the necessity of honesty and integrity. He received good educational advantages in his youth, as he attended the public graded schools and the high school, and eventually was graduated from the Fremont Normal school. On the completion of his studies he turned his attention to business and financial matters, and when he entered the Farmers Bank of Oconto, at the organization of that institution, in 1905, he had considerable experience of a valuable character behind him to assist him in familiarizing himself with his new and important duties. He has remained as cashier of this banking house to the present time, and much of its success may be justifiably accredited to his judgment, foresight, financial acumen and general popularity and affability. He has numerous important connections in big business interests, and is accounted one of the substantial business men and public-spirited citizens of his community.

Concerning John A. and Bridget A. Devine, the parents of James V., individual mention is made on other pages of this work.

BENJAMIN L. NICHOLAS, a practical and enterprising farmer and stock-raiser of the Mason City community of Custer county, owns and operates 880 acres of land, constituting one of the valuable and highly improved farms of the locality. These possessions have been acquired through the medium of the efforts of Mr. Nicholas and the members of his family and as the result of his consecutive endeavor he has won a place among the substantial citizens of his adopted county.

Mr. Nicholas was born on Holoway farm, near Nasberth, Wales, March 10, 1856. He is a son of Thomas and Martha (Lewis) Nicholas, and a grandson of Edward Nicholas and Evan Lewis, all of whom passed their entire lives in Wales. Thomas Nicholas was

a successful farmer, a well known and highly esteemed citizen, a Liberal in politics, and he and his wife were faithful members of the Calvinistic Methodist church. Of their eighteen children, six are living, and Benjamin L. was the only one to come to the United States.

Benjamin L. Nicholas was given a liberal education in his youth, including attendance at the high school; and was a bright scholar with a quick and retentive mind, samples of his penmanship at the age of thirteen years, as preserved in a beautiful book kept by himself, giving evidence that he was greatly advanced at that time. He was reared on his father's farm, and on February 28, 1881, he wedded Miss Margaret Beynon, who was born at Merthyr Tydvil, South Wales, August 28, 1857, a daughter of Rev. John and Ann (Williams) Beynon, the father having been a minister of the Congregational church. Rev. John and Ann (Williams) Beynon became the parents of four children—Edward, who is deceased; Mary, who died in infancy; David John, who is a clergyman of the Congregational church and who is at the time of this writing a resident of Southampton, England; and Margaret, who is the wife of Benjamin L. Nicholas, the subject of this review. Almost immediately after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas sailed for the United States, and within the year 1881 they arrived in Kansas, where they homesteaded a tract of eighty acres. This they subsequently relinquished, to come to Custer county, Nebraska, where, in 1884, they pre-empted a quarter-section of land. At the time of their arrival they had but two cows, and their first residence was a sod house, but Mr. Nicholas' ability, industry, and perseverance, with the assistance of his worthy wife, succeeded in overcoming all obstacles, and he kept adding to his land until he now has 880 acres. The sod house was abandoned for a more commodious and comfortable dwelling, and the buildings are now all modern in character, while the other improvements are of the latest type. Around the residence are numerous shade-trees, which greatly add to the attractiveness of this country estate, and which were planted by Mr. Nicholas himself. He carries on general farming in the main, and also raises all kinds of live stock, and he has been very successful in both departments of farm enterprise. As a citizen he has taken an active part in the life and government of the community, having been justice of the peace for a time and a member of the board of county commissioners for six years, in addition to which he has rendered valuable service to the community as a member of the school board.

In this connection it may be said that he has always been a great friend of education, and that all of his children are high-school graduates, while some have taken normal-school courses. Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas are members of the Baptist church. He is affiliated with the Mason City blue lodge of the Masonic fraternity, and with the Modern Woodmen of America. Concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas the following brief record is consistently entered: Martha Ann is the wife of E. G. Burrows, of Mason City. Mary Theodosia is the wife of Nels Peterson, manager of the Burrows store at Mason City. Margaret Britannia is the wife of Carl G. Bunnell, who is in the service of the Standard Oil Company, at Fargo, North Dakota. Sarah Jane, a talented teacher of music, is now at the parental home. Alice Ursula, who was formerly a popular teacher in the public schools of Mullin and Broken Bow, on the 1st of October, 1918, went to Fort Riley, Kansas, in the capacity of Red Cross nurse. Gwendolyn Irene is the wife of W. J. Beachy, who was formerly superintendent of the public schools at Ansley, Custer county, and who for two years thereafter held the position of superintendent of the schools at Davenport, this state: he then took a radio course, in preparation for service in connection with the nation's participation in the world war, and at the time when the great conflict came to a close he was attached to the Forty-sixth Corps, in California. Elizabeth Marion is the wife of John C. Eloie, a prosperous farmer in Custer county. John Thomas, who was graduated in the Mason City schools and who later passed one year as a student in the Grand Island Baptist College, was a member of the Students Army Training Corps at the Nebraska State Normal School in Kearney at the time when the war closed. William Lewis, who likewise was graduated in the Mason City high school, remains at the parental home.

WILLIAM J. RICE.—If the Civil war revealed nothing more, it certainly did make manifest the fact that the American people on either side of Mason and Dixon's Line were men of hearts, brains, and heroism. Among those who bore the brunt of conflict and toiled and suffered in camp and on the march, in behalf of the Union, is Mr. Rice, who is now engaged in the peaceful pursuit of farming.

William Jasper Rice was born in Adair county, Missouri, March 20, 1844. His father, Erastus Rice, was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and served as a soldier in the Mexican war. He located in Missouri,

where he became a farmer and where he spent the remainder of his days. His wife bore the maiden name of Amanda Mason and was a native of Missouri, in which state she spent her entire life.

William J. Rice was reared on a farm in his native county, where he attended the public schools, and he was only a boy when the Civil war burst upon the nation. Watching the course of events, his patriotic spirit was aroused, and when past nineteen years of age he enlisted, in August, 1863, at Centerville, Iowa, in Company L, Eighth Iowa Cavalry, in which he served till the close of the war, when he was honorably discharged, at Clinton, Iowa. He passed through the Atlanta campaign and was with Wilson on the raid through Georgia, taking part in the important battles of Franklin and Nashville, besides many minor engagements. At the close of the war, having made a creditable military record, he returned to Missouri, and November 18, 1866, in Putnam county, he was united in marriage to Miss Sarah A. Mullins, a native of Missouri. Her father, Matthew Mullins, was born in North Carolina and died in Missouri, in 1871. Her mother, whose maiden name was Nancy Guinn, was born in Tennessee and died in Missouri, in 1879. Mrs. Rice had two brothers, Thomas B. and John W., who served in the Eighth Iowa Cavalry, and Thomas B. was a prisoner at Andersonville for three months.

Mr. and Mrs. Rice spent several years in Missouri, and in 1887 they came to Custer county, Nebraska, where he homesteaded 160 acres, in section 7, township 17, range 23, besides pre-empting a tree claim adjoining. A sod house was his residence for many years, and pioneer conditions were still to be found on every hand. His farm to-day is equipped with a good set of buildings, the present frame house having been erected in 1909. Mr. Rice was actively engaged in farming for many years, but the work of the fields has been shifted to younger shoulders, though Mr. Rice manages his affairs and finds time to handle fire insurance, as agent for the Columbia Fire Insurance Company, of Omaha.

Mr. and Mrs. Rice have had eight children: Mary L. is the wife of Daniel Maupin, of Colorado; Martha F. is the wife of William E. Wardrobe and resides in Custer county; M. E. is a bachelor and remains at the parental home; Amanda E. is the wife of D. D. Shaw, residing in Custer county; James R. is a farmer in township 17, this county; Laura B. and Elmer are at home; and J. C. remains in Custer county.

Mr. Rice has been active in politics, as an

advocate of principles endorsed by the Republican party. He has held various township offices, has been a member of the Republican county central committee and at the primaries in August, 1918, he received the nomination of his party as a candidate for the lower house of the state legislature. It was well known that were he to be elected he would serve with credit to himself and his constituency, but he met defeat through normal political exigencies.

As a soldier, citizen, husband, father, and friend, Mr. Rice is one who can always be depended upon, and any enterprise which means the betterment of the community is assured his support.

HENRY L. LOWRY.—This is the story of a life that has been lived, of a service that has been rendered and of which the record is made. All the friends who knew Mr. Lowry in life say that the record is creditable and that he well deserves a tribute in this volume.

Henry Lewis Lowry was born near Rochester, Minnesota, August 1, 1856, and died in the hospital at Rochester, September 18, 1908, having at the close of his life rounded a circle by returning to the place of his birth. His story, as it concerns Custer county, begins in 1877, at which time he moved to this western domain and established his residence. On the 2d day of January, 1888, he was united in marriage to Susie May Thorn, who was born in Napoleon, Ohio, a daughter of Cline and Augusta (Morris) Thorn. Her father was a native of New Jersey, but later lived in Ohio and Michigan for a number of years. He is now retired and lives with his son, near the present home of Mrs. Lowry. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Lowry established a home of their one—one that in many respects was an ideal home, in that it contained comfort and cheer, and brave hearts to meet the joys or sorrows of life as they came. Into this home were born two children—Earl Curtis Lowry works for his mother on the farm, where he is manager and mainstay; Ella Mae Lowry was educated in the schools of Ansley and Litchfield and has been one year at the University of Nebraska: she has taught school in the home district for four years.

Mr. Lowry moved to Litchfield, Nebraska, in 1896 and was engaged in the general mercantile business until 1902, when he moved to Lincoln. From that city he went to Richfield, Nebraska, where he again engaged in the general merchandise business. This he continued until February, 1904, when he returned to Litchfield to take care of his father and

mother. His health failing, he went to Rochester, Minnesota, and there, in the famous hospital of the Mayo Brothers, he was operated on by Dr. W. J. Mayo, for cerebral embolism. This was in September, 1908, and he never recovered from the operation but died in the hospital.

Socially, Mr. Lowry was a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in each of which he was a prominent factor in the lodges with which he affiliated. Prior to his death Mr. Lowry sold the old homestead upon which he filed in 1878 and which was his home for a number of years, but since his death Mrs. Lowry has bought another place, which she and her son are now managing. She has 210 acres of good land, upon which they do a general farming and stock-raising business. Mrs. Lowry possesses those qualities with which every woman should be endowed who is forced to face the world alone. In her case, however, it is not quite true that she faces the world alone, for both her son and daughter are charged with much consideration for their mother and together their operations are quite successful. The family have always borne a good name and are rated high by their friends and neighbors.

THOMAS FORAN.—Young blood and energy combined with Custer county climate and soil always spell success. Opportunity for youth and activity is everywhere in evidence. The young farmers of no country have better opportunity and no farmers are doing more to make opportunity than are the members of the young generation of soil tillers right here in this good county.

Thomas Foran hails from the state of Illinois, where he was born in 1882, and he gave to his native state the first years of his childhood. His family record is set forth in detail in another sketch published elsewhere in this volume. He came with his parents to Custer county in 1886, and here he grew from childhood to manhood, experiencing the usual incidents common to the youth of the central west. Here he obtained a liberal education in the common schools, and he has put into practical operation what he learned by actual experience on farm and stock ranch.

To become the partner of his joys and sorrows and add felicity to domestic life, Mr. Foran led to the marriage altar Miss Elizabeth Hickey, on January 16, 1907, at Anselmo, this county. The bride was a young lady of gracious personality and well suited to preside over the home which it was their pleasure to

establish and maintain. Mrs. Foran is a native of Kansas, where she was born in 1885. Into the Foran home circle five children have made their advent: Ambrose Charles is ten years of age (1918); Delia Irene is eight; Philip James has seen six summers; Delbert is four; and Lena Mary is only two. All the children are at home and the first three named are attending school and are candidates for Custerites of unusual energy. The two younger children, while awaiting their turn at school, make the home interesting and banish lonesomeness.

Tom Foran, as he is familiarly called, bought 160 acres and made it the foundation of his farming operations. To this, other land was added until to-day 800 acres comprise his landed estate, of which, 175 acres are in cultivation. He put on his own improvements, owns his own machinery, and has a splendid start in live stock, which consists of hogs, horses, and twenty-four head of cattle. All of this is the result of his own energy and frugality, in which, of course, the good wife had a large share. He availed himself of the primitive sod house and resorted to economical measures in securing the nucleus of what is bound to be a comfortable competency, sufficient to protect him and his wife from the encroachments of discomfort in their declining days. They are faithful members of the Catholic church and generally attend church services in Anselmo, which is their nearest town. Mr. Foran generally votes the Democratic ticket, provided that, in his opinion, the Democratic candidate measures up to his standard of eligibility. The Forans are a fine family and enjoy the respect and confidence of their neighbors.

JOHN L. WILLIAMS.—During a long and varied career, John L. Williams has extended his abilities to numerous lines of business endeavor, in each of which he has made a success. In turn preacher, farmer, ranchman and real-estate and insurance agent in the south and west, he has now settled down permanently in the restaurant business, and is the proprietor of the leading establishment of this kind at Broken Bow. Mr. Williams was born in Huntington county, Indiana, June 13, 1862, and is a son of Dr. William H. Williams.

Dr. William H. Williams, the seventh son of John and Sarah Williams, was born in Fayette county, Indiana, February 28, 1819, and in his youth acquired his early education in the common schools of his native county. He early displayed a predilection for a professional career, and for his primary studies in



JOSEPH T. COLE AND FAMILY

the profession of medicine he placed himself under the preceptorship of Dr. P. S. Silvey, a well known physician of Fayette county, with offices at Everton. He made rapid progress in his chosen field of endeavor, and while located at Everton he met a young lady of that place, Miss Susan Fox, to whom he was married October 4, 1837. Three years later he began his practice at Everton, but in the following spring he moved to Huntington county and located at Warren, where he lived and carried on his professional labors for thirteen years, building up an extensive practice and gaining the confidence of his fellow-citizens, whom he served not only as a physician but as justice of the peace as well. November 1, 1853, he moved with his family to New Lancaster, Indiana, and he was living there when the Civil war came on. Enlisting in 1863, he served gallantly for two years and ten months, during which time he took part in some heavy engagements, including Nashville and Franklin and all those of the Atlanta campaign. He received his honorable discharge, at Indianapolis, Indiana, July 3, 1865, and returned to his home at New Lancaster, where he continued his professional work until 1878. He then removed to Antioch, where he enjoyed an extensive practice until his death, in 1891. During his residence at New Lancaster, he was frequently called upon for public service. For four years he was notary public and for nine years justice of the peace. He and his wife were the parents of the following children: Mrs. Sarah A. Beal and Mrs. Loretta Beal, who still reside in Huntington county, Indiana; Napoleon B., of Indiana; Dr. Orland B., a skilled physician who practiced medicine and surgery for years before his death, at New Lancaster; H. Jerome; John L.; Arnold A., a farmer near New Lancaster; and Dr. O. B., a practicing physician at New Lancaster.

John L. Williams received his education in the public schools, and his first vocation was performing the duties of office-boy in the offices of his father and brother. Subsequently he was engaged in farming for several years, and then he developed a gift for pulpit oratory and for a period traveled through the south, where he was very successful in preaching and in establishing churches, particularly in Alabama. His first visit to Custer county was made in 1887, and while he remained only a short time, the impression created in his mind was strong, and in 1895 he was irresistibly drawn back to this country, this time to make a permanent residence here. In the year mentioned he took up a homestead, and after proving up on

the same he later repeated the operation. For a number of years he devoted himself to securing and proving up on claims. In this way he came into close connection with the real-estate business and eventually he established himself in that line of enterprise at Broken Bow. One of his accomplishments at that time lay in his taking numerous homeseekers to Wheatland, Wyoming, where he placed them in the midst of prosperity and found them comfortable places of residence. He was also much in evidence in handling realty in and around Alliance. Another venture in which Mr. Williams was interested was the Omaha Health & Accident Insurance Company, of which he was a charter member and a member of the first board of directors. In the spring of 1917 Mr. Williams left the real-estate business to become the proprietor of his present enterprise. Aided by Mrs. Williams, through industry and good management he has succeeded in developing the leading business of its kind at Broken Bow, and one which has become extremely popular, not only with the people of the county seat but also with the general traveling public as well. In addition to this business, Mr. Williams is the owner of a farm of 240 acres in central Missouri and a comfortable, modern home and other realty at Broken Bow.

In 1880 Mr. Williams married Miss Katie Fisher, who was born in Huntington county, Indiana, and they became the parents of five daughters: Ina, who became the wife of J. T. Hillman, a farmer of Broken Bow; Etta, the wife of William Waffin Smith, a well man at Merna, this county; Mamie, who married Robert Winchester, a farmer near Broken Bow; Isa, who married E. R. Davis, an operator at Hulsey, Nebraska; and Nondie Nova, who married B. Carter, residing near Kearney, Nebraska. The family belongs to the Baptist church.

JOSEPH T. COLE, who is one of the substantial citizens of Custer county, for many years a heavy land-owner and cattle-grower, has been a resident of Nebraska since 1902. Mr. Cole was born at Kewanee, Illinois, July 28, 1862. He comes of honest, sturdy old stock. His parents were Joshua and Susan (Hoppock) Cole. His father was born at Athens, Ohio, from which place he moved to Kewanee, Illinois, in 1851, buying land in Henry county and continuing to cultivate the same during the rest of his active life. The mother of Mr. Cole was born at Trenton, New Jersey, and was an admirable woman in every relation of life. There were eight children in the family

—Mary C., Joseph T., Elton G., William H., Wesley E., Martha M. (Cole) Keneval, Ernest O., and Otis R. These children were carefully reared in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Joseph T. Cole attended the country schools in Henry county and had three years' training in the Kewanee high school. In the meanwhile he had been useful to his father on the farm and under his father's strict supervision learned farm methods thoroughly. In his boyhood and in his section of the country, there was little opportunity to make much of a fortune outside the regular business of farming, but Mr. Cole relates in a very amusing way one of his hopeful early attempts. A neighbor, an old Scotch farmer, was much annoyed by the gophers that persisted in making free with his crops, and his offer of five cents each for every trapped "varmint" looked like a paying proposition to Joseph T. and he accepted the terms. Although he was paid in the script then in common use, he earned one whole dollar and believes that was his thrift foundation, to use a term in general parlance to-day. He realized then, for the first time, what he believes every boy should learn early, that to earn a dollar is a much bigger proposition than to spend it.

After reaching the age of twenty-one years Mr. Cole started out for himself, for three years afterward working for farmers by the month. He was careful and saving with his money but when he contracted to buy a 160-acre farm that pleased his fancy, he found that his accumulated savings would not be sufficient of themselves to cover the price of fifty dollars an acre. He was a young man of excellent standing in the community, however, and thus had no trouble in borrowing the amount required. In a few years he had worked himself out of debt and six years later sold his farm very advantageously. Mr. Cole not only had industry and perseverance as helpful factors in his career, but he early showed the enterprise that has, at various times, brought him ample returns along other than agricultural lines. With his brother, Elton G. Cole, he embarked in a lumber and grain business at Toulon, Illinois, which was continued for seven years. It was during this period that the brothers built the first telephone line, nearly fifty miles in extent, in Stark county. This bit of enterprise proved a fortunate undertaking. In 1902 Mr. Cole moved to Platte county, Nebraska, where for four years he was engaged in growing seeds for the great seed house of D. M. Ferry & Company, of Detroit, Michigan, and because of the thorough man-

ner in which he carried this business to conclusion it proved exceedingly profitable. One carload of seeds shipped within this time brought Mr. Cole the comfortable sum of \$6,000.

In 1906 Mr. Cole moved with his family to Custer county and bought 360 acres of fine land in the Tappin valley, on which he erected a spacious residence and otherwise so greatly improved it that he was able to sell it, March 1, 1918, for eight-five dollars per acre. In association with two sons, Mr. Cole yet owns a ranch of 4,000 acres, situated near Angelmo, on which he and his wife purpose to pass their summers happily, assisting in looking after their fine herds of cattle, while their sons carry on the business of farming. Their winters will be spent in their handsome modern residence at Broken Bow.

At Kewanee, Illinois, on August 22, 1883, Mr. Cole was united in marriage with Miss Sarah E. Frazier, who was born at Bloomington, Ohio, a daughter of George and Anna (Crawford) Frazier, the latter coming of English ancestry. George Frazier was a lumberman and operated a saw mill. Mrs. Cole was the fourth born of her parents' children, the others being: Mrs. Margaret M. Copeland, deceased; James C., deceased; Mrs. Ella M. Busby; Mrs. Mary J. Dutton; Thomas B.; William; and John W., deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Cole have four children: Orren L., who is a successful farmer of Custer county, near Broken Bow, married Miss Pearl Martin; Walter E. is a farmer and stock-raiser; Arthur A., who is also associated with his father, is a farmer and stock-raiser near Broken Bow; and Olive attended the Broken Bow high school, took a business course in the State Normal school at Kearney, and later completed a course in the Nebraska Agricultural College, at Lincoln. Mr. and Mrs. Cole are members of the Baptist church. In his political opinions Mr. Cole is an independent thinker and casts his vote according to the dictates of his own excellent judgment, which faculty has served him well for many years.

DANIEL W. CORY.—This paragraph names one of the veterans of the county, one of the veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic, and one of the veterans among Custer county homesteaders—a man who has reached the years of his retirement and who finds life bright at eventide.

Mr. Cory was born January 18, 1841, in Boone county, Indiana. His parents were Jeremiah and Mary (Miller) Cory, both natives

of Ohio and both excellent people who transmitted to their children the characteristics that made them substantial citizens. There were eight children of the father's family, six boys and two girls, but Daniel W. is the only surviving child. For his second wife the father married, in 1845, Mary A. Bennett, a native of Virginia. To this union eight children were born, four of whom are still living — Isaac L., Emma H. Adams, Chester, and Charles M. Charles M. Cory has been county judge for twenty-five consecutive years in Noble county, Minnesota.

The first money Daniel W. Cory earned went into the family coffers to help support the family, his services being required during all his early years and being ungrudgingly given. When twenty years of age he went to Wabash, where he entered college, intending to take a full six years' course, but after six months the Civil war broke out and interfered with his plans. He enlisted in the Eleventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry and served four years and three days. He was mustered out at Baltimore, Maryland, on July 26, 1865. During his service he was in twelve different engagements — among them being Donelson, Shiloh, Vicksburg, Jackson, Mississippi, Cedar Creek, etc.

Mr. Cory's married life dates from February 25, 1866, when, in Boone county, Indiana, he married Miss Nancy M. Fall. Mrs. Cory was born in the same county where she was married, and her parents were Joseph C. and Lucinda (Mize) Fall. The father was a native of Carolina and the mother was a Virginian. Mr. and Mrs. Cory became the parents of nine children, five of whom still survive: Nora O. is deceased. Thorley E., who married Mollie Hawkins, is a carpenter by occupation and lives in Indianapolis, Indiana. Mattie is the wife of Charles M. Street, a farmer living northwest of Anselmo, Custer county. Eva H. is the wife of Frank Jacquot and lives in Merna, this county. Charles E. married Daisy Dixon, and is a farmer living in Indiana. Josie E. is the wife of A. Logan Thomas, of Custer county.

Mr. Cory came to Custer county from Michigan, in the spring of 1885, and took a pre-emption claim ten miles west of Broken Bow. On this he lived for seven years, and he then moved to a point ten miles northwest of Anselmo, where he homesteaded and where he lived for five years, after which he sold the homestead and bought a nice property in Merna. A shadow fell across his life June 13, 1912, when his wife was removed from

the home on earth to the one "not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." He now makes his home with the children, where "Grandpa" is always welcome. He and his wife were both well and favorably known throughout the Merna and Anselmo districts, where they merited the good reputation they enjoyed. They were always connected with the Methodist church, and Mr. Cory votes generally the Republican ticket.

BENJAMIN F. WELCH. — In noting the qualities that have raised Benjamin Franklin Welch from humble beginnings to his position as one of the substantial farmers of Custer county, one is forced to renew appreciation of courage, industry, and perseverance, for his life has not been without its discouragements and what he has attained has been gained through his own efforts.

Mr. Welch was born in Peoria, Illinois, September 26, 1854, and is a son of Ezra B. and Adelia E. (Fisher) Welch, who were natives of New York and who went to Illinois as young people and were there married. Later they moved to Jasper county, Iowa, where Ezra B. Welch became the owner of a farm, and where, through industry and strict application to business, he made a success of his efforts. He was a Republican, and on several occasions was the incumbent of township offices. There were thirteen children in the family, of who three are now living — I. S., a retired citizen of Omaha, who served three years as a Union soldier during the Civil war, within which time he was confined in Andersonville prison for eighteen months; C. E., also a retired resident of Omaha; and Benjamin F.

Benjamin F. Welch was educated in the public schools of Prairie City, Iowa, and for several years was engaged in farming in that state. In 1870 he came to Sarpy county, Nebraska, where he was married, in 1876, and in 1888 he went to Box Butte county. He first came to Custer county in 1891 and bought a farm near Ansley, where he remained about twenty years, and in 1911 he moved to Broken Bow, where he now owns 160 acres of well improved land, in section 12. For a time he was largely engaged in feeding cattle, but at the present time he devotes his time principally to general farming. The obstacles which have appeared in his path have been overcome, and he now owns a valuable and well improved property, on which he has modern buildings and splendid equipment. Mr. Welch is a citizen who has the respect of his community

and has assisted in progressive movements. He is a Democrat, and his fraternal affiliation is with the Modern Brotherhood of America.

In 1876 Mr. Welch married Miss Maggie A. Weeth, who was born at Hyde Park, Illinois, a daughter of George Weeth, an early homesteader of Sarpy county, Nebraska, where he owned a good farm at the time of his death. Four sons have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Welch—Ernest E., who is studying for the medical profession, at Omaha; L. F., who is engaged in farming in the vicinity of Berwyn, Custer county; H. G., who is a switchman at Ravenna, Nebraska; and Earl A., who is employed in the United States government shipyards at Portland, Oregon.

CHARLES O. HUNNELL.—Among the well known agriculturists of the Broken Bow community of Custer county whose careers have been especially remarkable for enterprise, perseverance, and tenacity of purpose, is Charles O. Hunnell, the owner of 200 acres of well improved land in section 2. Mr. Hunnell was born in Hamilton county, Nebraska, November 12, 1875, and is a son of James and Sarah (Baker) Hunnell, natives of Wisconsin and both now deceased.

Frederick Hunnell, the paternal grandfather of Charles O. Hunnell, was born in Germany, whence he immigrated to the United States in young manhood and settled in Wisconsin, where his death occurred. The maternal grandfather, Theron Baker, a native of New York, migrated to Wisconsin, and thence to St. Charles, Illinois, where he died when nearly 100 years of age. James Hunnell was reared in Wisconsin, and when the Civil war came on, he left home and went to Iowa, where he enlisted in Company D, Forty-sixth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He served two years with that regiment, when he was incapacitated by an injury to his heel—an injury that troubled him throughout the remainder of his life. When he received his honorable discharge he returned to Wisconsin and married, and in 1870 he came to Nebraska and located on a pioneer homestead in Hamilton county. He proved up on his claim and continued to carry on operations there until within one year of his death, when he went to Henderson. After his demise his widow returned to the farm, where she passed the remainder of her life. They were attendants of the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Hunnell was a Mason. A Republican in politics, Mr. Hunnell was one of the prominent and influential men of his community and served as county commissioner

and county judge. Of the seven children in the family, six are living: Mrs. Lennie Segrist, the wife of a carpenter of York county, Nebraska; Charles O.; Mrs. Edna Ely, wife of a Custer county farmer; Mrs. Mattie Lape, whose husband farms in Gage county; Cora, the wife of E. R. Deal, who is a farmer of Custer county and a sketch of whose career appears elsewhere in this work; and Mrs. Nina Murphy, the wife of a farmer and sheepman of Thedford, Nebraska.

Charles O. Hunnell was educated in the public schools of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin State University, which he attended two years. Returning to Hamilton county, he farmed for a time, but after the death of his parents he turned over his share of the family estate to his brothers and sisters and struck out for himself, with hands practically empty. Going to Wyoming, he worked as a cattle-herder for nine years, and he then returned to Nebraska and settled on a homestead in Thomas county. About this time he engaged in the cattle business, buying and selling, and in partnership with his brother-in-law he leased thirty or forty sections of land—a project in which he was able, through industry and good business management, to accumulate enough capital to give him an individual start. In 1909 he purchased a farm in Custer county, section 2, and in July, 1913, he sold his Thomas county place and came to the Custer county farm, where he now has 200 acres of good land, devoted to general farming. In addition he owned 198 acres of land in Gage county, which later he sold. Mr. Hunnell is one of the progressive agriculturists of Custer county and has evidenced his belief in modern methods, while as a citizen and a business man his rating is high. He is a Republican voter, and holds membership in the Masonic fraternity.

In March, 1917, Mr. Hunnell was united in marriage with Miss Grace Paylor, who was born in Missouri. They have one son, Henry Charles, who was born June 26, 1918.

BENJAMIN F. SMITH.—This sketch is written of a man who makes no house-top proclamation, who has followed the even tenor of a Custer county career with modest demeanor, but who has made a host of friends and given a valuable contribution to both his community and his county.

Mr. Smith was born November 7, 1856, near Mount Pleasant, Iowa. He is a son of John F. and Rebecca A. (Clemmons) Smith, the former a native of Vermont, and the latter of Ohio. In the family of John F. Smith were

four children, of whom Benjamin F. was the last born, the others being Jennie Ferree, Melissa, and Ida, deceased. The parents of Mr. Smith moved to Clairmont, Ohio, when Benjamin was six months old. John F. Smith was a farmer by occupation and after a short residence in Ohio he moved to Richland county, Illinois, where his wife died. He then moved back to Ohio, where young Benjamin worked on the farm and attended school in winter time, but as there was no school until corn was husked and none after the sugar camps opened, in February, it will be seen that the school term was somewhat abbreviated. He made the best of his opportunities, however, and secured the education by which he has been enabled to conduct effectively all kinds of business transactions. His first money was earned by selling Seymour & Blair badges in a red-hot presidential campaign.

After reaching his majority he faced the world for himself and went to work on a farm by the month, in Mason county, Iowa. Here he worked four years. August 10, 1882, at Clinton, Illinois, he married S. Katherine Reed, and time has proved that he could have made no better selection for a life companion and helpmeet. Mrs. Smith is a daughter of George W. and Margaret A. (Schenck) Reed, and in her father's family were eleven children—S. Katherine Smith, Lida A. Sauter, Lettie Manion, Hannah J. Barber, George W. Reed, Henry T. Reed, Cora L. Vance, Lucy B. McConnell, Dora McConnell, Clara (deceased), and Myrtle B. Mills.

To the newly established home of Mr. and Mrs. Smith came happiness and sunshine through the birth of children, three of whom have blessed the union: Walter R. is operating a farm for himself, near Arnold. He married Hattie Douglas and they have one son and one daughter. He is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge, and both he and his wife are connected with the Christian church. Earl L. is single and is "Somewhere in France" at the time of this writing. He is a private in Company E, Three Hundred and Thirteenth Engineering Corps, American Expeditionary Forces in France. Lonnie A. also is in France and is a member of Battery C, Three Hundred and Thirty-ninth Artillery, with the American Expeditionary Forces.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith came to Custer county in 1886 and located on a pioneer farm four miles south of Arnold. On this place they lived twenty-five years, and they endured the ordinary privations and hardships incident to the pioneer life of that day. They now own 320 acres and, so far as this world's goods

are concerned, they are considered well to do. All has been made by farming and stock-raising. They belong to the Christian church and the Mystic Legion, and Mrs. Smith, or "Aunt Kate," as she is known among her friends, is a member of the Daughters of Rebekah lodge and the Degree of Honor. Concerning the early days Mrs. Smith gives an account of one of the dances given in the settlement, somewhere along in 1888. This dance was given in the building now occupied by Grissom & Leo as a restaurant. Early in the evening the settlers began coming in and the decks were cleared for action. Most of the people brought their children with them and with quilts made beds for them in the rear of the hall. Here the youngsters were packed away like sardines in a box. Aunt Sarah Finch seemed to have been on the pie committee, for she brought a stack of them so large that it is said one had to stand on his or her toes to see over it. It is said that dancing and feed-were alternated throughout the evening—it was dance and eat then dance and eat some more. The food consisted of chicken, turkey, roast beef, roast pork, and all kinds of pies and cake. With such provisions on hand and such entertainment, it is small wonder that the dance lasted till morning. It seems, too, that their home-made wine of an extraordinary brand added joy to the occasion and helped to wash down the edibles. Historical annals contain no data of this wine, other than that it was furnished by the R. E. Allen and everybody pronounced it good. Music for these primitive dances was furnished by the Finch band.

This is the story of a pioneer and his wife who have passed through the stirring scenes and times of former years and who are now privileged to enjoy the result of their labors and sacrifice.

ED. P. McEVOY.—Prior to coming to Custer county, in 1912, Ed. P. McEvoy had gained considerable experience as an operator of land in the Missouri valley of Iowa, but it was not until he took up his home in Nebraska that he tasted the full fruits of success. At the present time he is the owner of a handsome property of 480 acres, lying two miles west of Berwyn, upon which he is carrying on operations in a manner that at once designates him as a man of superior ability and a farmer of practical and progressive ideas.

Mr. McEvoy is a native of Canada, and was born March 16, 1868, a son of Ed. and Mary (Kelly) McEvoy, who were born in that country, and both of whom are now deceased. Ed.



OWEN C. MURPHY AND FAMILY

McEvoy, a lifelong farmer, brought his family to the United States in 1872 and settled in the Missouri valley of Iowa, where he purchased a farm and operated it until 1890. In that year he moved to Adair, Iowa, and engaged in the general mercantile business. He made a success in commercial fields, as he had done in his agricultural efforts. He retired some years before his death, and passed away in the faith of the Catholic church, of which his wife also was a devout member. He was a Democrat in politics. Mr. and Mrs. McEvoy were the parents of eleven children, of whom eight survive, but Ed. P. is the only one now living in Nebraska.

Ed. P. McEvoy was but four years when brought by his parents to the United States, and the rural schools of Iowa furnished him with his early education, while he was growing up on the home farm. Trained to all manner of agricultural pursuits, he was fully prepared to enter upon a career of his own when he reached man's estate, and farming was his choice of a vocation. In Iowa he acquired land, which he cultivated successfully, and he became one of the community's well-to-do and influential citizens, being elected to several township offices, but in 1912 he disposed of his property in the Missouri valley and took up his residence on a farm near Callaway, Custer county, Nebraska. Subsequently he sold this property and moved to his present farm, two miles west of Berwyn, where he has 480 acres of fertile and productive land. This he devotes to mixed farming, having had more than ordinary success in his work as a stock-raiser. Mr. McEvoy is known as one of his community's progressive men. The farm, in section 18, has been splendidly improved, and the modern buildings include a large and commodious residence, as well as suitable and well equipped structures for the shelter of his stock, machinery, and grain.

A Republican in politics, Mr. McEvoy is somewhat interested in local government affairs, but not to the extent that he looks for personal preferment at the hands of his fellow citizens or his party. His fraternal affiliation is with the Knights of Columbus, and he and the members of his family belong to the St. Joseph's Catholic church of Broken Bow.

In 1895 Mr. McEvoy was united in marriage with Miss Alice Gilmore, who was born in Harrison county, Iowa, a daughter of Charles Gilmore, an early settler of Iowa and a farmer there for many years. Mr. and Mrs. McEvoy became the parents of six children: Miss Bertha, who resides with her parents; Thomas, who died while in the military camp at Au-

gusta, Georgia; and Eva, Anna, Charles, and Joseph, who are at home.

OWEN C. MURPHY.—There are probably not many names better known in Custer county than that of Murphy, belonging, as it does, to pioneer settlers here and to their numerous descendants who make up some of the county's best citizenship. Owen C. Murphy, who for many years was prominent in the stock industry, came to Custer county in 1884 as a homeseeker, and established himself on land that he occupied continuously for thirty-four years. Mr. Murphy was born in McHenry county, Illinois, January 9, 1858. His parents were Owen J. and Emma (Chenoweth) Murphy, the former of whom was born in Calhoun county, West Virginia, and the latter in Braxton county, that state. Of their seven children six survive, namely: Mrs. Minerva Clapsattle, Mrs. Melvina Elliott, Mrs. Emma Charles, Mrs. Sarah Crow, Owen C., and Mrs. Ida Winters. The father of Mr. Murphy moved to McHenry county, Illinois, in 1838 and lived there, respected and esteemed, until his death, in 1892.

Owen C. Murphy was reared in a home where ample provision was made for comfort as well as necessities, and he attended the public schools. Thus in boyhood he was less hampered than many farmers' sons, his father not only recognizing the need of but being also able to provide, to a reasonable extent, for the recreations that seem so important in the eyes of youth. Mr. Murphy remembers that his first independent business transaction was buying stock on a small scale. As the investment turned out well, he was encouraged and thus gradually he became more and more interested in the stock business. It is possible that this led to his coming to Nebraska, in 1884, when twenty-six years old. He located seven and one-half miles northwest of Callaway, Custer county, where he eventually accumulated 1,080 acres and where, for more than thirty years, he carried on an extensive stock-raising business. In later years, before retiring, he was a very successful breeder of Galloway cattle. He continued active in the live-stock field until 1917, when he sold his ranch and stock and bought twenty acres of land adjoining the town of Callaway. On this land he has erected a handsome, modern residence, thoroughly equipped to invite ease and repose. While, in the main, Mr. Murphy has been unusually successful in all his business undertakings since coming to Custer county, he has lived through seasons of great discouragement—notably the hard

times of 1894—but, thanks to a naturally cheerful disposition and to listening to the practical, common-sense advice of his admirable wife, he held on to his interests in the county when any number of his neighbors "abandoned the ship."

Mr. Murphy was married, at Woodstock, Illinois, August 25, 1881, to Miss Elsie Couse, who was born in McHenry county, Illinois, and is a daughter of Andrew and Ellen (Fulton) Couse. The father and mother were both born in New York, and Mrs. Ellen (Fulton) Couse was a representative of the same family as was Robert Fulton, the inventor of the first steamboat. Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Murphy and of these the following survive: Ida D., who resides with her parents; Elsie, who is a graduate of the Nebraska State Normal school at Kearney, and who is teaching school at Idaho Falls, Idaho; Clara, who is the wife of William E. Arnold, a farmer located six miles northeast of Callaway; Ellen, who is principal of the Callaway high school, and is a graduate of the Kearney State Normal School; and Maud L. and Margaret, both of whom are students in the Kearney Normal School. These young ladies are all exceptionally intellectual. Mr. Murphy and family belong to the Evangelical church. Politically he maintains an independent attitude, having no desire for any public office and believing that the best man should be elected, irrespective of party affiliations. He has long been a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

FREDERICK W. MORRISON.—Down near Callaway Frederick W. Morrison operates a splendid Custer county farm and makes his contributions to Custer county production. He was born May 27, 1868, and has been a resident of Nebraska since his early childhood. He is a son of William F. and Virginia (Lichtenberger) Morrison, the former of whom was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and the latter of whom was a representative of a very estimable family whose name is well known in Custer county. William F. and Virginia (Lichtenberger) Morrison became the parents of ten children: Harry L. (deceased), Edmund W., Charles O., Samuel A., Josiah E., Frederick W., Alfred E., Leon H., Anna V. (deceased), and George A. The religious faith of the family is that of the Christian church.

In August, 1870, with team and wagon, William F. Morrison drove through from the state of Illinois, to York county, Ne-

braska, and in this pioneer journey to the new state of Nebraska he was accompanied by his wife and their seven children. When he arrived in Nebraska his cash capital was represented in the sum of two dollars and forty cents, and this was the very nominal monetary reinforcement with which he initiated his western career. For one year the family lived in a dugout on Lincoln creek, this primitive dwelling having no window, and a strip of old carpet having constituted the door. Frederick W. Morrison relates an incident of the early days, when the father and an uncle went into the Fort Kearney region, where they hunted and killed buffalo. When they arrived at the home, about midnight, the children were so hungry for meat, after having lived so long on corn bread and white gravy, that the mother called them from their beds and fried for them all the buffalo meat they could eat.

Frederick W. Morrison earned his first money by herding cattle, for ten cents a day. With his earnings he bought a pig, and before his father realized what was happening, that pig's progeny had so increased that Frederick was claiming most of the hogs on the place, so that the father called a halt on the hog deal. Like other country boys, young Frederick worked on the farm in the summer season and attended school in winter. He came to Custer county in 1900 and purchased 400 acres of land, besides filing homestead entry on an adjoining tract of 160 acres. North of Callaway he now owns a valuable landed estate of 400 acres, the same being situated on what is known as the Fairview Table. His accumulations are such as to entitle him to classification among the well-to-do and substantial men of the county, and through energy and enterprise he is constantly adding to his possessions. He and his wife rank among the best of Custer county people, and theirs is a typical Custer county home, while their achievement is a practical demonstration of what may be won through thrift and industry. Mrs. Morrison has always been her husband's energetic and faithful helpmeet, and has given him valuable assistance in every enterprise pertaining to the farm and home.

In politics Mr. Morrison is aligned in the ranks of the Republican party, but he is always careful to see that his vote is cast for those whom he believes to be worthy of public trust. He maintains affiliation with the Masonic fraternity.

At the home of the bride's parents, on Spring creek, this county, was solemnized, May 1, 1907, the marriage of Mr. Morrison to Miss Lulu M. Hough, who was born in Illinois and

who is a daughter of Preston W. and Martha (Pierce) Hough, her father having been born in North Carolina. Mrs. Morrison has three brothers — William E., Carl W., and Earl P. — and on other pages, in the sketch of the career of her eldest brother, are given further data concerning the Hough family. Mr. and Mrs. Morrison have three children, all bright and happy, and all lending cheer to the attractive home. The names of the children, with respective ages in the fall of 1918, are here noted: Ralph P., ten years; George E., six years; and Roy T., four years.

BENJAMIN F. KIKER, a general merchant who is doing a large and increasing business at Comstock, this county, has had experience in other lines, including banking and agricultural enterprise. He has spent many years in Nebraska and is well and favorably known in different sections of the state, having always been identified with substantial enterprises in every community in which he has had his home.

Benjamin F. Kiker was born June 17, 1853, in Ohio county, West Virginia. He is a son of Joseph and Amanda (Christwell) Kiker. His father, who was born in Germany, came to the United States in 1857 and located in Illinois. He has been a farmer all his life and still lives on his old homestead in Illinois. The mother of B. F. Kiker died in 1898, and he is the eldest of the three living children. He has two sisters: Emma, who is the wife of Douglas Tankersley, a farmer in Scott county, Illinois; and Annie, who is the wife of John McCarty, also a farmer in Scott county. The mother of Mr. Kiker was a member of the Baptist church. The father is a strong supporter of the Democratic party.

After his school period was over, Benjamin F. Kiker came to Hamilton county, Nebraska, where he followed farming for twenty-four years and became a man of local prominence and influence. He then came to Custer county and for six years lived near Sargent. Within this period he was elected president of the Farmers State Bank of Sargent, in which office he continued three years, at the expiration of which he moved to Boulder, Colorado. Mr. Kiker remained at Boulder during the next four years and then returned to Custer county and settled on a ranch west of Comstock, where he remained two years. Business acumen then led him to change his occupation and he traded his ranch for a stock of general merchandise and located at Phillips, Hamilton county. One year later, in search of a wider

field, he moved his stock to Comstock, where he somewhat enlarged the scope of his business and where he now conducts one of the leading mercantile establishments of this section of the county.

January 29, 1880, at Aurora, Nebraska, Mr. Kiker married Stella New, who died November 29, 1881, leaving no children. On June 27, 1886, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Kiker to Sarah F. Green, and of this union eight children have been born, as follows: Stella is the wife of John A. Grant, who is, at the time of this writing, in the engineering department with the American Expeditionary Forces in France; Roy C., who is a member of Company A, Seventh United States Engineers, is with the United States army in France; Joe, who is his father's general manager, married Ora Pulliam; Claude H., who is a soldier in the United States army, is at Fort Riley; Grace and Cora, both of whom are school-teachers, reside at Boulder, Colorado; Mary is deceased; and Sada remains with her parents. Mr. Kiker is not active in politics but he is a good citizen and does his part in promoting worthy enterprises and assisting public-spirited movements that give assurance of being practical and permanent.

GEORGE L. McCREA. — Among the farmers of Custer county who have passed their entire lives on the properties which they now operate, George L. McCrea is one whose efforts have served to assist in the upbuilding of the community and the development of agricultural interests. The owner of a good farm in the Berwyn locality, he has shown progressiveness and public spirit and in the working out of his career has displayed personal characteristics that have gained him respect and esteem among his neighbors.

Mr. McCrea was born on the homestead place in Custer county, June 26, 1881, and is a son of James and Diana (Barnes) McCrea, natives of Michigan. The father is now deceased and the mother is a resident of Massachusetts. The parents were married in Michigan, where for about twelve years they made their home thereafter, and in 1880 they came to Custer county, Nebraska, where the father secured the homestead on which George L. McCrea now resides. James McCrea fought as a soldier of the Civil war, having been for three years and six months connected with a battery of Michigan light artillery. He had an excellent record for brave and faithful service and passed through many of the decisive and hard-fought engagements of the struggle,

on one occasion, at the battle of Chickamauga, being captured by the enemy, but being soon released by exchange. Just as he was a dutiful and courageous soldier, so was he an honorable and industrious farmer and business man, and the record which he established as a civilian equalled that which he made as a wearer of his country's uniform. Politically he was identified with the Republican party, but only as a voter and a worker in behalf of his friends. He was a Dunkard in religion, which faith his widow shares. Of their two children, George L. McCrea is the survivor.

The district schools of Custer county furnished George L. McCrea with his early education, and after he has attended up to the ninth grade of the public schools at Berwyn, he settled down to agricultural pursuits on the home farm which he had always known as his place of residence. His training as a farmer was comprehensive, and on attaining his majority he became associated with his father, at whose death he assumed management of the home property, which he has continued to conduct and operate in a capable and highly prosperous manner. His farm is now modern in every way. When he took charge of the property the residence was a sod house, or "soddy," but this he replaced with a nice frame home, in which he has modern equipment; and the other buildings have been either replaced, enlarged, or repaired until now they give the farm attractiveness and added value, with a general air of prosperity which speaks for the owner's progressiveness. His stock is of a good grade, and in every respect he is a typical representative of the successful class of central Nebraska farmers.

Mr. McCrea was married May 29, 1904, to Miss Nellie M. Perkins, who was born in Lancaster county, Nebraska, and to this union there have been born five children, all at home and attending the public schools of Berwyn — Ruth, Ray, Rex, Doris, and Thaine. Mr. McCrea is fraternally affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a Republican politically, and has served his community as a member of the school board.

CHARLES SCHMIDT.—The career of the substantial citizen whose name introduces this sketch began in Poland and ended in Custer county. He was a man upon whose shoulders rested the stern responsibilities of life, who did well his part, and sixteen years ago was called from the scene of his labors to that long home which awaits mankind.

Mr. Schmidt was born in Poland, in 1848,

and came to this country in 1878. Here he began at once a life of hard work, which, reinforced by rigid economy, provided well for his family. Having received a liberal education in the old country and having there established the habits of industry, he found that both served him well in the new land of his adoption. He worked at anything he could find to do. Anything to make an honest dollar that would help to support his family or add to the equipment with which he started farming for himself, was just the thing that he was ready to do. He worked in the Dakotas. If work was not obtainable in one place, he went to another, where work could be obtained. He was married in 1878, to Henrietta Rhodes, a daughter of J. T. and Mrs. M. E. Rhodes. Mrs. Schmidt is a native of Illinois and is a very estimable lady. They reared a large family of children, all of whom have been a credit to the name: Charles lives on a farm in Custer county; Robert married and went to Colorado, where he is engaged in farming; Bert, Alfred, and Clarence are working on the home farm; May Bassett lives in Canada; Alvina McDermott lives on a farm in this county; Etta Bales lives on a farm near Seneca; Zelma is at home; Paul died in infancy. The father homesteaded 160 acres of land and later bought another quarter-section, which made him a splendid farm. After his death, which occurred in 1902, the boys continued to run the place and they put on the present-day improvements, all of which are the result of their toil. They have done splendidly in maintaining the farm and making stock-raising profitable. They have a good grade of cattle, hogs, and horses. They own their own machinery and have the place in a high state of cultivation. The father belonged first to the Lutheran church but later, in this country, united with the Christian church. The nearest town is Merna where the boys are to-day well and favorably known and held in high respect as men of integrity and dependability. Looking at their premises to-day, one would hardly believe that their father began with nothing, lived in a sod house, and made his first money by husking corn down in Dale valley, and that for years it was a hard struggle to make ends meet and get the start with which profitable farming could be conducted.

LEE CORNISH.—Down in the Lodi section of the Wood River valley, Lee Cornish, with his young wife and child, has his splendid farm home. Mr. Cornish was born June 29, 1881, in Otsego county, New York. His par-

ents, Lyman W. and Eunice A. (Lowe) Cornish, were likewise born in Otsego county. Lyman W. Cornish was an industrious New York farmer, was a man of sterling character; was a communicant of the Baptist church and was affiliated with the Masonic fraternity. In the Lyman Cornish family were three children, two sons and one daughter: Arthur B. Cornish is a resident of the Lodi vicinity in Custer county. Mrs. Louisa L. Johnston is deceased. The third is Lee Cornish, the subject of this sketch.

In 1884 Lyman W. Cornish came with his family to Custer county and settled on a claim that had been previously entered by Jacob Ingraham, who sold his relinquishment to Mr. Cornish. This claim was located about three and one-half miles from the present site of Lodi. The family had the usual experiences incident to early pioneer life. All freight had to be hauled from Kearney or Lexington, for those were the days when no railroads reached the county. In 1890 Mr. Cornish put down the first hydraulic well in the west end of the Wood River valley, and for many years settlers hauled water from this well to the Redfern Table—some hauling as far as eight or ten miles. The neighbors at this time were F. E. Van Antwerp, S. N. Pierce, Jonas Hanson, C. L. Mougey, and others. Lee Cornish states that his sister, Mrs. Louisa (Cornish) Johnston, was the first school-teacher on the Redfern Table, and boarded in the home of James Whitehead.

Lee Cornish was married February 5, 1914, to Miss Florence Trexler, an amiable and competent young woman. Mrs. Cornish is a daughter of Filbert Trexler, who was a native of Pennsylvania. Her mother, whose maiden name was Lela Perkins, was a native of New York. Mr. and Mrs. Trexler were people of sterling worth and were staunch members of the Presbyterian church. Mrs. Cornish is a member of the same church. In the Trexler family were five children, two sons and three daughters—Harrison was the firstborn; Florence is the wife of Lee Cornish, subject of this review; Mrs. Esther H. Butts (whose husband is "somewhere in France" at the time of this writing); Burton R., a young bachelor, is serving his country in Company A, Tenth Engineering Forest Division, somewhere in France; and Helen I. is the youngest of the children.

Lee Cornish is a member of the Baptist church and is one of the faithful constituents of the little church at Lodi. Notwithstanding Mr. and Mrs. Cornish divide their religious affiliation, they are a family of sterling worth

and of commanding influence in the community. They have one child, a bright boy who is named after his maternal grandfather, Filbert Trexler.

Mr. Cornish bought the interests of his brother and sister in the old home estate, and that is now his home. It consists of 640 acres, with a school lease on an adjoining 160 acres. Thus the old original Cornish homestead still remains in the family. The present home, however, is vastly different from the primitive habitation of the pioneer days, and is one of which Mr. and Mrs. Cornish may well be proud.

Mr. Cornish is rated as a very successful farmer and stock-raiser, and as one of the citizens of whom Custer county is justly proud. When one looks at the Cornish farm, with its broad acres, its splendid equipment, and splendid invoice of live stock, it is interesting to remember that years ago Mr. Cornish made his first money by herding hogs for a neighbor. With his first money he intended to make his first investment—in a circus ticket. That was perhaps the first circus that ever visited Callaway. He arrived late, however, and found that the circus was not as promising as had been advertised, so he invested the circus money in a curry-comb, with which he afterward improved the appearance of his saddle pony, and from which, no doubt, he obtained more genuine satisfactory than he would if he had attended the show.

CHARLES E. HIMMELRIGHT.—Since 1892 Charles E. Himmelright has been a substantial and valued citizen of Custer county, and to him and his good wife are to be credited one of the splendid home of which the county boasts.

Mr. Himmelright was born in Iroquois county, Illinois, April 8, 1870, and is a son of Thomas and Louisa (Billings) Himmelright, the former a native of Ohio, and the latter of the Hoosier state, where their marriage was solemnized. The father enlisted in an Indiana regiment and served in the Union army for eighteen months in the Civil war. He came to Custer county with his family in 1892, bought land here, and here established his home. He is still a resident of the county. The mother, however, has passed to her reward in the realm beyond. In the father's family were five children—Retta Kelly, of Mason City; Maggie, the wife of John Cole, residing in Colorado; Charles E., the splendid citizen of whom we are writing; Gertie, married and living at St. Joseph, Michigan; and

Alfie, a resident of Ansley, Custer county, where he is engaged in the well-digging business. The family hold the faith of the Christian church, and the father is an honored member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Charles E. Himmelright received his early education in Illinois, where in the public schools he qualified himself for the transaction of business and for useful citizenship. In 1882 he went to Kansas, where he remained nearly five years, coming in 1887 to Aurora, Nebraska, from which place he removed to Custer county in 1892.* Here he bought a farm of 200 acres and established his home. He developed the farm, put up good buildings, and has made it a very attractive and comfortable, as well as profitable, place.

October 3, 1898, recorded the marriage of Mr. Himmelright to Mrs. Ella Ritenour, a sister of Benjamin P. Morris, who is well and favorably known in Custer county and a review of whose career appears on other pages of this volume. The first marriage of Mrs. Himmelright was with Willis Ritenour, and by this union she had four children — John, Anton, Ada, and Newell — all residing in Ansley except Newell, who entered the military service of his country when the nation became involved in the great world war and who was on active duty in France at the time when the war came to a close. Mr. and Mrs. Himmelright have three children — Floyd, Twila, and Ina, and they are cheery members of the pleasant home circle.

Mr. and Mrs. Himmelright are members of the Christian church, and in a fraternal way he is actively affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party.

On the home place Mr. Himmelright is doing a general farming and stock-raising business. Hogs and cattle are given special attention, and he has a small herd of Short-horn registered cattle from which he is breeding a splendid type of beef and milk stock. When on the place you look around and see the improvements and the representation of wealth and labor, you would scarcely realize that this energetic farmer began with nothing and has accumulated all by his own efforts.

JOSEPH MORONEY. — The agricultural and stock-raising industries of Custer county have a worthy representative in the subject of this review and he is accounted one of the public-spirited and substantial men of his community.

Joseph Moroney was born at Trenton, New

Jersey, November 2, 1866. His father, Martin Moroney, was a native of County Clare, Ireland, and when a young man came to the United States and found employment as a "nailer," in the days when nails were made by hand. In New Jersey he married Miss Mary Daugherty, also a native of Ireland, and in 1876 they become residents of Grundy county, Illinois. In 1885 Martin Moroney became a settler of Custer county, where he secured a homestead of 160 acres — the northeast quarter of section 4, township 18, range 22 — and preempted the northwest quarter of the same section. Pioneer conditions were to be found on every side, and the first home of the Moroney family was a primitive sod house, this having been the family domicile for many years. On this farm Martin Moroney and his good wife spent the remainder of their days, passing away when well advanced in years — both having reached the age of eighty years when called to their final rest. They became the parents of five children, two of whom died in infancy. Those living are: John, whose whereabouts are unknown; Joseph, of this sketch; and Mary, the widow of Thomas Condon.

Joseph Moroney accompanied his parents to Custer county and the old homestead has always been the scene of his activities, first as a young man assisting his father in the operation of the farm, and, after the death of his father, by his coming into possession of the property. He has added to the original acreage and is to-day the owner of 580 acres. The sod house has been replaced by a modern frame dwelling, erected two years ago, equipped with electric lights, pipeless furnace heat, and hot and cold water. It is a beautiful country home and speaks well for the progressive spirit of its owner.

In Custer county, on the 9th of November, 1898, Mr. Moroney married Miss Elizabeth Farritor, a native of Pennsylvania, and a daughter of James and Ann (McDonald) Farritor, of whom further mention is made on other pages of this history. Mr. and Mrs. Moroney have become the parents of five children, all of whom are still at home. Their names are: John F., Monica Marie, Josephine Elizabeth, Coletta Angela, and Thomas J.

The family are communicants of the Catholic church and in politics Mr. Moroney is a Democrat.

CHRIS NELSON. — This is the story of one of the very early settlers, the man who had hair-raising experiences and passed through all the hardships and privations inci-



(ABOVE) HOME OF JOSEPH MORONEY. (BELOW) OLD HOME OF MARTIN MORONEY

dent to the first days and who is a reliable farmer of Danish extraction.

Chris Nelson was born February 1, 1849, in Denmark. His father was Nels Christensen and his mother Anna M. Nelson, each descended from a long Danish line, and they had four children: Rasmus, Christina, Chris, and Anna. Nels Christensen, the father, came to the United States when young Chris was so small that he cannot remember. It was the intention of the father to make money as fast as he could, but things did not go as well with him here as he expected. When the Civil war broke out, he enlisted in a cavalry regiment under General Crook, as a substitute for a rich man's son, and he served three years, rendering valuable service. Just before being mustered out, he was one of the guards that held the Lincoln assassins. He received a wound at Vicksburg. After the war, the little money that he had he was persuaded to invest in an oil proposition, which proved to be a kind of "get-rich-quick" scheme that worked only one way, and that way was not in the direction of the investor. The investment was lost and there was no money to send for the family. The mother worked hard, kept the little family together, gave them the advantages of school and Chris kept himself busy and managed to learn the blacksmith trade, by the time he was twenty-one. Then he and his mother, one brother and one sister, came to America and joined the father at North Platte, after a long separation. They came to Custer county in 1877 and Chris located about five miles northwest of Callaway. Paul Syerson came at the same time and located in the same locality. The two were neighbors and worked together at most anything that came to their hands. They went into a canyon and cut and stacked hay for their stock. Then trouble with cattlemen ensued. Cowboys came to interview the settlers, asked what they were doing and what they intended to do with the hay they were putting up. Nelson and Syerson declared it was for their own use, and that they expected to start farming. The cowboys then issued the verdict that they could not farm in that locality and that they would starve to death if they tried it. After they were gone, Nelson remarked that something was up, "but I cannot tell what it is." They decided to take precautions, and kept their stock tied and were prepared to receive "visitors" most any time—and sure enough they came. One night, about ten or twelve o'clock, the cowboys came riding down the canyon, and when they found that Chris and his friend Paul Syerson were both at home,

they pretended to be lost and tried hard to separate the two by getting one of them to go and show them the way down to the Gasman ranch. But the ruse did not work. They were finally told by Chris that he knew what they were there for and that they were not lost, but that they would be, if they hung around there any longer. This had the desired effect, and the cowboys rode off.

Chris' father was a trapper and at that time was trapping near the ranch where the cowboys were employed. The morning after their episode with Chris Nelson, the father dropped in at the ranch house to get warm and the boys told him that he should have been with them last night, as they had been out trying to scare a couple of grangers out of the country, but failed to get them separated and that one of them was a young husky who didn't scare very well.

In November, 1879, at North Platte, Chris Nelson was united in marriage to Julia Schreyer, a native of Wisconsin, and a daughter of John G. and Sofia Schreyer, both of whom were natives of Germany. The young couple established their home, faced the difficulties of the day, overcame the handicaps of the frontier and have made a success of everything they have undertaken. Eleven children have come to the home: Mrs. Mary Kelly is living at Tacoma. Mr. Kelly is a bookkeeper for a transportation company. They have five children. Rosetta is the wife of Jesse Woodward, a farmer living near Callaway, and they have five children. Sofia is the wife of John Carlson, a lumberman in Washington, and they have three children. John is living on a farm of 320 acres, twelve miles west of Callaway, and he and his wife have two children. Anna is the wife of Elmer Nicholson, a farmer living in the vicinity of Callaway, and they have two children. Tina is the wife of Del Butler and they live on a farm near Finchville; they have four children. Ray married Anna Sorensen and is a farmer near Milldale. Margaret is the wife of William Lyons and they live on a farm near Milldale; they have one child. Agnes is the wife of Asa Ryan, who is a farmer living five and one-half miles northwest of Callaway, and they have one child. Willis, fourteen, and Albert, twelve years of age, are at home with their parents and are in school.

Mr. Nelson earned his first money when a boy seven years of age, by watching and changing picketed cows in his native country. He there contracted the industrious habits and power of close application that have made his success in Custer county possible. He has a

good farm, a splendid home, has made his money by farming and stock-raising, and in all his activities Mrs. Nelson has rendered valuable assistance. They have reared a fine family of children and are rated well in the community. Politically, Mr. Nelson affiliates with the Democratic party.

FRED NORDEN.—Domiciled in one of the comfortable homes in Custer county, within range of the Ansley postoffice, is one of Custer county's farmers who, being of German descent, is one of the best citizens as well as one of the most thrifty farmers to be found in any part of the county.

Fred Norden is a native of Germany, where he was born February 16, 1861. His parents, Johaan and Eldra (Myer) Norden, were both German people of strong characteristics, energetic and frugal. The mother died in Germany; the father came to the United States in 1882 and settled at Victor, Iowa, where he remained until the time of his death. In the immediate family of Johaan Norden were seven children. Three of them, Fred, Herman, and Henry, at the present time are living near Ansley, where they are conducting farm operations. All were formerly members of the Lutheran church, but they are now affiliated with the Methodist church.

Fred Norden lived in Germany until 1882, when he came to the United States with his father, making Iowa his first home. From that state they immigrated to Custer county in 1887. Fred Norden pre-empted and homesteaded a quarter-section of land and entered at once into the varied experiences of a Custer county farmer and pioneer. The first home was a sod house, in which he and his family lived until they built the present comfortable farm house, in 1889.

The same year that he came to Custer county Mr. Norden married Anna Lohman, who was a native of Germany and who proved his faithful helpmeet and home companion until her death. Mr. and Mrs. Norden became the parents of five children: Edward lives at the parental home; Mary is a Red Cross nurse at Little Rock, Arkansas; Fred lives at North Loup, Nebraska, where he conducts farming operations; and Frieda and Minnie are still under the parental roof.

Mr. Norden has 480 acres of fine land which he leases and operates in connection with his own holding, which makes a farm of a total area of about 1,000 acres. Mr. Norden commenced with nothing, and all of his possessions have been acquired by the work of his

own hands and by his own efforts, so that in this he offers a good illustration of what pluck and energy can do when applied in the right direction on a Custer county farm. He is a member of the Methodist church, as was also his wife, who passed away May 9, 1917.

FRANZ KOBL.—The blood of Moravia, Bohemia, flows in the veins of some of the staunchest citizens of Custer county. They have been pioneers and among the first and best of our citizens. One of these is the sterling citizen whose name is recorded above.

Mr. Kobl was born in Moravia in April, 1837, and he is a son of Wincil and Sarah Kobl, who spent their entire lives in Moravia. They became the parents of five children, but Franz was the only one who ventured so far from home as to come to the United States. He landed in this country in 1881, and came directly to Custer county, where he at once selected a homestead. Here he lived in a sod house for sixteen years, after which time he was able to build the splendid farm residence the family now occupies.

In 1882 Mr. Kobl married Marie Jelenek, and of the children of this union eight are living: Fannie is the wife of Joseph Kopecka, living in Oklahoma; Mary is the wife of Frank Tomselek, a Custer county farmer; Frank is at home; Anna is the wife of Vincel Kucera and they are living in Oklahoma; Rosa is the wife of Joseph Malear and they reside in Montana; Julia is the wife of Austin Martin, of Tecumseh, Nebraska; and Joseph and Edward are at home.

This home place of Mr. Kobl comprises a half-section of good land, upon which a general farming and stock-raising business is transacted, and the farm presents the appearance of thrift and success, both of which are attributed to Mr. Kobl. The family belong to the Catholic church, and in politics Mr. Kobl generally votes the Republican ticket.

HARDY B. KLUMP.—One of the representative farmers of Custer county, in the full vigor of middle life, with blood of German extraction flowing through his veins, energized by birth and residence in the free land of America, is the man designated above. Hardy B. Klump was born in Willow, Illinois, in 1878, and is a son of Jacob B. and Jane (Parkison) Klump. The father was of German birth, a man of strong character who has accumulated a respectable fortune and is spending the years of a comfortable retirement in

Broken Bow. The father came to this country as a youth and later enlisted in the service of the Union, and was a valiant soldier during the Civil war. The mother, who was a native of Illinois, died in 1896. The father has since remarried. In the family circle to which Hardy B. Klump belongs were nine children: Sophia Bertrand lives on a farm near King City, Missouri; Herman lives on a farm near Ringgold, Nebraska; Julia Halliwell lives on a farm near Merna; Fred, like his brother Herman, is on a farm near Ringgold; May lives near Merna; Ruby Hackbeth lives at Hershey, Nebraska; Olive is in the state of Washington, where she is engaged in teaching; Hardy B. was the seventh child; and August is farming near Gandy.

Hardy B. Klump received a good education and during the war of 1898 enlisted in the service of the government and served in the First Nebraska Regiment, in the Philippine Islands. This was the first money that he earned. During his war service he spent about one year in Manila and its vicinity.

In Custer county Mr. Klump homesteaded 160 acres of land and then secured a lease on a section of school land. This makes him a very large and productive farm, with practically 440 acres under cultivation. He maintains a good grade of horses and hogs, and has put on all the improvements himself. When the property came into his possession there were only two small frame shacks on the land. Everything now to be seen on the premises is the product of his toil. Mr. Klump's disposition is to make himself generally useful. While he is an independent voter, he is always concerned for his friends and anxious to see the man of best qualifications elected. He has been a road overseer of his district a number of years and also a school director, and in these local offices he has charged himself with fostering the best interests of the community. It can be truthfully said that he is a representative Custer county farmer—one of industrious habits, one who is a good manager and has discerning judgment.

WILLIAM E. WARDROBE.—The subject of this record has been identified with the agricultural interests of Custer county for many years, and has seen the county develop from a pioneer district to one of beautiful homes and farms, with here and there thriving villages and towns.

William E. Wardrobe was born at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, October 15, 1861. His parents, James and Margaret (Thompson) Wardrobe, were natives of Scotland, in which country

they were married, and in 1851 they immigrated to America, settling at Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The father who was a machinist by trade, later moved to Dane county, and he continued to reside in Wisconsin until 1877, when he came with his family to Nebraska and lived in Fillmore county. In 1883 he came to Custer county and secured a homestead in township 18, range 23, where he lived for many years, and for a long time he was postmaster at Rest—until advanced years compelled him to write to Washington and get released from the position. He passed away at the home of his son James, in Logan county, at the age of eighty-seven years, and his wife also spent her last days in Logan county. They were devout Christian people, well versed in the Scriptures, and they were members of the Presbyterian church until past seventy years of age, when they changed their views on some of the doctrines of that denomination and were baptised in and united with the Baptist church. They were among the early settlers of their community and had their share of privations and other hardships. They were the parents of three children: Ann was born in Scotland and became the wife of John Schmitz, an early settler of Custer county: they were married in Wisconsin and she is now a widow, residing on the old homestead; James is a farmer and resides in Custer county; and William E. is the subject of this review.

William E. Wardrobe was reared on a farm in Dane county, Wisconsin, and the home farm in Fillmore county, Nebraska. The next year after his father came to Custer county William E. likewise came to the county, where he secured a homestead—the northwest quarter of section 4, township 17, range 23. The land had been surveyed, but the first wagon tracks made on the north and west sides of this section were made by Mr. Wardrobe when he drove up to the spot where he erected his sod house and cast in his lot with the first settlers on West Table. The securing of water for stock and family use was a serious proposition in those early times, and it was necessary to go 400 feet or more to strike water. The machinery and methods of boring and fighting quicksand, were of primitive order, and a well was a luxury. Mr. Wardrobe hauled water thirteen years before he had a well on his place. But the men and women who dared venture into a new country were of such caliber that hardships were made easy, and obstacles were overcome to the extent that by persistent effort and good management those who had the courage and foresight to stay in Custer county have reached the goal of success.

For a wife and helpmeet Mr. Wardrobe chose Miss Martha F. Rice, who was born in Missouri, a daughter of William J. Rice, who is mentioned on other pages of this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Wardrobe have become the parents of five children: William J. married Sarah Beardsley and they are residents of Custer county; Margaret is the wife of Frank Seevers, a farmer of Custer county; Lessie is the wife of Ernest Stinespring, and they are residents of Custer county; Hazle is the wife of Ray Stuppelbeen, of Custer county; and Elva is still with her parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Wardrobe are members of the Baptist church, and in politics Mr. Wardrobe is a liberal Democrat, voting for men and measures regardless of party ties. Mr. Wardrobe has watched the development of Custer county and is enthusiastic over the agricultural opportunities to be found here. He has been successful in his undertakings and is the owner of three quarter-sections of good farming land. The old sod house has been replaced with a frame structure, and William E. Wardrobe is one of the substantial men of his community.

GEORGE RIMPLEY.—The blood of thrifty German stock flowing through the veins of the Custer county ranchman and stockman whose name is displayed in this title line, has enriched Custer county and paid generous tribute to its productions. George Rimpley was born in Germany April 18, 1846. He is a son of Frederick and Mary M. Rimpley, in whose family were the following named children: Carl, Frederick, Theodore, George, Mary, Lota, Annie, and Louise.

Young George Rimpley came to America and landed in New York in 1855. He was accompanied by his uncle. Here he found his first employment as a gardener, and he worked for one dollar a month and board. Later he made his way to Burlington, Iowa, where he worked on a farm for two years, after which he secured a position in the Burlington flour mills. He soon found himself foreman in the mill and in six months he was running the engine. He followed the work for nine years, and then enlisted in Company A, Thirtieth New York Infantry, in 1864. He served one year and eleven months, under General Sherman, and he was mustered out at Richmond, Virginia. He had part in engagements at City Point and in front of Petersburg. After leaving the army he found employment as engineer in a paper mill at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. There he stayed four years, and he then went to Des Moines, for the same company.

While in Cedar Rapids he was united in marriage, November 4, 1873, to Miss Etta Parkus, a daughter of Franklin and Sara A. Parkus. The Rimpley home has never been lonesome. Fifteen children have been born into the family circle. Letta Matan lives with her husband at Prosser, Nebraska, and they have one son and four daughters. They are members of the Methodist church. Charles, who is a farmer living near Logan, Nebraska, married Alice Kimberling, and they have two sons and one daughter. They are members of the Baptist church. Frederick, who is living on a farm near Arnold, married Evelyn Philpot, and they have three daughters. The father and mother belong to the Methodist church. Mary is the wife of Oral Gunter, a farmer living near Arnold, and they have one daughter and two sons. They are members of the Baptist church. Carrie married Chester Blakesley, a farmer living near Lomax. William married Ises Smith and lives on a farm near Arnold, and they have two daughters. Sadie is the wife of Walter Holt, a farmer living on the West Table, and they have one son and one daughter. They are members of the Nazarene church. Aaron married Beulah McGee and lives on a farm near Arnold. They are members of the Methodist church. Arthur is single and is farming part of his father's land. Anna is the wife of Emmett O'Brien, of Hoagland, Nebraska. Everett lives at home and is attending school. Florence is a school girl, living at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Rimpley date their residence in Custer county from the spring of 1883, at which time they located two miles southwest of Arnold, which place has been their home for thirty-five years. Mr. Rimpley made his money by farming and stock-raising. For several years he has handled two thousand dollars' worth of hogs, hauling them in wagons to Merna. He is one of the pioneers who have made good, who tested the resources of the county, and who, by thrift and good management, has become the owner of 600 acres of valuable land. He and his good wife enjoy the confidence of their friends and neighbors, and are well and favorably known by a large circle of friends. He has thoroughly proved his loyalty to his adopted land. He served as a valiant soldier of the Union in the Civil war, and in connection with the great world war he has been a liberal contributor to the Red Cross and the Young Men's Christian Association, as well as a heavy purchaser of Liberty bonds and war stamps. Every one of his boys was in the draft age, but, because of the coming of peace, their services were not required.

Locally he has served as school director and road overseer for a number of years. He is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and he and his wife are Lutherans in religious affiliation.

FREDERICK L. HOFFMAN. — This paragraph presents the name of a man widely known throughout the southern portion of the county as a stockman and rancher — a man who has given some time to business and in many ways can be referred to as one of the substantial citizens of Arnold and vicinity. "Lace" Hoffman, as he is familiarly known, was born October 22, 1871, in Fairmont, New Jersey. He is the second born of the children of Frederick P. and Mary (Cannedy) Hoffman, the former a native of New Jersey and the latter of Illinois. In the immediate family of Frederick Hoffman were nine children: Anna May, Frederick L., Elizabeth L. Knox, Philip K., Rosella Wood, Margaret Long, Oritt L., Willie W. (deceased), Silas B., and Paul H. The parents belonged to the Presbyterian church, of which they were prominent and devoted members — persons uniformly respected and highly rated in the communities where they were known. In 1884 Frederick P. Hoffman came with his family to Dawson county, Nebraska, where he located upon a homestead. Here it was that Frederick L. Hoffman passed his boyhood days and ran the gamut of the public schools, in which he received a fundamental education that has served him well in the business transactions of his active life. He worked on the farm until he was about eighteen years of age, and then he secured work with the ranchmen of that locality. It was thus that he formed his early predilections for the stock business, in which he has since become an adept. Shortly after being thrown upon his own resources Mr. Hoffman organized a hay outfit and in the summer and fall of those early years he put up hay on contract, for Dan Haskell and other stockmen, sometimes putting up as many as 100 tons in a day.

On April 29, 1899, at Broken Bow, Mr. Hoffman led to the marriage altar Miss Eolia Lowe, the marriage ceremony being performed by the Rev. S. C. Cadwell, a well known Baptist clergyman of the pioneer days. Mrs. Hoffman is a native of Adrian, Michigan, and is a daughter of Burlin W. and Fannie E. (Gaylor) Lowe, both of whom were natives of the Empire state, Baptists by church connection and highly connected with local societies. In her father's family, aside from herself, were the following named children: Eber C., Ethel

C., Arnott E., and Elroy P. Since their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman have maintained always a very comfortable and hospitable home. Whether on the ranch or in the town of Arnold, where their present home is located, they have always been surrounded with the comforts of life and into their home have been born three bright children, Florence M., who at present is a high-school student in Arnold; and Weir and Maxine E.

Mr. Hoffman has been a resident of Custer county since 1887. His first location was eight miles southwest of Lodi, and there he engaged in the stock business, which has been the major occupation of his entire career. The cattle business comes naturally to him. He can see the merits or demerits of the bovine species half way across a thousand-acre pasture. The cattle business has served him well and been profitable. He commenced in a small way. The first money he earned was by cracking peach stones for twenty-five cents a basket, and it required a good, long day to crack one basket full. The first team he owned was purchased on time, from the First National Bank of Lexington. To-day Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman are secure in the comforts of life and well provided for any emergency that may arise. They have 3,000 acres of land, 150 head of cattle, thirty horses, and over 100 head of hogs. The main ranch which Mr. Hoffman operates is located six miles east of Arnold, in the Powell canyon. The Hoffmans are well connected socially and are members of the First Baptist church of Arnold. Highly respected in the community, they deserve the esteem in which they are held by their wide circle of friends.

HENRY T. MICHELE, who is one of the extensive land owners and progressive farmers of Custer county, is a native son of Nebraska, his birth having occurred in Saline county. He is a son of Christopher and Gertrude (Stangl) Michele, who were born in Germany, where their marriage occurred and where they made their home until 1863, when they came to the United States. They resided in Iowa a few years and then became pioneer settlers of Saline county, Nebraska. There they followed agricultural pursuits until 1883, when they came to Custer county and purchased a homestead claim of 160 acres — the southeast quarter of section 9, township 18, range 22. Their first home was in keeping with the times and was constructed of sod, this serving as the home of the family till the death of the father. The mother passed away at Anselmo. Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Michele came to Custer



RESIDENCE OF HENRY T. MICHELE



PIONEER RESIDENCE OF CHRISTOPHER MICHELE

county at a period when settlers were few and far between, when but little improvement had been made, and when the usual pioneer hardships and privations were to be endured. They were among the worthy pioneers who were not afraid to venture and whose labors have made Custer county a better place in which to live. They were the parents of eight children and were faithful communicants of the Catholic church.

Henry T. Michele was a lad of eight years when he accompanied his parents to Custer county. His boyhood days were spent in the usual manner of farm lads, and as his years and strength increased he assisted in the operation and development of the homestead. When he became a man he acquired from his father title to the home place and engaged in farming for himself. That he has been successful is evidenced by the fact that he has extended the boundaries of his possessions by the purchase of another quarter section of land, all of which, together with a quarter which he operates under lease, he is devoting to general farming and stock-raising. He also operates a threshing outfit, which adds materially to his income.

On February 7, 1900, was solemnized the marriage of Henry T. Michele to Miss Anna Fleishman, who was born in Wisconsin. Mrs. Michele is a daughter of Con Fleishman, who was an early settler of Custer county and whose record is to be found elsewhere in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Michele have become the parents of eight children, all of whom are still under the parental roof. Their names are Leo, Raymond, George, Paul, Frances, Irene, Catherine, and Gertrude.

As an evidence in the change in conditions in Custer county, the old sod house has given place to a beautiful frame dwelling, which Mr. Michele has erected since he came into possession of the old home. The family belong to the Catholic church and in politics Mr. Michele is a Democrat. He has taken an active interest in those things which have to do with the uplift of the community and has served on the school board since a young man of twenty-one years.

WILLIAM C. BELTZ.—The story of William C. Beltz reveals a varied experience and discloses the fact that during his younger years he was somewhat of a traveler and turned his hand to a good many occupations. That he made good at most of them is evidenced by the fact that he is to-day a property owner, a man of substantial influence, and prepared to

live under conditions of comparative ease. He was born September 25, 1858, in Bedford county, Pennsylvania. His parents, John A. and Sophia (Nycum) Beltz, were natives of Pennsylvania and members of the German Reformed church. In their family were seven children of whom William C. is the eldest, the others being: Elizabeth (deceased), Laura B. Ruddy, John S., Bruce B., Harvey A., and Burton E. The father was a soldier in the Civil war, in which he served three years in a Pennsylvania regiment of volunteers. In the Battle of the Wilderness he was severely wounded. The home place where young William C. Beltz received his early training was near Manns Choice, Bedford county, Pennsylvania, where his father died. William stayed under the home roof until 1884, when he came directly to Custer county and secured a position in the livery barn of William Nycum, of Arnold. In the spring of 1885 he accompanied Chris Hazlebaker to the headwaters of the Dismal river and helped him to locate a claim. That winter he hired out as "cow puncher" on the T. L. V. ranch, some eighteen miles northwest of Arnold. He was employed on this ranch three years, then made a trip to Utah, and later he returned to Nebraska and took a course in the Grand Island Business College. From Grand Island he returned to Arnold, and he reports that when he arrived at Arnold he was broke. He and a young man named Charlie Kuhns, now living in Maxwell, formed a partnership for the summer and handled Singer sewing machines. In the fall their assets consisted of a bunch of broncos worth from ten to fifteen dollars each, and a big board bill. After this experience Mr. Beltz again tried his luck on the T. L. V. ranch, where he worked eighteen months. About this time his thoughts turned to matrimony, and in the spring of 1893, at Arnold, he was united in marriage to Miss Emma S. Burk, who was born in Illinois, and who is a daughter of James F. and Martha (Crabb) Burk. Since their marriage, Mrs. Beltz has been her husband's faithful helpmeet and a splendid home-maker. In the father's family were six children: John B., William, Laura Rogers, Hattie Needham, Emma S. Beltz, and Albert.

In the home Mr. and Mrs. Beltz established, plenty and comfort have always prevailed. In their family circle are three children: Loyd S., who is "somewhere in France" at the time of this writing, is a corporal in Company H, Three Hundred and Fifty-second Infantry, Eighty-eighth Division, A. P. O. 795, American Expeditionary Forces. He is

a graduate of the Arnold high school. Harry R. and Hazel are still under the parental roof. Hazel is a graduate and Harry is a student of the Arnold high school. For eight years Mr. and Mrs. Beltz lived in Mills Valley, where they rented a farm and followed agricultural pursuits. After this they came to Arnold, where he conducted a hardware business about two years. Then he purchased 160 acres adjoining Arnold on the west, which is his present home. It is a well improved, valuable piece of land, and to-day he is prepared to take life easy. He laughs at the hardships of the pioneer days and thinks that this is a pretty fair country for a man who has any ambition. He has filled several local offices — was assessor three years, town clerk several years — and he is a member of the Masonic lodge and the Christian church. He affiliates politically with the Democratic party. Mr. and Mrs. Beltz are good neighbors and have a host of friends.

JOHN MORAN, who has been identified with important business enterprises in Custer county for more than thirty years, has been one of the leading factors in the upbuilding of the progressive town of Callaway. Mr. Moran was born in the city of Boston, Massachusetts, February 11, 1855. His father, Patrick Moran, was born in Ireland, and his mother, Mary Moran, was born in Scotland, and they were married in New Foundland. From there they immigrated to the United States and the father, who was a machinist and blacksmith, found work in Boston, Massachusetts. The mother died soon afterward, leaving three children: John, who was then an infant, is the subject of this sketch; Patrick H. is deceased; and Anna is the wife of James McGarrigle, a stock dealer living in a suburb of Boston, and they have five children.

John Moran was six years old when his father died, and then he went to live with a cousin, William McGlaughlin, who sent him to school and took care of him until he was about ten years old, when the boy began to provide in part for his own necessities. He worked up a newspaper route and for two years delivered the morning and evening editions of the Boston Herald, a copy of which sometimes reaches him and in these later years naturally possesses much interest. John was about twelve years old when he secured a job in a custom tailoring shop, in which he worked two years. He then became a clerk in a clothing and furnishing store, where he gained mercantile experience that was of great value

to him. In 1875 he went to Ottumwa, Iowa, as a member of a surveying crew for the Burlington Railroad, and afterward he was a brakeman for two seasons. Then promotion followed — he served as a freight conductor and finally was made passenger conductor. When the company took on the new branch lines, Mr. Moran's ability and fidelity were given recognition, in his appointment to the office of assistant superintendent of the Humes-ton & Shanando Railroad, and he had entire charge of the construction until the line was finished.

At that time Mr. Moran conceived the idea of going into the cattle business in Nebraska, and in October, 1883, he came to Custer county with that intention. After further investigation, however, he changed his mind and decided to engage in the mercantile business, in which he had had experience. He formed a partnership with Harry E. O'Niell and they put in a large stock of general merchandise at a point then bearing the name of Olax, where a postoffice had been established. This embryonic town was situated thirty-five miles north of Plum Creek, and is now the town of Lexington. Later, in 1885, the firm established a branch store at the postoffice village of Delight, the original name of Callaway. The above partnership continued until 1886, when it was dissolved, Mr. O'Niell taking up the practice of law. Mr. Moran continued the business at Olax for a short time and then sold that store to the firm of Crossett & Johnson, who moved the building to Oconto, where it is utilized at present by George Mary as a hardware store. In the course of time the townsite of Callaway was platted and the post-office name was changed, the name of Delight being now almost forgotten. As Callaway, through capital and enterprise, became an important shipping point, Mr. Moran assisted in the general progress by enlarging his business interests, and he continued the leading merchant until he retired from that field of enterprise, in 1914. He then engaged in the insurance, real-estate, and farm-loan business, handling life, health, accident, fire, tornado, hail, automobile, and live-stock insurance. He is a Knight Templar Mason and a Shriner and is past worthy patron in the Order of the Eastern Star.

Mr. Moran was married September 10, 1885, at Ottumwa, Iowa, to Miss Minnie Konantz, of that place, who is a daughter of Joseph and Margaret (Lunkley) Konantz, the former of whom, a railroad man, was born in Germany, and the latter of whom was born in Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Moran have four

children: Robert E., John O., Walter E., and Cora A. This is a patriotic family, and at the time of this writing two of Mr. Moran's sons are in the service of their country, while the third son is preparing for service. The eldest, Robert E. Moran, is a graduate of Boyle's Business College, Omaha, and before enlisting in the national army he was manager of his father's large department store, besides having been assistant postmaster for eighteen months. He is now in France and is a corporal in the Three Hundred and Eighteenth Engineer Corps. John Moran, Jr., attended Creighton University for six years, was graduated in the law department and was employed as one of the legal staff of the Union Pacific Railroad for one year, after which he opened an office for general practice. While with the Union Pacific he had become acquainted with officials of the Oregon Short Line, who were impressed with his legal ability, and he was engaged by that road as a specialist on interstate commerce law. A bright professional future undoubtedly was interrupted when, from a loyal sense of duty he enlisted, June 28, 1918, making choice of the marine branch of the United States navy. Walter E. Moran is a graduate of the Callaway high school and continued with the Callaway Telephone Company until such time, as a selective, he should be called to the colors. Cora A., the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Moran, is the wife of Arthur R. Young, clerk in a hardware store at Callaway, and they have one daughter, Margaret A.

VIRGIL ALLYN, who is probably one of the best known cattlemen in western Nebraska, has a beautiful home and large ranch interests near Callaway. He is a pioneer of the county, which has been his home for forty years. Mr. Allyn was born in Posey county, Indiana, December 17, 1849. His parents were Philo H. and Sarah A. (Welborn) Allyn, the latter a daughter of Moses Welborn, who was a native of North Carolina. Virgil Allyn was the firstborn of the family of six children, the others being: Joseph, Mary, and William, all of whom are deceased; Julia A., who is the wife of James W. Thompson, a professional accountant at Denver, Colorado; and Charles H., who is a ranchman near Denver: he married Minnie Tesch and they have one son.

Virgil Allyn was four years old when his parents moved to Missouri and settled near St. Joseph, where he was reared and attended school. His first land was bought with the money he earned while working with his fa-

ther in buying and feeding stock. This purchase was one of eighty acres of prairie, and with the proceeds of the sale of the land he went into the mule business at St. Joseph, being then twenty-three years old. He continued this first mule market in that city for eighteen months, shipping to St. Louis, and then he went to Chicago and for the next four years bought cattle for Swift & Company. In 1878 Mr. Allyn came to Custer county and located on the South Loup river, eighteen miles southwest of Broken Bow. He organized the Brighton Ranch Cattle Company, with an investment of \$180,000, 7,200 acres of land, 5,000 head of cattle, and 100 head of horses. Mr. Allyn was manager, and had charge of operations about ten years, by which time Custer county had become so thickly settled that it was deemed best to close operations. Many cattlemen in Custer and other counties remember the palmy days of the business on the South Loup river and recall Mr. Allyn as a princely host. He still owns 720 acres of the old ranch, and has 280 acres west of Callaway, 150 acres of which he has in alfalfa.

In June, 1877, Mr. Allyn married Miss Mary Jane Mintun, of Chicago, Illinois, and she died on the home ranch, in 1888, leaving no children. Mr. Allyn's second marriage took place in 1889, when Miss Arvilla Kern became his wife. She is a daughter of William and Marinda (Bennett) Kern. Mr. and Mrs. Allyn have had three children: Virgil is deceased; Winnie is the wife of Jesse May, a farmer whose land joins Mr. Allyn's on the north, and they have two children; and Marjorie.

It is worthy of special note in this sketch, as a matter of historic interest, that Mr. Allyn was the first to introduce, in 1882, in Custer county the propagation of alfalfa, he having secured the seed from California. He also brought into the county the first white-face, short-horn Angus cattle, in January, 1883.

JOHN F. WESTCOTT. — The value of a useful and essential trade and of making one's efforts count, are exemplified in the career of John F. Westcott, one of the well known citizens of Comstock, where he has been engaged as a carpenter and builder for a number of years. He is one of the substantial and reliable men of his community, a skilled artisan and mechanic, and one who values high principles, and endeavors to live up to all the rules of business and good citizenship. He is a native of Green county, Wisconsin, where he was born June 29, 1861, and is a son of John and Matilda (Fort) Westcott.

The parents of Mr. Westcott were born at Saratoga Springs, New York, the former September 26, 1825, and the latter August 6, 1825, and there they were reared, educated and married. In 1855 they migrated to Wisconsin, where Mr. Westcott bought government land in Green county. There he was industriously engaged in both farming and following his trade as a cabinetmaker until the Civil war came on to interrupt his activities. While residing in New York he had been a member of the state militia, rising from the rank of corporal to that of second lieutenant, and in Wisconsin, in March, 1865, he enlisted in Company I, Forty-sixth Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until he received his honorable discharge, in September, 1865. During his army service he contracted in camp a disease from which he never recovered, it finally causing his death in February, 1867. He was a Republican in politics, but never held or cared for office. His widow survived him by many years, passing away in the faith of the Presbyterian church, in October, 1897, when seventy-two years of age. They were the parents of the following children: Eda and Ada are twins, the former being the wife of George Houser, a farmer in the vicinity of Dunning, Nebraska, and the latter the widow of Robert Cooper and a resident of Walworth, Custer county; John F., of this review, was the next in order of birth; Eliza C. taught school in Wisconsin for two years and then came to Nebraska, where she has been teaching for thirty-five years, the last twenty years in the public schools of Omaha; and Kate, deceased, was the wife of the late Newton Taylor, they having been prominent pioneers of Custer county and their only son, John, being, at the time of this writing, in service with the American Expeditionary Forces "somewhere in France."

John F. Westcott was educated in the public schools of Wisconsin, and as a youth showed much mechanical ability, probably inherited from his father. However, when he entered upon his career he elected to follow the vocation of agriculturist, and accordingly homesteaded a tract of land south of the town of Wescott. On this place he resided seventeen years. The location of the railroad changed the destinies of Wescott and Comstock, the latter being the favored town, and to this community Mr. Westcott came, here establishing himself and seeking business as a carpenter and builder. Patronage was not long in coming to him, as he showed himself reliable, trustworthy, capable, and industrious, and with the passage of the years he has succeeded in

building up an excellent custom among the people of Comstock and the surrounding communities, where there are many structures to show evidence of his skill and good workmanship. Mr. Westcott is a Republican, but not a politician, and his only public service has been as a member of the board of directors of school district No. 1, which was the first schoolhouse erected in Custer county.

Mr. Westcott was married July 20, 1892, to Miss Lillian L. Cleaveland, at Wescott, she being a daughter of Elias and Alma (Hutchinson) Cleaveland, who are natives of the state of Maine and who came to Custer county in 1883; here they bought land and secured tree claims, and both are now residents of Comstock, after many years of successful agricultural effort. Mr. and Mrs. Westcott have no children.

JOHN B. SCHMITZ.—One of the early settlers of Custer county, a man who was faithful to every trust and who spent the best years of his life in helping to make his community a better place in which to live, was the honored pioneer whose name initiates this memoir.

John B. Schmitz was born in Waukesha county, Wisconsin, January 16, 1847, and was a son of Henry and Gertrude (Krumhultz) Schmitz. The parents were natives of Germany and came to America in 1845, locating in Wisconsin, where they spent the remainder of their lives. They had four children, the second youngest being John B.

John B. Schmitz was reared on a farm, attended the public schools in the acquirement of his early education and when a young man became a farmer. On the 15th of March, 1869, at Brookfield, Wisconsin, he was united in marriage to Miss Ann Wardrobe, a native of Scotland. She is a sister of William E. Wardrobe, who has furnished data for a genealogical record of the family given elsewhere in this volume.

Soon after their marriage John B. Schmitz and his wife moved to Dane county, Wisconsin, where they continued to reside until 1880, when they came to Nebraska and established their home in Fillmore county. In 1884 they came to Custer county and secured a homestead in section 33, township 18, range 23. This tract was wholly unimproved, and in the passing years Mr. Schmitz made it one of the valuable farm properties of the township. He shared in all the hardships and privations of the pioneer days, but eventually the old sod house was replaced with a good frame build-

ing and other improvements were made, in keeping with the development of the country. On this farm, December 2, 1917, Mr. Schmitz was called to his eternal rest, and his passing was a severe loss to his family and friends. He was active in all affairs of his community, served as a director of the school board and was a public-spirited and useful member of society.

Mr. and Mrs. Schmitz became the parents of eleven children: Anna M. is the wife of J. M. Ford; Isabel B. is the wife of L. E. Fish; Agnes F., who died on the 12th of January, 1918, was the wife of William Smith; Gertrude is the wife of J. R. Rice; Walter E. is a resident of Custer county; Elizabeth J. is the wife of Bryan Leonard, of Callaway, this county; William C. married Ethel Stockham and they reside in Custer county; John J. married Ada Waddington, and they likewise reside in this county; Laura A. is the wife of C. E. Whitney; Henry G. married Nellie Whitman, and their home is maintained in Custer county; and Irene is the wife of Homer Beardsley.

Mrs. Schmitz is making her home on the old farm and is one of the revered pioneer women of Custer county, within whose borders she has resided thirty-six years.

ELRAY H. KRUSER.—The subject of this sketch belongs to the young contingent of Custer county farmers who are moving along the line and into the places that mark the success of their fathers and the generation before them.

Elray H. Kruser was born in Lincoln county, Missouri, in 1883. He is a son of Henry Kruser, a widely known farmer and prominent citizen of Custer county. Elray H. Kruser has for some time maintained a home of his own and been responsible for the cultivation of his father's ranch. His early years, for the most part, were spent in this county, and here he received a liberal education and formed the habits of a careful, painstaking, business-like farmer. He was married, in Indiana, to Maud Seaney, of Richmond, that state, and since that time she has not only shared the comforts of the home but has also, in a large measure, helped to provide them. All the efforts of her husband have been ably seconded by her intelligent companionship and co-operation. Mrs. Kruser is a native of Indiana, and is a daughter of Jacob and Nancy Seaney, of Richmond. Mr. and Mrs. Kruser have three children—Garner, Borgia, and Donzel—and the two older children are in school, treading

the educational maze that lies before all young Americans.

As previously stated, Elray H. Kruser operates his father's farm, and here he has demonstrated his ability as a farmer. This is a good ranch, with excellent improvements, and Elray sees to it that the grade of live stock is maintained in high type. He cultivates 200 acres in rotated crops and aside from hogs and cattle is paying some attention to sheep, of which, at the present time, he has 145 head on the place. During the war just ended, Elray has been an active spirit and liberal contributor in every drive and in every possible way has shown his loyalty to his native country.

Arnold is the nearest town and is the trading point for the family. Here they are well known and have a splendid rating with the business men. Independent in politics, Mr. Kruser votes for the man whom he deems best fitted for the office.

ROLLY C. LEACH.—This record of Mr. Leach is to be credited to Arnold. He belongs to the retired farmer list and well deserves the pleasure of the retirement he is now able to enjoy. He was born in Iowa January 5, 1862, and is a son of Hiram and Miriam (Chillcotte) Campbell Leach. The mother was twice married and her children by the first marriage were Sylvia E. Campbell Pierce; Mary P. Powell (deceased); and Leo L. Campbell. Of the three children of Hiram and Miriam Leach the subject is eldest, the others being John R. and Carrie Van Horn.

The early years of Mr. Leach were spent in Iowa, where he received a liberal education in the schools of Seymour and Promise City. He came first to Custer county in December, 1883, and located in section 34, township 18, range 24. This claim was commuted in 1886 and in the next year he removed to Holyoke county, Colorado, where he worked at the carpenter trade till 1889, after which he moved to Denver where he followed the same trade for five more years. While in Denver he was married May 30, 1889, to Brittie M. Payne, who was born in Davis county, Missouri, and who went from Holyoke, Colorado, to Denver, that state, in December, 1888, Mr. Leach having gone to that city in March, 1889, and their marriage having occurred about two months later. Mrs. Leach is a daughter of Reuben L. and Nancy (Folley) Payne. Mrs. Leach came of a splendid family, well connected Kentucky people of sterling quality. In the Payne family were five children, John, Mary E. Harris, W. Na-

than, Anna Foster, and Brittie M. Leach, wife of the subject of this sketch.

Mr. and Mrs. Leach have six children: Brittie L. is the wife of Elihu O. Alexander, a garage man of Arnold, and they have one daughter and two sons. They belong to the Methodist church. Charles R., unmarried, was educated in the common schools and took a course in the York Business College. He is a land-owner in South Dakota. He is a member of the Methodist church, is a fourteenth degree Scottish Rite Mason and is also a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. Erma P. is at home with her parents. She is a member of the Methodist church and also the Eastern Star. Carrie E. is a clerk in a mercantile establishment at Arnold, and she makes her home with her parents. Sarah M. is still under the parental roof and is a student at school. Swain M. also is pursuing an educational course in the Arnold schools.

Mr. Leach returned with his family to Custer county in the fall of 1893 and here he rented land, which he farmed for the next ten years. He then bought 720 acres, which he farmed and upon which he and his wife made their home until the spring of 1918. Then they sold the property and moved to Arnold, where they purchased a beautiful home and where Mr. Leach is now retired from active life. He and his wife are well and favorably known, and are members of the Methodist church.

Mr. Leach is prominently affiliated with the time-honored Masonic fraternity, in which he has received the thirty-second degree of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, besides being identified with the Mystic Shrine, and being worthy patron of the local chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. In addition to his social duties, he is the teacher of a large Bible class in the Methodist church. Mrs. Leach holds the chair of worthy matron of the Eastern Star, is president of the Ladies' Aid Society of the church, and is secretary of the War Saving Society No. 2. Three of their children, Reuben, Erma, and Carrie, also are members of the Eastern Star. The Leaches are an influential and popular family.

LOUIS C. LONGMORE. — If you are familiar with the Callaway country, you have often heard the name of Longmore. There the subject of this sketch, a prominent young farmer, operates about a thousand acres of land for the landlord of a familiar name, and exercises an energy and skill which put him

well to the front among the food-raisers and producers of the county.

Louis C. Longmore was born May 6, 1882, in Marion county, Iowa, and is a son of William and Martha (Runyan) Longmore, both natives of the old Hoosier state. In this excellent Indiana family were nine children, the names of whom are given in the biographical sketch of Roy L. Longmore, elsewhere in this volume.

When Louis C. Longmore was a lad of five years his parents came to Custer county and located north of Mason City, where they resided for perhaps nine years, when they sold out and moved to Missouri. Four years in Missouri proved a sufficiency of experience in that state, and the Longmore family came again to Custer county, where at this time location was made in the favored section of Callaway, in which locality the Longmores have resided most of the time since.

Louis C. Longmore received a common-school education, learned the rudiments of farming by practical experience and also very early in life received a training in the care of his stock — a general discipline that has done him splendid service in the years of his active life. He became a benedict February 18, 1906, at which time, in the home of the bride's parents, in Triumph township, Miss Mary Etta Schreyer became his wife. Mrs. Longmore was born in Custer and is a daughter of Alfred and Addie (Mulvany) Schreyer, the former a native of Wisconsin and the latter of Indiana. In this branch of the Schreyer family were found the pioneer spirit and the potential home development. Accordingly Mrs. Longmore has been an invaluable assistant to her husband. They have four bright children, all of whom give fine promise for the future, their names and respective ages, in 1918, being as here noted: Irvin H., twelve years; Lois Irene, ten years; Ena Marguerite, eight years; and Grant Elwood, six years.

Mr. Longmore is operating a farm of 1,000 acres, on which are splendid improvements, including good buildings, wells, fences, windmills, etc. He is conducting a very profitable business and is rated as one of the successful farmers and stockmen of Custer county. Politically he affiliates with the Democratic party, yet the Democratic candidate who receives his vote must possess the characteristics of efficiency and morality or else there is "nothing doing." He insists that the man is the first consideration. In their home community Mr. and Mrs. Longmore are rated as good neigh-



CHARLES W. FODGE AND FAMILY

bors—kind and obliging, and generous to every appeal. During the war activities their patriotism has expressed itself in all the common avenues in which Mr. Longmore has been able to respond.

CHARLES W. FODGE.—When he arrived in Custer county, May 28, 1880, Charles W. Fodge had been through the experience of having twice secured a start upon the highway to success and twice had seen the result of his laborious efforts swept away by misfortune. He was in depressed financial condition, and had a growing family to support, but in Custer county he found the means at hand which gave him the opportunity of exercising his industry and real ability to good advantage, and the result is that he is to-day one of Broken Bow's most substantial retired citizens. Mr. Fodge was born in Clayton county, Iowa, May 19, 1856, and is a son of David and Martha (Mansfield) Fodge.

David Fodge was born in Indiana, was there reared as a farmer, and was educated in the public schools. In his native state he married Miss Martha Mansfield, daughter of James Mansfield, who passed away in Missouri, in 1869. About the year 1854 Mr. Fodge removed to McGregor, Iowa, in which vicinity he remained about two years. His next settlement was in Putnam county, Missouri, but subsequently he returned to Iowa and took up his residence on a valuable farm in Wayne county. He was just getting well established in life when the Civil war came on to interrupt his career, for after three and one-half months in the Union service, as a private of Company G, Twenty-fourth Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry, he contracted pneumonia and died. He was a member of the United Brethren church, was a Republican in politics, and for several years had served as justice of the peace. He and Mrs. Fodge, who later joined the Christian church, were the parents of three sons and three daughters, the sons being: J. M., engaged in the insurance business at Broken Bow; J. R., a carpenter of Thedford, Nebraska, a vocation which he has followed for thirty years; and Charles W.

Charles W. Fodge commenced his education in the district schools of Iowa and completed it in Nebraska, to which state he had accompanied his mother, in 1871, in which year she took up a homestead in Hamilton county. Mr. Fodge developed this land for his mother, and as all the government land was by that time exhausted in Hamilton county, he became a

pioneer of Custer county, taking up a homestead near Merna. His property was located from ninety to one hundred and ten miles from a railroad, and he was forced to haul his necessary supplies from a far-distant point. After five years he had the satisfaction of finding himself in better circumstances, a railroad line having been built through this locality. At the time of his arrival he was \$200 in debt and had a wife and two children to support, his earthly possessions consisting of a cow, a team, and \$10 in money. To-day he is the owner of a valuable and highly-productive farm of 320 acres, located northwest of Broken Bow, where he has made a specialty of alfalfa, which he has grown, with grain, during the past seventeen years. Mr. Fodge removed his family from the farm to Broken Bow in March, 1914, but continued to conduct operations himself, with hired help, until the spring of 1918, when he leased his property and took up his residence at the county seat. As a pioneer of two counties of the state, and one who experienced all the difficulties and discouragements of the early settlers, he is able to speak authoritatively in regard to conditions here, and the greater part of the work of development and progress has passed under his eye.

Mr. Fodge was married February 23, 1878, to Clara A. Brotherton, daughter of Noah and Mary Brotherton. Mr. Brotherton was a member of the Twenty-fourth Iowa Infantry, from Lucas, county, Iowa, during the Civil war, but after two years was honorably discharged, because of eye affliction. In 1871 he came with his family to Hamilton county, Nebraska, where he homesteaded a farm and passed the rest of his life. Mr. and Mrs. Fodge have ten children, all of whom are in splendid circumstances. They are: Orpha M., who taught school prior to her marriage, is the wife of Jesse St. Clair, who formerly was in charge of two ranches, but is now a merchant of Calgary, Canada; Blanche G. is the wife of A. A. Shaw, a farmer near Broken Bow; Estella, who taught school before her marriage, is the wife of E. G. Scott, a farmer near Ord, this state; Aurella A. is the wife of E. G. Todd, who is in charge of Standard Oil interests at Anselmo, Nebraska; Pearl D. is the wife of John Kerns, who is engaged in the vulcanizing business at Broken Bow; Dorothea is the wife of Asa C. Furrow, a well driller and repairer, of Wild Horse, Colorado; Flora is the wife of Walter F. Haefele, a farmer near Cozad, this state; Alberta Fern has taught in the public schools for six years; Beryl W. is a

farmer near Anselmo, Custer county; and Charles E. is, in 1918, a junior at the Broken Bow high school.

Mr. and Mrs. Fodge and their children are members of the Christian church, and he is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Modern Brotherhood. He is a Democrat in politics and has taken quite an active part in local public affairs, having served as town clerk and assessor and as constable of his township, while still residing on the farm.

ERNEST R. DEAL.—It is to such energetic and progressive young farmers as Ernest R. Deal that the great advance in agriculture and stock-raising during the past few years is due, and it is to such as he that Custer county looks for a continuation of her present unparalleled prosperity. Mr. Deal, who owns 160 acres four miles southwest of Broken Bow, in section 11, was born June 18, 1885, on a farm in Hamilton county, Nebraska, and he is a son of H. E. and Nettie (Mitchell) Deal.

H. E. Deal was born in Wisconsin, and as a young man came to Hamilton county, Nebraska, where he subsequently had an agricultural career in which he won success only after many discouragements. At one time, after amassing a competency, he saw it swept away by misfortune, but he possessed the courage and resiliency necessary for a new start, and he is now one of the well-to-do retired citizens of Aurora. He is a Democrat in politics, and belongs to the Christian church. Mr. Deal was married in Hamilton county, Nebraska, to Nettie Mitchell, who was born in Iowa, and they became the parents of nine children, of whom seven are living: Ernest R. is the immediate subject of this review; Guy is in the United States Army; Ed. is identified with the telephone business in Aurora; Irma is the wife of Christ Miller, a railroader of Aurora; Marvin is in the United State Army; Annis is the wife of C. V. Evans, a farmer of Custer county; and Lyle is the youngest of the number.

Ernest R. Deal received his early education in the public schools of Aurora, Nebraska, and was reared to agricultural pursuits, which he has always followed. He was twenty-three years of age when he first came to Custer county, in 1908, but after two years he disposed of his interests here and went to Thomas county, where he homesteaded a tract and remained for six years. Selling his claim at the end of that period, he returned to Custer

county and bought a quarter-section near Merna, and when he sold that property he bought his present place, in section 11, four miles southwest of Broken Bow. Here he has installed modern improvements of an attractive and useful character, and erected substantial buildings. He does a general farming and stock-raising business, and is a student of his vocation, being an active member of the local Grange, of which he is master. A Democrat in politics, he is not an office-seeker, but he has always displayed a lively and intelligent interest in local affairs, and at present is a member of the school board.

Mr. Deal was married in 1905 to Miss Cora Hunnell, who was born in Hamilton county, Nebraska, daughter of James Hunnell, an early homesteader of that county and a member of the board of county commissioners for a number of terms. Mr. and Mrs. Deal became the parents of two children: Robert H., who was born March 11, 1906, died at the age of two and one-half years; and the surviving child, Virgil, was born June 16, 1914.

PHILIP C. ZOERB is a substantial young farmer in the vicinity of Callaway, and has inherited a wealth of thrift and energy from German ancestry, while by his industrious habits he is achieving a well earned success in practical farming.

His natal day was January 24, 1879, and Germany is his native land. His father, Philip Zoerb, Sr., and his mother, Anna (Miller) Zoerb, were sterling German people and were the parents of five children—Anna Ryun (deceased), Christina Butler (deceased), Philip, William, and John.

Philip C. Zoerb was but two years of age when his parents decided to try their fortunes in America. Their first home in this country was in Cincinnati, Ohio, where they stayed three years. They then came to Custer county and, in the spring of 1884, located on the South Loup river, about one and one-half mile east of the present site of Finchville. Young Philip stayed at home until he was twenty-four years of age, and he and his two brothers then rented the father's place, which they worked about six years.

June 10, 1908, in St. James, Missouri, Philip C. Zoerb wedded Miss Anna A. Reissans, who was born in Wisconsin, and who is a daughter of Charles and Ida (Silz) Reissans, both natives of Germany. In the family of Charles Reissans were the following children, Anna A. Zoerb, Elsie Zoerb, Clara, Paul, Adolph,

Ida Forester, Lottie Anderson, and Emma who died November 20, 1918. Mrs. Reissans died November 28, 1917.

The Zoerb home has every evidence of thrift and prosperity. Plenty and comfort mark the habitation. Mr. Zoerb owns 160 acres of his own and in addition to this he farms 320 acres of his father's land. He is a hard-working, substantial young farmer and makes good in every enterprise he undertakes. He and his wife have a fine family of six children—Marvin P., Ada, David, Alfred, Walter J., and Marie A.

Mr. and Mrs. Zoerb are held in high esteem and are counted as obliging neighbors and dependable citizens. He belongs to the Royal Mystic Legion, and partisan politics has small attractions for him. He votes independently and selects well the candidate for whom he votes.

S. NETH.—Self-acquired prosperity, liberal ideas, ideals expressed in promoting agriculture, education, and simplicity of living, as well as unquestioned public and private integrity, constitute the fundamentals upon which rests the enviable standing of S. Neth, who became a pioneer of Custer county in September, 1882.

Mr. Neth was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, January 17, 1857, and was sixteen years of age when he came to the United States. He is a son of Conrad and Abbie (Mang) Neth, the former of whom was born February 17, 1829, and the latter December 24, 1830, both in Wurtemberg. There were six children in the family, of whom four are living—John, a farmer of Fairbury, Illinois; S., of this review; and Conrad and George, farmers in Germany.

For three months after his arrival in America, S. Neth lived in Ohio, and he then went to Illinois, where he resided until 1882. In that year he paid a visit to Custer county, where he secured a homestead. He returned to Illinois, but March 4, 1883, he came back to this county, where he has since remained. His original home was a tract of 160 acres, in addition to which he had a tree claim of a like acreage, and when he had these put under cultivation and in a productive shape he started to add to his holdings. He continued to follow this wise policy and is now the owner of 1,200 acres, all accumulated through his own industry and able management of affairs. Mr. Neth has always been a general farmer, but of late years has made somewhat of a specialty of breeding full-blooded Shorthorn cattle and

full-blooded Poland-China hogs. In addition to selling at home he ships to the large cities and finds a ready and profitable market for his live stock, for he has established a reputation as a man of the strictest integrity and one at all times honorable in his transactions. The fact that he is an able stock-raiser is shown by the premiums which his animals have won in Custer county fairs, and he is frequently called upon for advice by his less well informed fellow-stockmen. Until 1897 Mr. Neth resided in his original sod house, but in that year he erected a pleasant and comfortable frame home on his farm, and he has added other buildings which contribute to the attractiveness and value of his property. He has taken an active and helpful interest in the affairs of the community and has been the incumbent of public office on several occasions, having served as a member of the board of county commissioners in 1892, 1893, 1894, 1898, and 1899. Mr. Neth's mother died in Germany, in 1894, but at the time he last heard from him, in 1917, his father was still living.

Mr. Neth was married in Illinois, to Miss Alice Huffman, who was born in that state, a daughter of Jacob Huffman. Her father, a farmer for many years in Illinois, died there, and her mother still survives. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Neth: Frank, who is engaged in farming in Custer county; Homer, who resides at home and is assisting his father in his farming and stock-raising operations; Mary, who is the wife of Frank Jenkins, a farmer of Custer county; Carl, who is farming near his father's place; Irene, who is the wife of D. C. May, a farmer of this county; Belle, who is the wife of Floyd Rapp, also a Custer county farmer; and Raymond, who still remains on the homestead. In politics Mr. Neth is a Democrat, with independent inclinations.

WILLIAM MILLER.—Here is a young man upon whom the responsibilities of present-day activities rest heavily, and who, responding nobly, is to be rated as one of the efficient food producers and substantial men of affairs. Those who know him well know him favorably, and in every day parlance they will transpose the more sedate "William" into "Willie," so that far and near in his neighborhood community, he is known as Willie Miller.

Mr. Miller is a native of Nebraska, having been born in Franklin county, April 5, 1882. His parents, Henry and Doris (Minso) Miller, were born in Germany, and transmitted to their progeny the frugal characteristics of the thrifty

German people. The father's home sheltered the following children: Henry, Albert and George (twins), and Willie, the fourth born and youngest of the family. The first three sons were born in Germany, but Willie is fortunate in being able to claim America as his native land and to have his home in the very heart of America — Nebraska.

When William Miller was but three years of age his parents came to Custer county and settled on the Redfern Table. It was here that Willie grew up, here that he had his boyhood experiences, and here that he received his education in the public schools — a general discipline that has qualified him for the burdens and responsibilities of the present day. When twenty-one years of age he took a homestead, and on that same tract of land he has his home at the present time.

In 1912 Mr. Miller married Miss Esther Morris, who was born in Custer county, in the vicinity of Sargent. She is a daughter of James and Edith (Fry) Morris, very excellent people of English descent. Mrs. Miller is one of a family of five children, only three of whom are living, the other two being Amos and Mrs. Mabel Zoerb.

The Millers maintain a splendid home, are endowed with peace and prosperity, and they have three happy, promising children — Frederick and Louis, and a baby who is but five months of age at the time of this writing. The thrift and energy of Mr. Miller and his good wife are indicated in the statement that follows: They own 1,200 acres of good land, well improved and splendidly adapted for profitable farming and stock-raising lines of enterprise through which they have made the money that has paid for their land and home. They have gone through the hardships and privations of early years. They know the way of success in Custer county, and they are now prepared to appreciate the good things that are coming their way. They have a splendid neighborhood rating, are courteous and obliging, and the neighbors depend on them for every public enterprise that will help and uplift the community. Mrs. Miller is a member of the Episcopal church, and the Woodman lodge affords a medium for Mr. Miller's social activities.

CURTIS B. BENDER. — There is no better known breeder of registered Hereford cattle in Custer county than Curtis B. Bender, a young man whose career has been one of marked success. Even before he had left his studies at the Nebraska State University he had entered actively into the stock business,

and since leaving that institution he has been increasingly progressive in the directing of his business interests, his standing among the stockmen of the state being shown by the fact that he is secretary of the Nebraska Hereford Breeders' Association, a position which he has held for the past eight years, besides being sales manager for that vigorous organization.

Mr. Bender is one of Custer county's sons who has made a place for himself among the men who are accomplishing real results. He was born at Callaway, June 1, 1888, his parents being George O. and Clara B. (McCreary) Bender, the former a native of England and the latter of Ohio. The parents were Episcopalians and the father was a member of the Knights of Pythias. Besides Curtis B. there was but one other child: Gladys, who is now the wife of Harry Lamb, cashier of the Seven Valleys Bank, and who has one son.

Curtis B. Bender early showed an inherited predilection for the stock business, his father having been a well known stockman. The lad, while on a visit, earned his first money by taking care of a bunch of hogs for a neighbor. Securing a little pig, he raised it to maturity, and with the money he received from the sale of this animal he bought more pigs, and thus he started himself in business in a small way. Finding how the lad's inclinations lay, his parents sent him to the agricultural college at the State University, after he had left the Callaway schools. At that time his father was a member of the firm of Bender & Decker, dealers in hardware and implements and breeders of registered Hereford cattle, and in the spring of 1909 Curtis B. Bender bought the interests of Mr. Decker in the stock business and became his father's partner, an association which continued successfully until the death of the honored father, April 1, 1916. The son then bought the estate's interest in the stock business, which he has continued with constantly increasing success. One-quarter of a mile west of Callaway he has 640 acres of valley land under a high state of cultivation, with 115 acres devoted to alfalfa and 240 acres of farm land. Here he has a beautiful residence, and his other buildings are substantial and handsome, while his general farm equipment is of the most modern order. Included in Mr. Bender's ninety head of full-blooded registered Herefords have been several champion prize-winners, notably his present individual, "Beau Carlos," No. 496668, first prize-winner at the Denver stock show of January, 1916. As previously noted, Mr. Bender has for the past eight years been secretary of the Nebraska Hereford Breeders' Association, and sales manager for that organ-

ization. Aside from his cattle, Mr. Benger raises from 250 to 300 Poland-China hogs annually, as well as large black hogs. He is energetic and progressive, is alive to all opportunities, and in his absolute integrity he has firmly impressed those with whom he has had dealings.

Mr. Benger was married June 1, 1909, at Callaway, to Miss Lydia Hebbel, daughter of Detelef Hebbel, and they are the parents of two children: Mabel E. and Ruth H. Mr. and Mrs. Benger are members of the Episcopal church. He maintains the right to independent views in regard to political matters.

PRESTON W. HOUGH.—In the life of Preston W. Hough, one of the well known and prosperous farmers and stockmen of Custer county, is presented a lesson for the youth of any land—something encouraging to the young aspirant who, without friends or fortune, is struggling to overcome obstacles in his efforts to acquire a comfortable competence, if not absolute wealth.

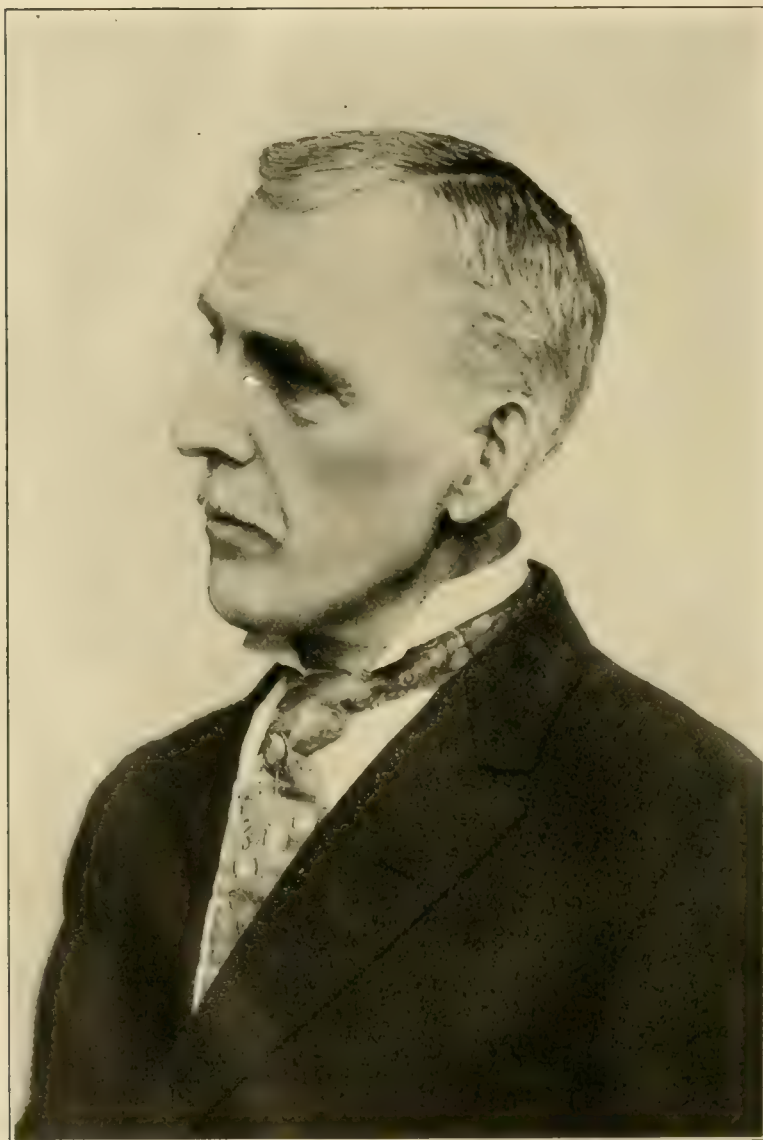
Mr. Hough was born June 13, 1865, near Williamsburg, North Carolina, a son of William and Elmira W. (Howell) Hough, natives of that state, and on the maternal side he is a grandson of James and Juda (Moore) Howell. His parents were farming people of North Carolina and were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. His father, although not an office-seeker, was a staunch Democrat. There were fourteen children in the family, but only five survive—John K., William T., Joseph M., David S., and Preston W. In 1869 the family removed to Hancock county, Illinois, where, in the vicinity of Carthage, Preston W. received his early education in the public schools. He earned his first money plowing for a neighbor, at the wage of twenty-five cents a day, which amount he turned over to his father to buy clothes with. When he was thirteen years old he began to fend for himself, and he was variously employed until his marriage, at Augusta, Illinois, to Martha Pierce, who was born in Adams county, Illinois, a daughter of Edwin B. and Jane A. (McNulty) Pierce, natives of that state. Mr. and Mrs. Pierce were farming people, were members of the Evangelical church, and Mr. Pierce was a Republican and a member of the Masonic fraternity.

In 1886 Mr. Hough decided to try his fortunes in Nebraska, and he arrived at Wood River, Hall county, with the sum of two dollars and fifty cents in cash. He was willing and energetic, and he secured employment with

Chauncey Abbott, for whom he went to work in the fall. During the next few years he had his ups and downs, like other young men striving to gain a foothold, but he was industrious and persevering, and, with the aid of his worthy wife, by 1906 he had accumulated sufficient of this world's goods with which to come to Custer county and purchase 480 acres of land, known as the E. E. Switzer farm. On this place were an old sod house and other primitive improvements, but these have since disappeared, having been replaced by a modern home, strongly-built barns and other farm buildings, and, with up-to-date equipment and machinery, the property now presents an attractive and prosperous appearance. Mr. Hough has his original purchase under a high state of cultivation, raising bumper crops, and has recently completed the purchase of 160 acres additional. He believes in modern methods in his work and makes a careful study of the business of agriculture, with the result that he is gaining marked success in both farming and the raising of good types of live stock. In line with his progressive spirit, he has been a supporter of all worthy movements which his judgment has told him would benefit the community, and educational and good-road projects have his assistance and co-operation. In political matters he is a Republican, but his home and farm duties have kept him busy to the exclusion of outside matters, and he has not cared for public office.

Mr. and Mrs. Hough have five children: Lulu M. is the wife of F. W. Morrison, a Custer county farmer, and they have three sons; William E., who entered the national army, and was stationed at Camp Dodge, was later given an honorable discharge, on account of disabilities; Carl W., a graduate of the Broken Bow Business College, was assigned to class 1 of the selective draft, but had not yet been called for service at the time this sketch was prepared; Earl P., a graduate of the Broken Bow Business College, is now taking a three years' course at Western Union College, at LeMars, Iowa, preparing himself for the ministry of the Evangelical church; and Cecil, an adopted daughter, is nine years old and still attending public school at Callaway.

WILLIAM L. STEVENS, who is a prosperous farmer in Custer county and owns a large acreage of valuable land, came with his parents to this county in 1889 and here he has lived during the entire intervening period.



WILLIAM G. PURCELL

Mr. Stevens was born in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, November 29, 1874, and is one of four children born to Levi and Cordelia E. (Lyon) Stevens. The other son, Charles, is deceased; and the daughters are Mrs. Ethel M. Johnson and Mrs. Edith Whitman.

Upon coming to Custer county Levi Stevens located a pre-emption claim four and one-half miles southeast of Callaway, and this property is now owned by his son, William L., of this review, who owns also the old Oscar Gore place, situated but a short distance northwest of Devil's Gap canyon, this place being somewhat noted in local history and consisting of 160 acres. Mr. Stevens did not have the educational advantages he is giving his own children, but he went to the country schools when opportunity offered and grew to respected young manhood, not confining his activities to the farm entirely. He worked in lumber yards from 1898 until 1913, and most of the time was foreman for the Dierks Lumber Company which operated at Anselmo, Ord, and Callaway. He filled that position for fifteen years prior to turning his attention to agricultural pursuits. Since then he has made wheat-growing somewhat of a specialty and his wheat crop in 1918 proved to be unusually heavy.

Mr. Stevens was married May 9, 1897, at Broken Bow, Nebraska, to Miss Anna Douglass, a daughter of John and Emma (Morehead) Douglass. Mrs. Stevens has two sisters and one brother: Jennie is the wife of George B. Mair, who now lives retired in Oakland, California, but for sixteen years was clerk of the Custer county court; Ethel is the wife of Edward Pinnell, who is a carpenter living at Grand Island, Nebraska; and Curtis D., who is secretary of the Long Oil & Gas Company, of Kansas City, Missouri, married Luella Fritz. Mr. and Mrs. Stevens became the parents of five children: Leone, who was a clerk in the postoffice at Callaway, was the first from Custer county to enlist as a nurse, and was sent to Wilmington, Delaware, where she is working in a government hospital, at the time of this writing; Sadie M. remains at the parental home; William D. is deceased; and E. Louise and Helen E., aged respectively ten and seven years (1918), are very engaging children and are still in school. Mr. Stevens is one of the solid, representative men of his neighborhood and is ever ready to prove his good and earnest citizenship, but he has never been specially active in politics and seeks no public office.

WILLIAM G. PURCELL. — The following narration offers an epitome of the life activities

of and the useful service rendered by one of Broken Bow's most substantial citizens. William G. Purcell belongs to a family known throughout the entire county and most of the state — a family who have rendered every possible public service demanded of them, a family who have been qualified to serve in a public and useful capacity in almost every department of official or social life.

William G. Purcell was born in Ravenna, Ohio, June 5, 1857. He is a son of the late George Purcell, whose family record will be found in the biographical sketch of Emerson R. Purcell, on other pages of this volume. Early in his career the family of which William G. Purcell is a member, settled in Illinois, and the subject of this narrative received a practical education in the public schools of Springfield, the capital city of that state. He began his active life in the printing office, and has followed that vocation practically until the present time.

Imbued with the pioneer spirit, Mr. Purcell came to Custer county in January, 1884, and located upon a homestead in the vicinity of Merna. Later on he and his brother bought a job-printing office of R. H. Miller and they began its operation in 1886. Since that time printers' ink of some color has constituted the brand that discloses without announcement his vocation. More extended notice of his business connection with his brother is detailed in the biographical sketch of Emerson R. Purcell. During the early years of their partnership they were publishers of the *Merna Leader* and *Custer County Chief*. Later, to better facilitate business, their plant was divided, William G. taking over the job-printing department, which he operates at the present time, and in which he is rated as one of the best job printers in the central portion of the state.

October 27, 1880, Mr. Purcell married Miss Fannie Scherr, of St. Louis, Missouri. They established an ideal home, in which were all the comforts to be obtained in that day, and to which every convenience was added as the years went by and modern conveniences were obtainable. Mr. and Mrs. Purcell have three children. The first, Caroline, is the wife of J. P. Hayden, a prominent citizen of Petersburg, this state, and they have one child, Emma Walker. The second child and only son, Theodore, maintains a home of his own, and his wife, who presides graciously over the home, was formerly Miss Margaret Orr, of Broken Bow. In their home is one child, Elizabeth. Theodore learned the printer's trade in his father's establishment, but at the present time has forsaken the "art preserva-

tive" and is farming his father's place, where he has developed into a practical and successful farmer. The younger daughter, Marietta, is a trained nurse. She began her career at Kearney, but is now with Dr. Ramsey in the Lincoln Hospital, where she has had charge for several months. She will soon go to St. Louis, Missouri, where she will finish her training course.

The family are members of the Episcopal church, faithful and ardent supporters upon whom the church depends for much of its active service. As a prominent Odd Fellow, Mr. Purcell is past grand patriarch of the Nebraska grand encampment, and past grand representative of the sovereign lodge. He is connected also with the Highlanders, in the circles of which he has been prominent for a number of years. He is a Republican in his political affiliations, but has never aspired to any political position in the gift of any party. He has been a member of the school board, and has served in other official capacities in a minor way. He has a splendid business at the present time, and is rated in Broken Bow as one of the substantial and dependable citizens. The Purcells are fine people and Custer county is deeply indebted for the services they have rendered.

ARINCE T. HILLMAN. — In recounting the men who have come from other states and have acquired substantial standing in Nebraska, attention may be called to Arince T. Hillman, who is a heavy landowner in Custer county and one of the responsible citizens of Broken Bow. In business operations covering many years, he has built up a reputation for business astuteness as well as for personal integrity.

Mr. Hillman was born in Johnson county, Indiana, March 10, 1878. His parents were Nelson and Eliza (Alderson) Hillman, natives of Mercer county, Kentucky, and farming people all their lives. They had three daughters and two sons, and two of the daughters are deceased. The family survivors are: Arince T., whose name introduces this review; Sixton, who is a farmer in Moragn county, Indiana, and a sound Democrat in politics; and Malvina, who is the wife of Elmer Wing. Mr. Wing is a farmer, located eleven miles southwest of Broken Bow. He is a Democrat in politics and belongs to the Brotherhood of American Yeomen. Mr. and Mrs. Wing have one daughter, Mary, who is five years old. By a former marriage Mrs. Wing had three sons: Herman, Carl, and Robert Krembzw.

Arince T. Hillman attended the public schools in boyhood and was reared on his father's farm, remaining with his parents until he was nineteen years old. In February, 1897, he was united in marriage, at Broken Bow, to Miss Ina B. Williams, who was born in Indiana, a daughter of John L. and Catherine (Fisher) Williams, and a granddaughter of John P. Williams. Mrs. Hillman has four sisters, namely: Etta is the wife of William Waffensmith, a well known business man of Merna, Nebraska, an Odd Fellow, and a Democrat, and they have three children: Isa is the wife of Leish Davis, who is telegraph operator at Hazard, Nebraska, an Odd Fellow and Democrat, and they have three children; Nondice is the wife of Albert Carter, who is a farmer near Gibbon, Nebraska, and is a Democrat; and Mamie is the wife of Robert Winchester, who is a farmer and a Republican, and they have two children. Mr. and Mrs. Hillman have five children, namely: Lawrence D., who is a farmer and lives at home; John R., who works on a farm claim but still lives with his parents; Nelson and Kenneth, both of whom are students in the Broken Bow high school, and Floyd, who is yet in the graded school.

Mr. Hillman not only owns 500 acres of valuable land, well adapted to both farming and grazing, but he also has one of the most attractive residences in Broken bow, the family residing here mainly in order to give the children the best of educational advantages. While never very active in politics and always declining every suggestion of holding public office, Mr. Hillman has always been a thoughtful and earnest citizen ever ready to do his full duty to country, state and community.

WILLIAM IHLOW. — The Ihlow farm, in the eastern part of Custer county, may be said to constitute one of those landmarks on which may be found evidence of almost every phase that has marked the progress of agricultural industry in Custer county during the past thirty-seven years. This fine landed estate now comprises 640 acres — an entire section — and it includes the old homestead on which the present owner located when he came as a pioneer to this county. In addition to fulfilling its mission as a medium of financial profit, this farm property has been developed to a state in which it compares most favorably with any other Custer county landed estate likewise accumulated through pioneer courage and determination. The owner of this property is William Ihlow, who is now

one of the sterling and honored pioneer citizens of Ansley, in which pleasant village he has maintained his home since the time of his retirement from the farm, in 1915.

William Ihlow was born in Brandenburg, Germany, on the 14th of May, 1855, and is a son of Michael and Louise Ihlow, who passed their entire lives in that part of the empire of Germany, the father having been a shepherd by vocation. Michael and Louise Ihlow became the parents of two children, of whom the subject of this review is the younger, his sister, Amelia, born in 1853, being the wife of August Coody, a resident of Nebraska City, Nebraska. The family name of the second wife of Michael Ihlow was Walter, and they had three children, all of whom are deceased. The religious faith of the family in Germany was that of the Lutheran church.

William Ihlow received in his youth the advantages of the schools of his native land, and he early learned the lessons of practical toil. As he grew to maturity he found employment at various occupations—principally as a brick-maker and farm hand. In his native land was solemnized his marriage to Miss Louise Wittkey, and concerning their children brief record may consistently be given at this point: Bertha is the wife of Roger Zummerille, a farmer in Buffalo county, Nebraska; Frank is engaged in agricultural and stock-raising enterprise in South Dakota; Fred is a prosperous farmer in Custer county; William is secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association at Aurora, Nebraska; John has active management of his father's farm, in Custer county; Charles is engaged in farming operations in South Dakota; and Ruby, the younger daughter, remains at the parental home.

Determined to avail himself of the greater advantages that America offered to the young man of ambition, in 1881 Mr. Ihlow, in company with his wife and their infant daughter, immigrated to the United States, and within the same year the little family arrived at Riverton, Fremont county, Iowa. In 1884, as a pioneer, Mr. Ihlow settled on a homestead, in Custer county, amidst primitive surroundings, and he and his devoted wife bravely fortified themselves for the meeting of the trials and hardships of life on the frontier. Like other pioneers, Mr. Ihlow had to overcome many obstacles during those early years, but he did not falter in courage, persistence or self-reliance, with the result that he gradually made his way forward to the position of success and definite prosperity. As returns from his vigorous activities as an agriculturist and

stock-grower justified such action, he gradually added to the area of his landed estate until he had accumulated an entire section of as fertile and valuable land as can be found in this favored section of Nebraska. On the property he erected good buildings and made other excellent improvements of a permanent order, and through his individual achievement, as well as his civil loyalty and liberality, he contributed his due quota to the development and progress of his community and the county in general.

In 1915, feeling that he had done his part in the work of social and material development and advancement, Mr. Ihlow retired from the active labors that had long challenged his energies, and has since lived in comfortable and well earned retirement in his pleasant home in the village of Ansley. Aside from his valuable farm property and interests Mr. Ihlow has other important capitalistic investments, and he is president of the Security State Bank of Ansley, the policies of which he has effectively directed in his executive capacity. As a man of broad experience and mature judgment he has done much to foster the success of this substantial financial institution.

In politics Mr. Ihlow is found aligned with the Republican party, and while he has had no desire for the honors of public office, his civic loyalty has prompted him to give characteristically efficient service in the various school offices to which he has been elected. He and his wife are members of the Baptist church, and as sterling pioneer citizens of Custer county it may consistently be said that their circle of friends is limited only by that of their acquaintances. Mr. Ihlow has proved himself a man of inviolable integrity, and is known as a citizen of intense public spirit.

CHARLES JARUSEK, the proprietor of a flourishing hardware business at Comstock, has shown during his comparatively short business career the possession of qualities which are rapidly placing him in the ranks of the successful merchants of this thriving locality. He is a native Nebraskan, having been born in Valley county, January 28, 1894, and exemplifies in his daily activities the true western spirit of progress and energy.

The parents of Mr. Jarusek, Frank and Mary (Nenaskal) Jarusek, natives of Bohemia, were early pioneers of Valley county, where the father settled in 1884. He located first at Ord, in which neighborhood he worked faithfully by the month and saved industriously un-

til he had enough to purchase a farm. Since then he has been engaged in farming and stock-raising, his ventures having placed him in the well-to-do class of citizens. He has also made a place for himself among the representative men of his locality, and his worth and integrity have been appreciated by his fellow citizens, who have elected him as director of the school board and member of the road commissioners on several occasions. The family belongs to the Catholic church. Mr. and Mrs. Jarusek have had four children: Charles, who is the subject of this review; Mary, who is the wife of Joseph Novak, a farmer of Valley county; one child who died in infancy; and Miss Alice, who remains with her parents.

Charles Jarusek received his early education in district school No. 53, this discipline being supplemented by one year's attendance in a business college at St. Paul, Nebraska. He remained at home and assisted his father until he reached the age of twenty-one years, and after leaving business college he entered mercantile pursuits by accepting a clerkship in the hardware store of J. T. Arthur. In that capacity he thoroughly informed himself in all details of the business, and August 17, 1918, he bought out his employer's interest and became proprietor of the establishment. During the short time that he has been at the head of the business he has accomplished much in the way of securing new business, and now presents to a large patronage a clean, attractive and up-to-date stock of shelf and heavy hardware, complete in every particular. It would seem as though this progressive and energetic young man is in a fair way to become one of Comstock's substantial men of business.

At Sidney, Nebraska, February 14, 1917, Mr. Jarusek married Miss Madge Yarmon, a daughter of Richard and Sadie (Gage) Yarmon, early settlers of Howard county, Nebraska. Mr. Jarusek has been to some extent handicapped in his rise by the state of his health, which in the past has not been all that it should be, but in large measure he has benefited his condition by taking long automobile trips, and in this way has covered practically the entire state of Nebraska.

OLIVER J. KOLBO.—When compilers of the real history of Custer county go to old settlers like Oliver J. Kolbo, who has lived on his farm south of Callaway for the past thirty-five years, they learn at first hand of the struggles and hardships that attended the pioneers here, when settlers were few and far

apart, when the land was entirely undeveloped and when crops were lost and stock died because of lack of water. Mr. Kolbo knows all about it, for he came here in November, 1883. He was born in Nanstad, Norway, December 22, 1853. His parents were John and Karen (Statum) Kolbo, also natives of Nanstad, Norway. In 1860 they immigrated to the United States with their children, and settled in Coon Prairie, near Westby, Wisconsin, where the father was engaged in farming during the rest of his life. His children were as follows: Mrs. Mary E. Mohlmann, Hans, Oliver J., Martin, Christen, Mrs. Dena Johnson, John, and Berant.

Oliver J. Kolbo lived at home with his parents until he was twenty-five years of age. In boyhood he had district school advantages to some extent, but his time was mainly taken up with work on the home farm. In those days prairie chickens and quail were plentiful in Coon Prairie, and he became quite skillful in trapping them, thereby earning pocket money, for he could always find purchasers. Farming has been his occupation all his life, and in following it, carefully, persistently, and intelligently, he has become possessed of ample means and owns a half-section of as fine land as can be found in Custer county.

Mr. Kolbo was married December 29, 1878, in the Lutheran church in Coon Valley, Vernon county, Wisconsin, to Miss Christena Lien, who was born in Norway. Her parents were Peder and Marit (Toreson) Lien. Mrs. Kolbo had two brothers, Peter, who is deceased, and Frantz, who lives in Norway. Ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Kolbo, namely: Melvin C., who is a farmer near Lodi, Nebraska, married Lillian Johnson and they have six children. They attend the United Lutheran church. Hilmer E., who conducts a garage at Callaway, married Flossy P. Maze and they have four children. They attend the Evangelical church. Paul G., who is a farmer in the neighborhood of Lodi, Nebraska, and who belongs to the Woodmen lodge at Lodi, married Lorene Simonsen and they have three children. Julia is the wife of John Olson, who is a farmer and stockman near Paso Robles, in San Luis Obispo county, California, and they have three children. Mr. and Mrs. Olson belong to the Lutheran church. Selmar N., who is sales manager for the Sample & Hart Motor Company, Omaha, married Eva E. Willy, and they have two children. They attend the Lutheran church. Rudolph N., who is a soldier in the national army, was at Camp Funston at the time when this sketch was written. T. A., remains

at the parental home. The other children died in infancy. Mr. Kolbo and his sons vote the Republican ticket. He and his wife are of the Lutheran faith and all the children have been well instructed religiously and are church members.

THOMAS T. VARNEY, whose standing as a citizen of Custer county is very high and who has been intimately identified with the material growth and industrial and financial development of the county for many years, is now a resident of Ansley. Mr. Varney is well known to the people of this community, having been before them as merchant, postmaster and bank cashier, in each of which capacities he established a reputation for integrity and conscientious performance of duty, but he is now retired from active pursuits. He is a native of Corinth, Saratoga county, New York, and was born May 2, 1872, a son of Edgar and Mary Amelia (Tiffany) Varney.

Edgar Varney was born in Saratoga county, New York, June 30, 1839, a son of Hosea and Anna (Conklin) Varney, who passed their lives within the confines of the Empire state. Edgar Varney was educated in the public schools of his native place, where he was reared to manhood, and in 1864, at Saratoga Springs, he married Miss Mary Amelia Tiffany, who was born in Saratoga county, October 1, 1847, a daughter of Thomas and Arvilla (Hogle) Tiffany, natives of New York and farming people all their lives, as well as devout members of the Methodist Episcopal church. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Varney continued to live in New York until 1871, in which year they came to Nebraska and settled in Hall county, where they located on a homestead and engaged in farming for a period of eight years. In 1879 they came to Custer county, Mr. Varney becoming proprietor of the first store at Westerville, and later being the pioneer merchant at Ansley, where he remained in business until his retirement, eighteen years prior to his demise. Mr. Varney was a Mason and a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and both he and his wife belonged to the Order of the Eastern Star. They were faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church and in politics he was a Republican. His death occurred September 23, 1908. Mr. and Mrs. Varney were the parents of eight children: Etta is the wife of Judge Armour, of Broken Bow; Millie is the wife of Richard Brega, a well known attorney of Calloway; Lavina is the wife of Anthony Wilkinson, a retired ranch-

man of Grand Island, Nebraska; C. E. resides at Thermopolis, Hot Springs county, Wyoming; Thomas T. is the subject of this review; Seth is engaged in the barber business at Ansley; James is engaged in merchandising; and Clara is the wife of E. P. Gaines, a banker at Ansley.

Thomas T. Varney received his education in the public schools of Ansley, where he was brought as a lad, and he supplemented this by a commercial course in the Lincoln Business College, at Lincoln. He began his business career in a commercial way, as a merchant at Ansley, where he conducted a general store during 1892 and 1893. From that time forward for ten years he was postmaster, an official position in which he did much to improve the postal service in this locality, and he then became cashier of the First National Bank of Ansley, now known as the State Bank of Ansley. He continued about fifteen years in that capacity, but in July, 1916, he disposed of his interests, and since then he has lived in retirement. Mr. Varney has been somewhat active in local political affairs, as a Republican, and on various occasions has been called to public office, in which he has demonstrated the possession of marked executive ability and a desire and ability to perform his duties conscientiously and in such a manner as to benefit the community. He was for several years a member of the town council, and he served also as a director on the school board, and as city treasurer and township treasurer. His official record is a splendid one. He is a thirty-second degree Mason and a Shriner, and is past master of his Masonic blue lodge. With Mrs. Verney, he belongs to the Christian church and supports its movements liberally.

Mr. Varney was married June 15, 1895, to Miss May Sargent, who was born at Maynard, Iowa, a daughter of John S. and Laura (Rich) Sargent, the former a native of Meigs county, Ohio, and the latter of Belvidere, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Sargent were married in Fayette county, Iowa, where Mrs. Sargent had been taken as a child of five years, while her future husband was four years of age when taken to Delaware county, Iowa. Married in December, 1875, they came to Custer county, Nebraska, in 1883. Here they settled on a homestead farm, Mr. Sargent having always been engaged in his present occupation of tilling the soil. He was very prominent in local politics during the early days, was independent in vote, thought, and action, and in 1889 was sent by his fellow citizens to the Nebraska state legislature, in which he made a good record. He and Mrs. Sargent are

members of the Christian church and take an active part in the various movements which make for higher education, cleaner morality and better citizenship. They have three children: May, who is now Mrs. Varney; Allie, who is the wife of J. A. Moore, of Pasadena, California; and Sarah, who is the wife of Frank Hawk, of Custer county. Mr. and Mrs. Varney are the parents of two children: Vivian and Thomas T., Jr., aged sixteen and thirteen years respectively; they are attending school.

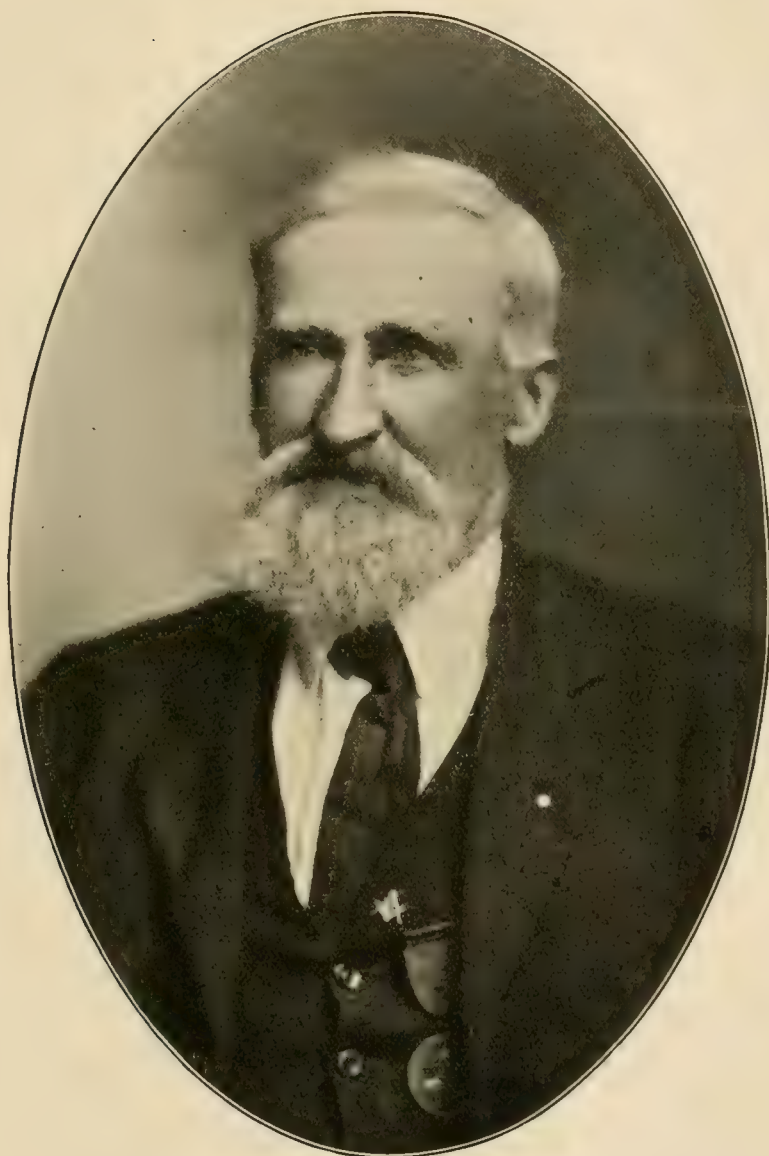
JAMES LINDLY. — The gentleman whose name introduces this record is one of the pioneers of Custer county who arrived within its borders when the work of development had hardly begun, and during a period of nearly forty years he has not only been a witness of the changes that have taken place but has also contributed his full share in the work of transformation and development. James Lindly is a native of the neighboring state of Iowa, where he was born, in Jones county, April 2, 1846. His parents, Amasa and Mary J. (Garison) Lindly, were natives of Ohio, their marriage occurred in Indiana and they became early settlers of Jones county, Iowa, their advent there being before railroads had entered that new country and when Iowa was still a territory. The mother of our subject passed away in Jones county in 1853, and the father's death occurred in 1908, when he had reached the age of eighty-four years. Of the four children, James and Albert are the only survivors.

Reared on a farm in his native county, James Lindly was not yet nineteen years of age when he ran away from home and enlisted in Company G, Seventeenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, on the 6th of March, 1865, and he served until the close of the Civil war, being mustered out at Louisville, Kentucky, and receiving his discharge at Rock Island, Illinois. His older brother, Albert, had enlisted in the fall of 1863, in Company G, Thirty-first Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and he served until the close of the war; he now resides in Marion county, Iowa.

After the war James Lindly returned to Iowa and he was engaged in farm work in Cedar county until the spring of 1866, when he obeyed the call of the west and came to Omaha, Nebraska, thence to Grand Island, and for several months found employment with the Union Pacific Railroad. Returning to Omaha, he became a driver of ox teams,

("deck hand on a bull train," as it was jokingly called) freighting across the plains to Denver, Colorado, where he remained from August, 1866, to December 15, 1867, when he went to Cheyenne, Wyoming, then a mushroom town of shacks, the terminal of the Union Pacific Railroad. From there he returned to Cedar county, Iowa, and resumed farming. He there married Charlotte Wood, a daughter of George A. and Martha (Laughery) Wood, pioneers of Iowa. They were married in the fall of 1868 and the following spring moved to Marion county, Iowa. That year Mr. Lindly, with his wife and one child, came to Lancaster county, Nebraska, he driving through with team and his wife and child coming on the train. He traded for land in Lancaster county, but in 1874 the grasshoppers took the crop and he returned to Iowa, where he remained until 1878. He then came again to Lincoln, Nebraska, where he remained till August, 1880. His wife died in Lincoln, in the fall of 1879, leaving one child, two others having died in infancy.

In September, 1880, Mr. Lindly came to Custer county and took a pre-emption in township 19, range 22, and also filed on a tree claim in the same township. In 1883 he took a homestead in this township and he is one of the few—if, indeed, there be any other—who proved up and took a patent on pre-emption, tree claim, and homestead. In the fall of 1880 Mr. Lindly went to Iowa, where he married Mrs. Mary J. Busby, who had three children by a former marriage. They were married February 3, 1881, and on March 17th they started for their Nebraska home, with a team and wagon. This was a strenuous trip and on the 22d of April they arrived at the pre-emption claim. They were unable to cross the Missouri river by ferry-boat, owing to the overflow, so they were compelled to cross on transfer train over the Union Pacific bridge between Council Bluffs and Omaha. They were among the real early settlers of this part of the county and for a time Mr. Lindly operated the farm of Judge C. R. Mathews, being penniless when he landed here and having spent his last dime for tobacco, at Westerville. From this humble beginning, at a time when hardships and privations were at hand, Mr. Lindly weathered all storms and by diligence and good judgment has become one of the successful farmers and extensive land-owners of Custer county. Instead of the primitive sod house, his home to-day is among the best to be found in the community. His farm is named "Pilgrim's Rest," as for years it was the stop-



JAMES LINDLY

ping place for travelers going from the Dismal river and beyond to Kearney and Grand Island.

As a reminder of those days of hardship a few reminiscences may not be out of place. A storm in November, 1884, almost cut the Lindly family off from their transit from their dugout to the corn crib, which served as sleeping quarters, the snow having been three or four feet deep. Mr. Lindly and three friends were caught away from home and weathered a severe blizzard, with the temperature close to forty degree below.

On January 12, 1888, Mr. Lindly was out in his yard and observed the windmill, against which a warm southwest wind was blowing, suddenly whirl in the opposite direction. He knew at once a storm was on, and looking to the north he saw the wall of frozen mist bearing down upon them. Taking a supply of wraps, he started for the schoolhouse, one and one-half miles away, to get the children. Finding them safely housed at the home of a neighbor, he followed others until they reached home and then made his way to his own home, facing the suffocating blasts for more than a mile and a half. Few men were out so long during that storm and survived. During that winter the family burned corn for fuel.

In the dry year of 1894 Mr. Lindly planted five bushels of potatoes and gathered three pecks. But all obstacles were met and overcome, and James Lindly has become one of the well-to-do men of the county. The following is a record of the children of this pioneer family: Charles and Rosella May died in childhood; Albert is married and resides in Custer county; Grace is the wife of G. E. Lewis, of Niagara Falls, New York; Mabel is the wife of Fred Anderson, of Custer county; Maud is the wife of E. E. Bell, of Custer county; Fred G. and Leonard V. are married and are farming in Custer county. Mrs. Lindly has three children by a former marriage: Alice is the wife of Lewis Karnes, residing in California; Luella married Harry G. Karnes, and they are residents of Seattle, Washington; and John resides in Idaho.

For years Mr. Lindly believed in the principles of the Republican party, but he is now an advocate of those of the Non-Partisan League, believing the best interests of the farmer can be served by the doctrines of that party. Fraternally he is a Mason, and he and Mrs. Lindly are members of the Order of the Eastern Star. Mr. Lindly has taken much interest in the development of the town of Anselmo and he there erected the building oc-

cupied by the Farmers' Mercantile Company, and also the drug-store building.

With good foresight and abounding faith in the increasing value of Custer county land, Mr. Lindly has made judicious investments and holds title to nearly 2,000 acres. He has made a success of farming and stock-raising and is not only one of the county's venerable pioneers but for many years has also been one of its substantial citizens.

Believing that the life record of such men as Mr. Lindly will serve as an inspiration to coming generations, the publishers of this volume take pleasure in according him the recognition he justly deserves and richly merits.

LINDLEY M. PICKETT.—This is the name of a man who is a leader in his community, a man who takes a deep interest in all public affairs and who is a worthy descendant of a very early pioneer family. Lindley M. Pickett was born in 1867, and is a Hoosier by nativity. He is a son of Dr. C. Pickett, well and favorably known in the early days of Broken Bow. His mother, Ann (Pember-ton) Pickett, is still living, at the ripe age of seventy-six years. Dr. Pickett died in 1908, and is survived by six children: Celesta Pershall is living on a homestead in the state of Washington; Lindley M. is the second born; Luther E. is operating an elevator at Genoa, Nebraska; Mary F. McMurphy lives at Antioch, Nebraska; Edwin C. is professor in the Mullen school and was superintendent at Arnold for nine years; and Mrs. Ollie G. McDermott lives on a Blaine county ranch. Dr. Pickett located a homestead in Blaine county but died before making final proof. The patent on the land was issued to his widow. Dr. Pickett brought his family to Custer county in 1888. He was a Republican voter and was an enterprising and progressive citizen of fine ability. He was for a time a member of the faculty of the medical college at Lincoln, and was a member of the pension board in Broken Bow for several years. He was affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His widow lives with her son Edwin, at Mullen.

Lindley M. Pickett was married in 1892, to Anna M. Rusk, who was born in Illinois and who is a daughter of David and Catherine Rusk. Mr. and Mrs. Pickett have four children—Thirza J. Holmes, whose husband at the present time is serving in the marine corps of the government; Katie M., who is teaching school near Arnold; and Otis E. and Lloyd

E., who are at home. Mr. Pickett has lived on a Kinkaid homestead for the last thirteen years and has 100 acres under cultivation. He has the place well stocked with a good grade of cattle. The farm carries about fifty head of cattle the year around. He breeds the Duroc-Jersey hogs and has made them fairly profitable. He has fine horses and mules, and the improvements of the place speak well for his management. All that he has is the product of his own labor and the able assistance given by his good wife. The first money he ever made was by carrying bundles to the shock, for twenty-five cents a day. He is a Republican voter and has long been prominent in local affairs. He has served as township clerk, census enumerator, road overseer, and school trustee, and in many other ways has contributed a valuable service to the community. The Picketts deserve well the good things their neighbors say of them—they are accommodating, courteous, and hospitable, and the community is better for their residence therein.

STEWART B. MATHON is one of the successful farmers of his community and has been a resident of Custer county since pioneer days. He was born in Pennsylvania November 26, 1849. His father, John B. Mathon, was a native of Pennsylvania, where he spent his entire life, and his mother, whose maiden name was Rebecca Carey, was a native of Pennsylvania, of German parentage. The paternal grandfather, John Mathon, was a native of Ireland.

Stewart B. Mathon was reared in his native state and at the age of twenty-three years he started for the west. For four years he worked at farm labor in Indiana, receiving thirteen dollars per month. In that state he married Miss Fannie Shankland, a native of the Hoosier state, and soon after their marriage they came to Nebraska. He was engaged in farming in Hamilton county until 1883, when he came to Custer county. Here he secured a homestead, and after proving up on the same he sold it and pre-empted a tree claim. This claim he later homesteaded, and this has been his home ever since. He had the experience of living in a sod house, of hauling water for thirteen years, and of encountering all of the hardships incident to the early days. But by diligence he has prospered. The sod house has been replaced by one made of cement blocks, to his original tract of land has been added another quarter-

section, and general farming is carried on with good success.

Mr. and Mrs. Mathon have had five children, two of whom are living: Lizzie is the wife of Delbert Lewis, of Custer county; and John, a bachelor, is still at the parental home. The family are members of the Methodist church and in politics Mr. Mathon is a Democrat. He has seen pioneer conditions give way to those of the present day, and in the work of development he has contributed his full share.

CHARLES N. DRAPER, a progressive representative of agricultural industry in Custer county, has had a somewhat varied career, in which he has won his own way to success after several discouraging set-backs in his fortunes. Two occupations, mining and farming, have been engaged in by him, but the latter has been the more successful, and to it he is devoting his time at present, being the owner of 160 acres of land near Ansley.

Mr. Draper was born in Illinois, near Saint Louis, Missouri, January 29, 1866, and is a son of Riley and Sarah E. (Hunt) Draper. His paternal grandfather, Albert Draper, was one of the earliest settlers of Huntington county, Indiana, where for years he was engaged in operating a saw mill, his death occurring in that state. Stephen Hunt, the maternal grandfather of Mr. Draper, was a Baptist minister who preached the Gospel in Indiana and other states, and whose career came to a close in Missouri. Riley Draper was born in 1839, the first white child born in Huntington county, Indiana, and the log cabin in which he came into this world was considered of sufficient historic interest to be exhibited at the great Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis, where it attracted much attention. He received a common-school education, which he supplemented by self-instruction, including wide reading and much study, and he became a pioneer school teacher in Indiana. There he married Miss Sarah E. Hunt, who was born in that state, in 1843. In the '60s they removed to Illinois and settled not far from the Missouri state line. There Mr. Draper continued his educational labors, as did he also in Missouri, for a number of years, and he finally removed to Colorado, where likewise he gave effective service in instructing the young. In his declining years he retired, and his death occurred in 1911, at Greeley, that state. He was a Republican in politics and was a member of the Baptist church, as is also

his widow. They were the parents of thirteen children, of whom seven survive, but Charles N. is the only one living in Nebraska at this time.

Charles N. Draper received instruction under his father and attended the schools of Clark county, Missouri, completing his education by three weeks' attendance in the Ansley schools. As a young man he accompanied his parents to Colorado, where he became a miner, a vocation which he followed ten years, but in 1890 he came to Nebraska and engaged for a time in farming. He next returned to Colorado, but in 1898 he came back to Custer county and began farming again, this time as a renter. He worked industriously and intelligently, and saved his earnings, and in 1910 he was able to purchase his present property, a tract of 160 acres, which he has brought to a high state of cultivation. Mr. Draper is engaged in mixed farming and has made a success of his ventures, showing himself to be possessed of agricultural knowledge and skill. He has always maintained a high reputation for integrity in business dealings, and personally his circle of friends is virtually coincident with that of his acquaintances.

In 1892 Mr. Draper married Miss Effie Clay, who was born in Lawrence county, Ohio, a daughter of W. H. and Mary (Rucker) Clay, and a direct descendant of Henry Clay. Her father was born in Kentucky and during the Civil war became a member of the Fifth Virginia Volunteer Infantry, with which he served four years. He was severely wounded at the battle of Shiloh, and was carried off the battlefield by his father, John Clay, but he recovered and rejoined his regiment, with which he fought until peace was declared. After the war he went to Ohio, where he was engaged in milling and where he married. In 1871 he removed to Missouri, where he continued in the same line of business. In 1888 he came to Custer county and homesteaded the property now occupied by his son-in-law, Mr. Draper. Here he continued to farm until his death, in 1899, his widow still surviving and making her home on the same property. Mr. and Mrs. Draper have two children: Alden was on the homestead in Colorado, and finally he entered the United States service in connection with the world war; and Rosil, who was in training in the camp at New London, Connecticut, was later assigned to duty on a submarine chaser. Mr. and Mrs. Draper are rearing Frank Willis, a son of Mrs. Draper's sister. The family belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church, and fraternally Mr. Draper is identified with the Independent Order of

Odd Fellows, in which he has passed the official chairs, and the Modern Woodmen of America. He maintains an independent stand upon political questions and reserves the right to give his vote and support to the candidate whom he deems best qualified for office.

MARIUS C. JENSEN.—Among the names of the early pioneers of Custer county will be found that of the subject of this review, and there are few more worthy of recognition in this history than Marius Charles Jensen.

Mr. Jensen was born in Denmark, June 2, 1862, and is a son of Carl and Anna Jensen, who spent their entire lives in their native land. Marius C. Jensen came to America when a youth of eighteen years, and after a short time spent in Story and Shelby counties, Iowa, he came to Nebraska, where he found work as a farm hand, in Kearney county. In 1884 he came to Custer county and secured a homestead in section 17, township 17, range 23. He was among the early settlers of West Table and had the usual experiences of those times. His first home was a sod house, and when this was worn out it was replaced with another one, which is still in use. Water had to be hauled for a considerable distance, until a well could be dug on the place, but with characteristic energy Mr. Jensen overcame obstacles, and as the years passed he met with success. He is to-day the owner of three quarter-sections of land, and he recently sold a quarter-section to his son.

Mr. Jensen married Miss Elsie Clausen, a native of Denmark, who came to America when a young woman and who pre-empted 160 acres in Custer county, where she located in 1884. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Jensen has been blessed with seven children: Christ, Claus, Stella, and Lena are still at home; Dewey had become a member of our national army at the time this article was written; Anna is the wife of Thomas Christensen, of Custer county; and Serene is the wife of John J. Christensen, of this county.

Mr. and Mrs. Jensen are members of the Lutheran church and maintain a home at Minden, Kearney county, where they spend most of their time, the sons conducting the farm.

AUGUST JAEGER.—The Jaeger genealogy runs far back in Germany, but the family line touched America at last, and it has contributed wealth and energy to Custer county in the vicinity of Callaway, where the practical

farmer and stock-raiser of whom we are writing has his residence and maintains his interests.

It was without consultation or even with his consent, that Germany became the birthplace of August Jaeger, who was born December 6, 1859. He inherited from staunch German parents the splendid thrift and energy that show forth everywhere upon his ranch to-day. If Germany was the land of his birth, America was the land of his choice, and here most of his life has been spent thus far, while here the tribute of his labors has been rendered. He is one of the six children of Adolph and Eufrosia (Weber) Jaeger—Fredericka T., Litterst, Anna (a nurse), August, Leo, Anna (deceased), and Sigmund.

The early years of August Jaeger were spent in Germany, where he attended school until he was fourteen years of age. Then he was called upon to render manual service, and at seventeen, according to the custom, was placed as an apprentice, to learn the wagon-maker's trade. He worked eighteen months for the first man, to whom his father paid sixty dollars, besides the labors contributed by the boy. He started in as a journeyman workman and worked for different masters, having to carry a book of recommendations from one employer to another, and this book was deposited in the court house, with the clerk, where it was held until he had finished his job; then the employer added his testimonials to the book, as to efficiency, good moral character, etc., and thus it was to be carried on to the next prospective employer.

The New World called Mr. Jaeger, and in 1882 he crossed the Atlantic and settled at Atlantic, Iowa, where he had his first introduction to ways and customs of this country. He commenced working at his trade. After his first two weeks' work his employer became bankrupt, and he lost half of his wages. He stayed in Atlantic eighteen months and then, in the spring of 1884, he came to Custer county, and located on the farm where he now resides and maintains his pleasant home.

The domestic life of Mr. Jaeger began June 18, 1886, when, at North Platte, Nebraska, he led to the marriage altar Miss Magdalena Bieser, a daughter of Haver and Helen (Huber) Bieser. Mrs. Jaeger had but one brother and he is now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Jaeger became the parents of four children, but only one of the number has been spared to them until the present time. She is Ida, the wife of Rudolph Thanel, a farmer living near Stapleton.

The Jaeger farm consists of 1,020 acres, and

is one of the best improved places in Triumph township. When he landed in Custer county Mr. Jaeger had but \$200. All that you see on the Jaeger premises has been the accumulation of the years since that time. He raises cattle, hogs, corn, and other crops, tends strictly to his business, and few men in the county deserve more credit for the showing made than the subject of this review. It is to be remembered, too, that the years have not all been prosperous. Mr. Jaeger remembers that he once hauled wheat forty miles and sold it for thirty-five cents a bushel, that he sold hogs for two and one-half cents a pound, and corn for ten cents a bushel. He is a Mason in good standing, is a Democrat in politics, and the family belong to the Catholic church.

LINN S. DOWNING.—One of the substantial farmers and live-wire community promoters of the Arnold district is the man whose name forms the caption above. He came to Custer county subsequently to pioneer days, and his present activities entitle him to rank among the real producers of the day and age in which he lives, the while he is thus constituted a most desirable citizen.

Mr. Downing is one of the really young farmers. He did not make his advent into this world until July 29, 1882, at which time he selected Abilene, Kansas, as his native city. He is a son of Joseph R. and Rebecca (Hammond) Downing, who were born in Blair county, Pennsylvania, and who became the parents of six children. Of the children three are living—Edward, Linn S., and Wilkie J. Linn S. Downing arrived in Custer county in 1903. One year prior to this time he led to the marriage altar Miss Lucinda E. English. Notwithstanding the marriage was solemnized in Versailles, Illinois, Mrs. Downing was born in Custer county, Nebraska, a daughter of Rev. Nathan and Emma (Mills) English—very excellent people, highly esteemed by all who knew them.

The Downings established an ideal home and since that time four children have brought sunshine into the home—W. Nelson, Kenneth L., Margaret, and Herchel. Three of the children are in school at the present time, while the youngest is winsomely serving in the capacity of home dictator.

The Downing farm is located three and three-fourths miles northwest of Arnold. The initial tract was 160 acres, and upon this, by intensive cultivation and good management, Mr. Downing succeeded in raising the hogs, cattle, and corn with the returns from which he

bought adjoining land, and then still more adjoining land, until to-day he owns in fee simple 1,600 good acres, well improved, with all necessary outbuildings and machinery equipment. He has demonstrated his ability both as a farmer and money-maker. He relates that when a boy, he saw a goat which a man wanted to sell for fifty cents and that he "rustled" rags and old iron until he had accumulated the necessary fifty cents, which he invested in the goat. Later he sold the goat for \$2.50 and this constituted the capital on which the young lad began his life operations. The transaction of the goat has been repeated in other kinds of stock a good many times since that day and the results are told by the accumulation to be found on the Downing premises. Recently Mr. Downing has rented his ranch and he and his brother, forming a business partnership, have bought the Long & Stockham hardware stock and business in Arnold, where, in connection with hardware and farm machinery and implements, they handle furniture and conduct an undertaking business.

The family are prominent in the community and are counted as active promoters of every progressive enterprise. Mr. Downing is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and he and his wife hold the faith of the Methodist church, in which denomination they are counted as very substantial constituents. Arnold boast of no better family, and all prophesy well deserved success for the Arnold brothers in their business enterprise.

HENRY SCHMID, who is at present a retired citizen of Ansley, has been one of the industrious men of Custer county, linking his name with all that is admirable in farming, and wise and progressive in individual life, and bearing the distinction of being thoroughly and completely self-made. He is a native of Switzerland, and was born February 18, 1864, a son of John and Barbara (Merc) Schmid, who passed their entire lives in Switzerland, where the father was connected with a manufacturing plant. They were faithful members of the Reformed church. Of their seven children six survive: Mary is the wife of John Ward, an Illinois farmer; Ida is the widow of a Swiss farmer and resides in her native land; Henry, of this sketch, was next in order of birth; Mrs. Elsie Hamer is the wife of a retired farmer of Apple River, Illinois; Barbara is unmarried and is a resident of Switzerland; and Jacob resides in the United States.

Henry Schmid received his education in Switzerland, and was but seventeen years of

age when he immigrated to the United States, courageously seeking his fortune in a strange land, though he was penniless, and ignorant of the customs and language of his new home. When he arrived in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, he not only was possessed of no funds, but also owed the money for his passage to this country, but as he was willing, strong, and ambitious, he had no trouble in securing employment as a farm hand, with the result that he soon had his debt liquidated and began to make headway. After seven years spent in Illinois, Mr. Schmid had accumulated a little capital, which he brought to Custer county in 1888 and invested in a relinquishment. His start, necessarily, was a modest one, but as time passed and he was able to realize money from his labors, he added to his equipment, made improvements, and enlarged the scope of his operations, and then began adding to his acreage. The result is that to-day he is the owner of 480 acres of land in the county, in addition to owning town property, and has numerous business connections, including a directorship in the Security State Bank of Ansley. His farm, which he still owns, is a handsome property, with substantial buildings and other improvements, and lies on Muddy creek, three and one-half miles northwest of Ansley. In 1917 Mr. Schmid retired from the farm and moved to Ansley, where he has since lived quietly, in the enjoyment of the many comforts that his industry has brought him. Mr. Schmid is a Republican, but has never been interested in politics to the extent of seeking public office. He is a member of the Ansley lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and at the time of this writing is noble grand of the same.

In 1890 Mr. Schmid was united in marriage, in Nebraska, to Miss Amy Billeter, who was born in Switzerland, and to this union there have been born five children: Henry, who is carrying on operations in his father's farm; Lottie, who is the wife of Herman Baller, a farmer of York county, Nebraska; Jacob, who also is operating on his father's big farm; Emma, who is the wife of L. Tennent, a farmer near Berwyn; and Clara, who is at home. Mrs. Schmid is a member of the Baptist church and is actively interested in its work.

GEORGE H. SMITH, who is the owner and operator of a 480-acre stock farm situated seven miles southwest of Oconto, has been a resident of Custer county since 1887, and has been a witness of and participant in the great development that has changed the face of the

country during this period. Mr. Smith, like numerous other Custer county residents, is a native of Wisconsin, and was born in Sauk county, July 24, 1859, a son of Humphrey L. and Diana (Clark) Smith.

Humphrey L. Smith was born in Otsego county, New York, and his wife near Coopers-town, that state, and there were nine children in the family: Mrs. Sarah Rood, Albert T., Mrs. Ella Wulfert, Alonzo, Mrs. Mary Shew, George H., Mrs. Diana Rood, Jay D., and Clark A. The family belonged to the Baptist church. The father of George H. Smith was a wagonmaker by trade, and followed that vocation in early life in New York, as did he also to some extent in his later years, although after moving to Wisconsin he was variously engaged—following farming, lumbering, and other vocations.

The district schools of the timber country of Sauk county furnished George H. Smith with the rudiments of an education, which he has since supplemented by observation, reading, and study, and his youth was passed in hard work, in which he learned the value of money and the wisdom of industry and thrift. An incident of his boyhood is readily recalled by him, for at a time when money was a decidedly scarce commodity the earning of one's first negotiable currency was an event of importance. He was working on his father's timber farm when a stranger visited the homestead, buying sheep pelts. When he had completed his transaction he secured the services of the boy George to guide him to the nearest road, paying him ten cents and apologizing for the fact that it was not more, his excuse being that the elder Smith had driven too close a bargain as to the pelts. To the youth, however, entirely unaccustomed to handling money of his own, it was a sum of magnitude, amply sufficient for the service rendered. It was the invariable custom of the time and community for the farmers' sons to remain under the parental roof at least until they were twenty-one years of age, but Mr. Smith made an agreement with his father to clear four acres of timber land and thus secure his release one year earlier. This was done, and when he was twenty years old he found himself a free agent. He began his independent career by working on farms during the summer months and cutting wood during the winter terms.

March 1, 1882, at Baraboo, Wisconsin, Mr. Smith was united in marriage to Mary L. Hazen, who was born at Waterloo, Wisconsin, a daughter of John and Emily (Barnum) Hazen. To this union there were born ten children: Maude, the wife of Ross Kitch, a well-

man of Wagner, Nebraska, with a son and daughter; Della, the wife of Homer Zingling, a carpenter of that place, with three sons and four daughters; Earl R., who enlisted in August, 1918, as a sharpshooter of Company M, Twentieth Infantry, and is in the United States service at Camp Funston at the time of this writing; James N., a "Kinkaid" of Logan county, Nebraska, who married Rose Draper and has one daughter; Nora E., the wife of Bud Jarmin, of Platteville, Colorado, a farmer, with two sons and a daughter; Leora, the wife of Columbus Shields, a farmer of Arnold, Nebraska, with one son; Harley G. and Frederick M., who are single, residing at home, and assisting their father; Stella M., who resides at home and is an eighth-grade student in the public schools; and William A., living at home, an overseer on his father's farm.

George H. Smith came to Custer county April 1, 1887, and first located in Deer creek, near Georgetown. Subsequently, in 1891, he homesteaded seven miles southwest of Oconto, his present home, where he is the owner of a stock farm consisting of 480 acres. During the years that he has been a resident of this locality he has not only gained material success and established one of the valuable and productive properties of this section of Custer county, but at the same time has also built up a personal reputation for integrity in business, industry in the daily affairs of life, probity as to personal habits and character, and public spirit as a citizen of his community.

GEORGE ROBERTSON.—The sons of Scotia have always been men of thrift and industry, wherever they have elected to make their homes, and are practically without exception found to be an asset to any community; their sturdy traits of racial character contributing to their locality's development and commending them to the regard of their fellow men. One of the men of Scotch birth residing in Custer county, one who is well known as the representative of a worthy family, and as a farmer and stockman who is developing large interests, is George Robertson, of the Redfern Table community. Mr. Robertson was born in Scotland, in November, 1875, and is a son of Walter and Martha (Johnston) Robertson, natives of that country. He is one of a family of five sons—John, Walter, Gavin, George, and William. John is carrying on operations on his father's former homestead farm in Custer county, and William is deceased.

George Robertson was but five years of age



JAMES M. LOWRY



MRS. JAMES M. LOWRY

when his parents immigrated to the United States, the family settling in the coal-mining community of Clark City, Illinois, the father having followed the vocation of mining in his native land. Here the youth grew up and received his education in the public schools, and here also it was that he earned his first money, by hauling oat-straw for the miners to fill their bed ticks with, at a standard price of twenty-five cents per tick. In the spring of 1887, when George was eleven years old, the family came to Custer county, Nebraska, the first location being on Cottonwood creek, north of Redfern Table. That continued to be the family home and scene of operations until 1898, when the father bought 160 acres of land on Redfern Table. There the mother died in January, 1914, at which time the eldest son, John, took over the homestead, the father removing to Alberta, Canada, where he took up 320 acres of land, on which he still makes his home.

George Robertson completed his education in the public schools of Custer county, and when not engaged at his studies he assisted his father and brothers in preparing the home fields for the plow. He was reared to all manner of agricultural pursuits and thoroughly trained therein, and farming and stock-raising have constituted the vocation to which he has given his interest and energies. He has succeeded in the accumulation of 720 acres of good land, lying west of the property now operated by his brother John. Here Mr. Robertson has a fine set of buildings, good equipment of all kinds, and a high grade of stock. He is making a decided success of his work, so that he is coming to be looked upon as a well-to-do and substantial citizen. Mr. Robertson is a Democrat in politics, but is not a politician, taking merely a public-spirited part in civic affairs. Mrs. Robertson and her children belong to the Lutheran church.

Mr. Robertson was married February 12, 1898, at Broken Bow, Nebraska, to Miss Caroline Lang, who was born in Denmark, daughter of Theodore and Anna Lang, natives of that country. To this union there have been born three sons and two daughters: Walter, an eighth-grade student (1918), resides at home and assists his father on the farm; Marie also is an eighth-grade student; Gavin and William are attending school; and Eva, aged five years, is recognized as queen of the family circle.

JAMES M. LOWRY.—A representative of one of the first generations to settle in Custer county, many of whom are passing to

their reward, was the late James Monroe Lowry, who was widely known throughout the eastern section of the county as a splendid and valuable citizen. He was a son of Melvin and Malinda (Batington) Lowry, who were natives of Illinois and who came to Custer county in the early days of 1878. Here they homesteaded, and here they made their home until their death. They were the parents of six children, only two of whom are living at the present writing—Mrs. Anna Nave, a widow living in Oklahoma, and Leander, also a resident of that state. At the death of James Monroe Lowry, which occurred December 30, 1912, a Broken Bow paper published the following comprehensive and appreciative sketch of his life:

"James Monroe Lowry was born near Springfield, Illinois, October 10, 1848. At the age of eight years he moved with his parents to Rochester, Minnesota. Here he received his education in the common schools and in the university at Red Wing. As a very young man he took up the profession of an educator, which he followed about twelve years, during which period he taught in five different states, varying from cold Minnesota to sunny Texas. March 17, 1877, he came to Custer county and located on a homestead in Clear Creek valley, where he continued to maintain his home until his death. October 11, 1879, he was united in marriage with Hattie A. Thompson, at Kearney, Nebraska. To this union seven children were born, four of whom survive.

"At the time of his death Mr. Lowry was Clear Creek's oldest settler, having been a continuous resident for more than thirty-five years. He witnessed the passing of the oxen and the dugout; he saw the antelope, the deer, and the elk fade away before the flow of immigration; he saw the rolling prairies slowly transformed into waving fields of grain; he saw the coming of the railroads, and the building of towns and substantial farm dwellings. Yes, he more than saw—he was a factor, at least in his community, in developing this new country. At an early date he established a nursery, from which scores of settlers of Custer and adjoining counties procured trees for their timber claims. Of his own homestead he made a veritable arbor of forest and fruit trees.

"As a rather extensive farmer and stock-raiser he faced the brightest and darkest days that came to the county, overcame opposing conditions and reverses, and accumulated a comfortable competence. Mr. Lowry was an admirer of intellect rather than brawn, a stu-

dent of the world's greatest minds, and an ardent lover of nature. His views were ever progressive, and often in advance of the times. He believed in the religion of humanity. Honest and consistent, his life was above reproach.

"During the month of February, 1912, he contracted a severe cold, which grew rapidly worse, resulting in a complication of lung, heart, and dropsical trouble, from which he died, at the Clarkson Memorial hospital, in Omaha, at seven P. M., December 30, 1912, aged sixty-four years, two months, and twenty days. Funeral services were conducted from his home, at Huxley, Thursday, January 2d, and interment was made at the Lone Elm cemetery. Judge Sullivan, of this city, delivered the obituary address. He is survived by a wife, three sons, and one daughter—Victor and Maurice, of Purdum, Nebraska; and Irma and Lawrence of Huxley. He is survived also by one brother, Leander J. Lowry, of Blanchard, Oklahoma, and by two sisters, Mrs. Anna A. Nave, of Perry, Oklahoma, and Mrs. Ellen Welch, of New Plymouth, Ohio."

Continuing the family history, it is to be recorded that Mrs. Lowry is a daughter of P. H. and Sarah (Lewis) Thompson, both of whom were born in England, where their marriage was solemnized and whence they came to the United States, where, in the state of Wisconsin, Mrs. Thompson died in 1875. Three years later Mr. Thompson came to Custer county and settled on a homestead near Westerville. There he passed the remainder of his life. His daughter, Mrs. Lowry, owned the old homestead until 1911, when she sold the property.

In the Thompson home were seven children, four of whom are still living: Mrs. Lowry, who is the widow of the honored subject of this memoir; John, who is living somewhere in the west; Elizabeth, who is the wife of Emerson Stafford, their home being in Wisconsin; and Caroline, who is the wife of D. A. Coguel, of Cody, Wyoming. Mrs. Thompson, the mother of Mrs. Lowry, was a devoted member of the Baptist church.

Mrs. Lowry received her early education in the public schools of Wisconsin and later took a course in the Wisconsin State Normal School at Waukesha. In 1876 she began teaching in Wisconsin, where she taught several years. After coming to Custer county, Nebraska, she taught the first school in the Westerville district. The schoolhouse and furniture were both somewhat primitive. There was no floor, one kitchen chair was provided for the teacher, but the seats were the cheapest kind of hewed benches. Mrs. Lowry and her husband, as

noted in the foregoing obituary statement, became the parents of four children: Victor E. and Maurice T. are now ranching in Cherry county; Irma V. married Glenn Smith and they live with her mother, Mr. Smith having charge of Mrs. Lowry's farm; Lawrence E. was a volunteer in the service of the United States Navy, in which he enlisted in January, 1917, and at the time of this writing he is on transport duty, as signal officer.

Mrs. Lowry still operates the farm, doing a general farming and stock-raising business. She has also been a stock-feeder to a considerable extent, and has furnished and is furnishing much beef and pork for the market. The stock is high grade and shows the cultivated strain of long lineage. The splendid farm home is the germane descendant of the regulation sod house which was so common in the pioneer days and in which Mr. and Mrs. Lowry began their domestic life.

In 1879 the postoffice of Huxley was located by Mr. Lowry in his farm home, and for three months he himself carried the mail on horseback from Myrtle postoffice, which is now discontinued. The Huxley office at the present time is located in a building near Mrs. Lowry's home and receives mail daily from the Ansley postoffice.

PHILIP W. LYNCH, who has long been one of Custer county's substantial men and dependable citizens, conducts large farming operations and has heavy live-stock interests. Forty years ago Mr. Lynch first came to Custer county and he has not only had much to do with the agricultural development of this section, but also, as a man of good judgment, has frequently been called upon when public-spirited movements were being furthered and general improvements initiated. Mr. Lynch was born October 12, 1858, in Oswego county, New York, the fourth of a family of seven children born to Patrick and Margaret (McDermott) Lynch. The parents were natives of Ireland, whence they immigrated to the United States prior to their marriage. They finally settled in Oswego county, New York, where the father became a farmer. They had the following children: Catherine, Mary E., Joseph P., Philip W., Thomas L., John A., and Margaret. When Patrick Lynch first came to the United States he worked at his trade, that of blacksmith, in the government navy yard at Brooklyn, and after his marriage and location on a farm, he continued work at his trade.

Philip W. Lynch attended school in Oswego county until he was about sixteen years of

age, when he was entrusted with the driving of one of his father's teams that hauled hemlock bark, hides, and leather for a tannery, and this was his work for four winters, while his summers were given up to farm industry. In 1878 he came to Custer county, Nebraska, and during the first winter he worked for Joseph Murray, at Lee's Park. In 1879 he took a timber claim in that section, but thereafter he went to Leadville, Colorado, where he was employed in silver-mining, besides which he was for two years employed as a mason for the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad. It was a hard and adventurous life in that region at that time, and Mr. Lynch gave it up and returned to Custer county. Here he settled on his timber claim and began to clear his land. He utilized his two yoke of steers in preparing for farming. His nearest neighbors were Joseph Murray, to the southwest of him, and Nelson Potter, to the west. He continued farming and retained his Lee's Park holdings until 1902, when he sold the property. He then bought railroad land on Buffalo creek, in the same year. In all his investments Mr. Lynch has evidenced excellent business judgment, and he now owns section 17, township 13, range 22. He has 225 acres under cultivation and raises Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China hogs, all registered. He has comfortable and attractive home surroundings, with a handsome, modern farm residence.

Mr. Lynch was married January 12, 1884, in Loup City, Nebraska, to Miss Catherine V. McDowell, who was born in Lincolnshire, England, a daughter of Bernard and Mary (Hughes) McDowell, her father a native of Ireland, and her mother of New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. and Mrs. Lynch have six children: Philip L. is a farmer five miles southwest of Oconto. He is a member of the Catholic church, and is affiliated with the Royal Highlanders and the Knights of Columbus. He married Florence Powers, and they have two sons and one daughter. Patrick F. C., who has been farming his father's land, was ready to answer his country's call and to serve as a member of the United States army in the world war. Bernard is deceased. Ignatius M. is farming for his father. Katherine V., who resides at home, is a school-teacher, and in 1917 she was graduated from the Catholic academy at Hastings. James J. is attending school.

Mr. Lynch and his older sons are independent voters, and while he has never been willing to accept public office, his practical and mature judgment as at all times been accepted by his fellow citizens. As far back as 1879, he was one of the petitioners for a postoffice

at Lee's Park, and he was one of the leading early settlers that signed the first petition in reference to the line, between Custer and Valley counties, that split Lee's Park in the center. He and his family are all members of the Roman Catholic church and he is identified with the Knights of Columbus and the Royal Highlanders.

JOHN W. GRIFFIN.—One of the native sons of Custer county, John W. Griffin belongs to the younger element of agriculturists upon whom the county depends in the future to develop its interests and maintain the high standards set by those who settled the county and established precedents. He was born on his father's homestead place, five and one-quarter miles southwest of Callaway, September 28, 1888, and is a son of John and Lydia (Roderick) Griffin.

John Griffin was born in Canada, and was left an orphan by the death of his parents when he was ten years of age. He was adopted by an Illinois farmer and taken to the latter's home, in the vicinity of Springfield, where he was educated and grew to manhood. He remained in the Prairie state after he had attained his majority, and was there married to Lydia Roderick, a native of Illinois. Several years after his marriage he decided to make a new start, in the west, and accordingly, in 1885, he came to Custer county, where he located on a homestead situated five and one-quarter miles southwest of Callaway, a property which is still owned by his heirs. He was a man of industry, and, aided by his faithful and energetic wife, he succeeded in the accumulation of a handsome and well cultivated property, the while he reared his large family of children to lives of honor and usefulness. He had the unqualified respect and esteem of his fellow citizens, and was a citizen who assisted in good movements. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, of whom nine are living, as follows: Frank G., William E., Oliver S., and Charles V., all of whom are engaged in agricultural pursuits in Custer county; John W., who is the subject of this review; Goldie, who is deceased; Mrs. Dolly Hunnell; Mrs. Sadie Bryner; Jennie, who is single, and lives with her brother Charles V.; and Pearl, who still attends school and lives with her brother Charles V.

From the time that he earned his first money by planting potatoes for John Stillman, in the Roten valley, John W. Griffin has been identified with some branch of agriculture. He received his education in the district schools of

the vicinity of his home, and when old enough to make a decision he chose farming as his vocation, an occupation which he has steadfastly followed to the present time. He is now an owner of part of the estate left by his father, a rich and valuable tract, but his present activities are devoted to the cultivation of the Charles Martin farm, a tract of 320 acres, lying in the Roten valley. Mr. Griffin carries on both general farming and stock-raising, and is making rapid progress in both departments, being considered one of the progressive and energetic young agriculturists of this locality.

On July 2, 1914, Mr. Griffin was united in marriage with Miss Effie M. Bartlett, who was born in Polk county, Nebraska, daughter of Kellogg C. and Mary S (Smith) Bartlett, the former a native of Elgin, Illinois, and the latter of Pennsylvania. There were eleven children in the Bartlett family, namely: Mrs. Esther I. Luft; Earl B., who, at the time of this writing, is in training for the national army, at Camp Cody, Deming, New Mexico; Mrs. Abbie B. McKellip; Mrs. Effie M. Griffin, Dolly M., who is single and resides with her parents at Primrose, Nebraska; Roscoe E.; Anna M., Fannie F., and Edith E., who reside at home; and Vernon C. and Fay J., who are attending school. To Mr. and Mrs. Griffin two children have been born: Rosa A., in 1915; and Walter A., in 1917.

WILLIAM A. RUNYAN, who is becoming well and favorably known in banking circles of Custer county by reason of his connection, as assistant cashier, with the Farmers State Bank of Mason City, is also identified with agricultural matters here and has various other interests. He belongs to a family which has been located in central Nebraska for many years, and he was born on the family homestead, three miles northeast of Mason City, Custer county, April 25, 1889. His parents were George and Medora H. (Amsberry) Runyan, the latter a sister of D. M. Amsberry, who was elected secretary of state of Nebraska in the fall of 1918, and a sketch of whose career appears elsewhere in this work.

William A. Runyan was educated in the district schools of his native community and for two months was a student in the Baptist College at Grand Island. When he left that institution he engaged in farming on the home place, continuing to be thus occupied until taking a position with the Farmers State Bank of Mason City, in 1914. He has since won promotion through a display of ability and fidelity and the exercise of the banking talents

which he undoubtedly possesses. While the main part of his attention is devoted to his duties at the bank, he also has interests of an agricultural character, being the owner of a fine farm property of 640 acres, in Custer county. He stands high in the estimation and confidence of his associates and of the people among whom his life has largely been spent.

January 1, 1913, Mr. Runyan married Miss Iowa F. Wood, a daughter of John T. Wood. She was well educated in the public schools of Broken Bow, subsequently became the assistant of her father, who was serving as register of deeds of Custer county, and continued with him for fifteen months. Just before her marriage she was employed in the abstract office of J. G. Leonard, for four months. Like her husband, she at present is acting as an assistant cashier of the Farmers State Bank. Mr. and Mrs. Runyan are the parents of one son: Roger, born June 6, 1917. Mrs. Runyan is a member of the Christian church and Mr. Runyan is a Baptist. His political faith is that of the Democratic party, which he supports energetically.

ALBERT MILLER, a solid, steadfast citizen of Custer county and a farmer of many years experience, is a member of that pioneering band that came here in 1886 and, notwithstanding hardships and discouragements in the early days, never lost faith in the ultimate value of their lands and are to-day people of independent fortune. Mr. Miller was born in Adams county, Indiana, one of the four children of William and Clarissa (Bristol) Miller, the former born in Germany and the latter in New York. Albert Miller has one brother, Reuben Miller, who lives in Indiana. William Miller was twenty years old when he, with many other young men, embarked on a sailing vessel for America, all desiring to escape service in the German army. They had a stormy passage, at one time adverse winds driving their vessel back almost to the point of sailing, but finally, after six weeks at sea, the passengers were safely landed in the harbor of New York city and on this following day William Miller obtained work on a farm. Later he moved to Indiana, where he followed farming. He had been married nine years when he enlisted for service as a soldier in the Civil war, becoming a member of the Fifty-ninth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and a year and three months later he died in service, in a hospital at Louisville, Kentucky. His death occurred just three weeks after President Lincoln was assassinated.

Albert Miller was reared in Indiana and attended the public schools. In answering the question as to the first money he ever saved, Mr. Miller states that it was a "cold proposition," as the securing of the dime offered, necessitated his wading into a swamp to his middle, late in the fall of the year, and bringing out to its owner a horse that had stalled there. This spirit of courage and determination has never left Mr. Miller, and in part it explains his subsequent success in life. He remained with his mother until he was twenty-one years of age and then went to work on another farm, where he continued four years. In the meanwhile he married, and two years later, in March, 1886, he came with his family to Custer county, Nebraska, locating in section 28, township 13, range 23, on West Buffalo creek, where he has lived on the same place for the past thirty-two years. During the first three months Mr. Miller hauled, for a distance of three miles, all water used in his household, but in June he found water in his well, at a depth of 135 feet. The lack of water during the long drouth period was not the only hardship to be endured, Mr. Miller recalling that at one time he drove 100 miles to get flour. The old-home folks in Indiana urged the Millers to abandon their Nebraska land and return east, but Mr. Miller did not give way, and the present prosperity of this whole region fully proves his wise foresight. He owns 600 acres of fine land and still is actively engaged in farm pursuits, few men being better qualified for the business of operating profitably.

Mr. Miller was married June 9, 1884, in Wells county, Indiana, to Miss Mary Foust, who was born in that county, a daughter of Daniel and Margaret (Householder) Foust, natives of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Miller has one brother, John Foust, and one sister, Mrs. Malinda Bowers. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have four sons and two daughters, as follows: William H., who is a farmer located eighteen miles south of Callaway, this county, married Grace Copass; Arthur, who farms his father's property on West Buffalo creek, married Mae Ashley; Samuel, who was sent to Camp Grant, Illinois, and while there, about the last of September, 1918, he suffered an attack of Spanish influenza, from the effects of which he died, on the 5th of October, his remains being brought home for burial; Charles is at home at the time of this writing, as is also Clara J.: and Viola is the wife of Harry Pierson, who is a soldier in the national army and stationed at Camp Dodge, Iowa, at the time of this writing. Mr. Miller and members of his family

belong to the Methodist Episcopal and Evangelical churches. He votes independently, but his eldest son is a Democrat in politics.

JOHN MATZ, ranchman, who is one of Custer county's heavy landowners and substantial citizens, has lived continuously in this county since he came here in 1884, with the exception of four years. Mr. Matz is widely known through his extensive and successful live-stock interests. He was born in Scioto county, Ohio, January 27, 1861, one of a family of three sons and four daughters born to John and Dora (Tchel) Matz, both natives of Germany, the mother having been born in the province of Mecklenburg. In their early married life the parents immigrated to the United States, and the father was an iron-ore miner near Portsmouth, Ohio, for eighteen years, after which he bought a farm near Harrisonville, that state. He lived on his farm during the rest of his life and there his death occurred in April, 1896. His widow then came west, where she lived with her children until she passed away, in April, 1909. The children were seven in number — Mrs. Eliza Miller, Charles (died January 20, 1916), John, Gustavus A., Mrs. Anna Bonzo, and Sarah A. and Emma (both deceased).

As a boy and youth John Matz remained with his parents and assisted in the work of the home farm, the while he attended school during the winter seasons. Prior to coming to Custer county, in 1884, he worked for two years as a farmer in Clinton county, Indiana. For a time Mr. Matz worked on the Zimmer ranch in Custer county, but in the spring of 1885 he located a homestead west of Redfern Table, and from that time on he has kept adding to his acreage, his latest purchase being three whole sections. Additionally he owns 1,260 acres on West Buffalo creek. This is all fine grazing land, and Mr. Matz devotes it mainly to his stock interests, usually running from 400 to 750 cattle in summer and seventy-five head of horses, together with many hogs of the Poland-China and Duroc breeds. He has been very careful in handling his live stock and takes great pride in maintaining a standard quality. Mr. Matz is recognized as an able business man, and naturally he has often been asked concerning his early start. He has sometimes replied that the first money he ever earned was when he and his sister picked a gallon of blackberries and sold them for a dime, to a conductor on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad.

Mr. Matz was married January 3, 1894, at Kearney, Nebraska, to Miss Margaret E. Win-

ter, who was born near Harrisonville, Ohio, and who is a daughter of Frederick and Felicia (Magney) Winter. The father of Mrs. Matz was born in Germany and her mother in France, and they had four sons and six daughters — Charles B., George, Frank, William (the last named being deceased), and Katherine, Mary, Elizabeth, Matilda, Caroline (deceased), and Mrs. Margaret Matz. Mr. and Mrs. Matz have two sons, Charles L. and Roy W., both of whom, at the time of this writing, are preparing to become soldiers in the national army for service in the world war as good patriots. The sons are both in partnership with their father and are well known stockmen. Charles L. married Clara Carlson, a daughter of Otto Carlson, and they are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. The whole family connection is one of high standing in Custer county, Mr. Matz and his sons having the reputation of being able and enterprising business men and honorable in every relation of life.

STILLMAN GATES was born in Chautauqua county, New York, October 6, 1835, the eldest of five sons and three daughters born to Lorison and Salome (Felt) Gates. The father was born in New York and the mother in Vermont, and they were married in Ellington, New York, December 4, 1834. In the spring of 1837 the family moved to Huron county, Ohio, where they lived until 1852, when they went farther west, and located in Porter county, Indiana, which was their home for several years. A few years before his death the father became a resident of Laporte, Iowa, where he passed away September 17, 1902. His wife had died in Porter county, Indiana, January 3, 1869. Lorison Gates was a minister in the Christian church and held several pastorates while living in Ohio.

Stillman Gates left home about the time he reached his majority, and was married in Wheatfield, Jasper county, Indiana, April 2, 1857, to Mary McNeal, a daughter of James and Hope (Gifford) McNeal, of St. Lawrence county. She became the mother of five children, and passed away in Indiana. In Jasper county, Indiana, Mr. Gates again married. There he wedded Mrs. Susan (Miller) Brown, widow of Preston Brown. In the spring of 1877 they moved to Tama county, Iowa, and in June, 1879, he made a trip with a team to Custer county, Nebraska, looking for a location. He then made an entry on a homestead, in section 5, township 19, range 20, and also on a timber claim, after which he returned to

Iowa. In December of the same year he moved with his family from the Iowa home to the Custer county homestead, having a four-horse team and a wagon, with a house six by sixteen feet, on wheels. They made the trip in the dead of winter and encountered many hardships before reaching their destination. During the early years they did their trading at Grand Island, making many trips over the road. Gates postoffice in Custer county was named for Mr. Gates, and for many years he served as postmaster. The local church and schoolhouse were built on his farm. He was one of the first settlers in his locality and for many years was active in the development and upbuilding of the community, being a friend of progress along all lines. He served for a number of years as justice of the peace and held other local offices. He had a country store at Gates and was one of the best known men in the county. He became a successful farmer and stockman, and is now the owner of 560 acres. In the spring of 1909 he retired and established a beautiful home in Sargent. In 1910 he was united in marriage to Mrs. Mary A. Cummings. With his fourth wife, who was Mrs. Lucetta Mary Bennett, he is now living in a beautiful home at Gardena, California.

His five children were all born of the first marriage. They are: James L., of Tulsa, Oklahoma; Herbert P., of Broken Bow; Harry S., of Gardena, California; Frederick A., deceased; and Salome Hope, the wife of Oliver L. Swick, of the Gates vicinity.

Stillman Gates is a man of large stature, endowed with strong physical powers and endurance, which stood him in good stead when he was called upon to meet the pioneer conditions that confronted the early settlers of Custer county. He is of a kindly disposition, with a keen sense of humor, and no one can better appreciate a joke than he, even though the joke be on himself. He is a Christian man and a member of the Christian Order, or New Lights. His name is one which will always be remembered by the people of Custer county, and to the readers of this volume is here presented a portrait of this venerable pioneer.

WILLIAM C. NIXON. — As farmer, teacher, and public official, William C. Nixon is well known to the residents of Custer county, in which he has lived continuously for thirty-three years. He came here in 1885, along with such other reliable early settlers as John Matz, Albert Miller, Luther Barnes, John McNamara, Arthur Romine, and J. F. Williams, and



STILLMAN GATES

with them he has ever since co-operated for the best interests of the whole county. Mr. Nixon was born in Clay county, Illinois, October 13, 1843. His parents were Benjamin and Elizabeth (Smith) Nixon, the father born in Harrison county, West Virginia, and the mother in Henry county, Kentucky. Of their seven children, but two survive: William C. and Lizzie.

William C. Nixon was reared on his father's farm and was given such educational advantages as Clay county afforded at that time. In looking back to his childhood, in order to recall the first money he ever earned, the memory comes to him of a precious dime earned by keeping quiet during a visit of his grandfather, and there is no doubt at all but that in later years he would, on many occasions, have cheerfully paid the same amount under similar circumstances. He worked on the home farm as long as he remained there, and for several years he taught school in Illinois. In April, 1885, he came to Custer county, as noted above. He bought railroad land, the southwest quarter of section 33, township 13, range 23, on the south border of the county, and there he lived, developing, improving and managing his landed estate, until he retired. When he came to the county, Delight township extended eighteen miles east and west and twenty-four miles north and south. In 1887 Grant township was organized, extending nine miles north and south and eighteen miles east and west. Mr. Nixon was made assessor of Grant township and served twelve terms, and for twenty-eight years he has been a member of the school board. It is worthy of special note that he and his son Edgar and his daughter Jessie all taught school in the district.

Mr. Nixon was married August 13, 1867, in Clay county, Illinois, to Miss Maggie Lee, who was born in Switzerland county, Indiana, and died in Custer county, April 29, 1918. Her parents were John and Clarinda (Davison) Lee, the former of whom was born in Indiana and the latter at Cincinnati, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Nixon had six children: Edgar, who owns 240 acres of fine Nebraska land, is a Republican in politics and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church; John is at home with his father; Jessie, who died September 26, 1904, was the wife of Herbert Smith, and for several years was a very popular and efficient school-teacher, she having been a member of the Evangelical church; Nettie B. remains with her father; and Olive and Alice are deceased.

THOMAS M. BIRNIE is one of the agriculturists of Custer county who has contrib-

uted to the general development of the Broken Bow community during recent years, and he now has a large and well developed farm in section 29. Mr. Birnie was born in Ireland, November 5, 1881, a son of John and Elizabeth (McLean) Birnie.

The parents of Mr. Birnie were born in Ireland and were there reared, educated and married, and in 1882 they came to the United States, their first settlement being at Wahoo, Saunders county, Nebraska, where John Birnie followed his trade of brick-layer. He was an industrious and thrifty man and carefully conserved his earnings, so that, March 4, 1910, he came to Custer county and purchased a half-section of land. There he continued to be engaged in fairly successful agricultural operations until within a short time prior to his death, which occurred at Merna. He was a Democrat in politics. Both he and his wife, who also died at Merna, were faithful members of the Presbyterian church. They had seven children, of whom six are living: Annie and Tillie, who reside at Merna with their brother; Robert, who is a farmer in the Merna locality; Thomas M. and John, who are associated in farm enterprise; and Janet, who is engaged in teaching school at Columbus, Nebraska.

Thomas M. Birnie was still a lad when brought to the United States by his parents, and his youthful education was acquired principally in the public schools of Wahoo. When he had completed his studies he turned his attention to farming. He came to Custer county with his parents, and here has been rewarded with marked success, being now the owner of a half-section of land, in section 29. He carries on general farming and stock-raising, in both of which departments of farm enterprise he has shown progressiveness and ability, and his property is finely improved with good buildings and modern equipment. He is showing a good citizen's interest in the affairs of the community, although his only activity thus far in politics has been the casting of his vote for the candidates of the Democratic party. He belongs to the Presbyterian church.

ALBERT F. APPERSON. — One of the industries which is carried on in certain parts of Custer county, and which is profitable if practiced in a proper manner, is that of fruit-raising. In this special field Albert F. Apperson is making a success as a raiser of cherries, apples, and pears, on his well cultivated property in the old town of Wescott. Mr. Apperson was a homesteader of the year 1885 in Custer county and for a long period was

engaged in general farming and stock-raising, during which time he took a substantial and constructive part in the development of the county and its interests.

Mr. Apperson was born in Culpeper county, Virginia, December 9, 1856, and is a son of W. C. and Frances (Glasscock) Apperson, natives of the same county. The father, who followed farming throughout his life and was an industrious and highly respected citizen, fought as a soldier during the Civil war. He was a staunch Democrat in politics, and he and his wife were faithful members of the Baptist church. They had a family of ten children, of whom nine survive, but Albert F. is the only one residing in Custer county.

Albert F. Apperson received his early education in the public schools of his native county, and grew to manhood in the state of his birth, being given a thorough training in the art of agriculture. He was twenty-six years of age when he came to Nebraska, his first place of residence being Otoe county, where he was variously employed, principally at farming, for three years. Conditions there, however, did not suit him, and in 1885 he came to Custer county, where he took a homestead, about five miles west of Comstock, in section 9. For a number of years he lived on that property, increasing its acreage and developing its resources, and eventually he became one of the well-to-do men of his community. He has since sold the old homestead, but he is still the owner of 200 acres of valuable and highly productive land, which is located in the same vicinity, and on which he has modern improvements. When he retired from the hard labor of an agriculturist, several years ago, Mr. Apperson removed to the old town of Wescott and began the raising of apples, cherries, and pears, an industry in which, as before noted, he is making an excellent success. He is accounted one of his community's progressive citizens and has gained in high degree the respect and esteem of his fellow men.

At Arcadia, Nebraska, February 9, 1897, Mr. Apperson married Miss Martha Bennett. Her parents, who were natives of New York, immigrated to Valley county, Nebraska, at a very early day and took up a homestead there; they now live in retirement at Arcadia. Mr. Bennett is a carpenter by trade, and still follows that vocation at odd times. Mr. and Mrs. Apperson are the parents of nine children, as follows: William D., who is single and is his father's representative on the farm; Helen, who was the first child born at Comstock; and Carrie, Warren, Virginia, George, Rosette, Woodrow, and Walter, all of whom

are living at home. Mr. Apperson is a staunch Democrat in his political allegiance, but has not sought public office.

JOHN PESEK.—While the active career of John Pesek was passed in agricultural operations in Valley county, his farm, which he still owns, lies just across the county line, and as his home is now at Comstock, he is accounted one of the representative men of Custer county, so that he is fully entitled to recognition in this publication. Mr. Pesek is one of the self-made men of Custer county, and, like numerous others who reside in his community, is a native of Bohemia, where he was born in April, 1860, a son of John and Lizzie Pesek.

The parents of Mr. Pesek were honorable farming people in Bohemia, were industrious, God-fearing and law-abiding, and their lives ended in a tragedy, when the home caught fire, and was totally destroyed, bringing death to Mr. and Mrs. Pesek. The fire attacked the barn and the resultant conflagration destroyed all live stock and farm equipment. There were six children in the family, of whom four are residents of the United States—two in Texas; John, of this sketch; and Mrs. Fannie Errat, who resides near Cummings Park, Custer county.

John Pesek received his education in the public schools of his native land, and was about twenty-two years of age when he immigrated to the United States. His first place of residence was the state of North Dakota, where he lived six years, and in 1888 he moved to Nebraska and bought land in Valley county, just across the Custer county line, near Comstock. He started farming operations in a modest way and gradually increased his activities and interests, as well as his acreage. For years he was adjudged one of the successful and capable general farmers of his locality, as well as an intelligent breeder of high-grade cattle and other live stock. He was known also as a business man of ability—one whose word could be absolutely depended upon and who took no unfair advantage of those with whom he had transactions. After more than a quarter of a century of successful activity, he decided that it was time to shift the burden of hard work to younger shoulders, and accordingly, March 17, 1915, he retired from active life and took up his residence at Comstock, where he owns a comfortable home. He is still the owner of the farm, which consist of 480 acres and is in a high state of development, the while there are modern im-

provements which add to its attractiveness and value.

June 28, 1885, Mr. Pesek was united in marriage to Miss Barbara Stanhonker, of North Dakota, who died March 16, 1916. They were the parents of six children: John, who was born July 26, 1886, married Mary Kukach and is engaged in farming on a part of his father's property in Valley county; Joseph, who was born February 28, 1888, is married and likewise resides in Valley county; Michael, who was born August 25, 1889, is married and is engaged in agricultural operations in Valley county; Frank, who was born January 6, 1893, is married and is engaged in farming and stock-raising in Valley county; Theodore, who was born October 13, 1894, is a member of the United States army, and at the time of this writing is stationed with his regiment in France; and Lewis, who was born December 23, 1897, is a bachelor and is a farmer of Valley county.

Mr. Pesek is a Democrat in his political views, but has not cared for public office. However, as a friend of education he consented to serve as school-district director for several years, and discharged the duties of that position with efficiency. He is a member of the Catholic church, and was its treasurer for some time.

RICHARD HALL. — While the connection of Richard Hall with the agricultural interests of Custer county, reaching back only until 1903, is not of such long standing as some others whose biographies appear in this work, his career has been sufficiently progressive to give him a position of prominence and prestige among the tillers of the soil and raisers of stock in this thriving and prosperous locality. When he came to this community, in 1903, he had yet to make his start; to-day his industry and expert management are indicated by his possession of large tracts of valuable Custer county land in the vicinity of Ansley.

Mr. Hall was born in Polk county, Nebraska, May 9, 1873, and is a son of William and Elizabeth (Baldwin) Hall. His parents, natives of Michigan, were pioneers of Polk county, where they came early in the spring of the year in which their eldest son was born, taking up a homestead there and passing the rest of their lives in the development of a farm and the establishing of a home. The father passed away in 1894, and the mother survived until 1917. William Hall was successful, self-made man, and had a record for integrity and conscientious performance of

duty as soldier and civilian, as an agriculturist, and as a citizen and friend. During the Civil war he fought as a soldier of the Union, being connected for four years with Company D, Twenty-fourth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and he thus continued the family military record, his father having been a soldier in the war of 1812. His mother had the distinction of having lived to the remarkable age of ninety-eight years. William Hall was a Democrat in his political views, although not a man to seek office at the hands of his party, and his fraternal connection was with the Masonic order. With his family, he belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church. He and his wife were the parents of eight children: Richard, who is the immediate subject of this review; Nellie, who is the wife of Chris Anderson, a retired farmer of Mason City, this county; Dave, who carries on a teaming business at Seattle, Washington; John, who for some years resided on his father's farm in Custer county; Mary, who is the wife of Charles Kinniston, of Seattle, Washington, an early settler of Polk county, Nebraska, and at one time president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers; Frank, who is engaged in farming near Ansley; Fred, who likewise is a Custer county farmer; and Edna, who is the widow of Floyd Gaylord, of Ansley, and who is now residing with her brother.

Richard Hall was educated in the public schools of Shelby, Polk county, Nebraska, and was reared to the vocation of farming, which he adopted upon the attainment of his majority. He did not seem to make much progress in his native county, and in 1903 he came to Custer county, where he purchased a farm of eighty acres. In order to secure this land he had to go into debt, and his first few years were marked by constant struggle, but his faithful endeavors were finally rewarded, and he not only has his property free from debt, but is also the owner of 560 acres northeast of his home place. He is engaged in general farming and the raising of cattle and has been remarkably successful in both directions, while his standing as a business man is firmly established, having been built up through years of honorable and straightforward transactions. Mr. Hall is a thirty-second-degree Mason and he is very popular in the ranks of the time-honored fraternity. In politics he supports the principles and candidates of the Democratic party.

In 1897 Mr. Hall married Miss Birdie Harpster, who was born in Missouri, a daughter of John Harpster. Mr. Harpster was for

a number of years a resident of Custer county, where he took up a homestead and farmed successfully during a long period. Mr. and Mrs. Hall are the parents of three children: Leone, John, and Elizabeth, all at home. The family belongs to the Christian church.

GEORGE WILLIAM BAILEY is a representative young farmer who belongs to a family widely known on the West Table, which is famous all over the middle west for its fine farms and practical, substantial farmers. Mr. Bailey hails from Kentucky and possesses the inborn characteristics of the native Kentuckian, who, in addition to accommodating gallantry, is very hospitably disposed. He was born in 1890, by which it is seen that he is a young man on the sunrise side of thirty years and just started upon his life career. He is a son of John Samuel and Susie (Lane) Bailey, both of whom are Kentuckians, but they have been pioneer citizens in Custer county for several decades and now make their home in Arnold. The father was born in 1858 and the mother in 1862. They have two children, and aside from George William, Homer is the other member of the family. John Samuel Bailey located his homestead in the spring of 1884 and in those days ran the gamut of pioneer experiences. He and his wife had their share of trials and hardships. They had to haul water from the Loup river, ten miles away, and there they took the family washing, in order to save the hauling of the water. A big prairie fire once swept down upon them, and Mr. Bailey saved his corn from destruction by the water he had hauled from the Loup. The hail destroyed his crops for three years in succession. He picked corn for two cents a bushel, and took his wages in corn, this work being done nineteen miles distant from his home. He hunted a full week on one occasion to find a fat hog that he could purchase to supply the family larder. He finally located the desired hog in what was then Plum Creek, now Lexington. After proving up on the claim here, he and his family moved to Kentucky, but after a short time they returned to Custer county and resumed their residence here. They know all concerning life in the early years. They lived in a sod house with a brush roof and used cedar stumps for chairs, so that they realize how many things there are in use to-day without which people can get along. Mr. and Mrs. John Samuel Bailey are now living in Arnold, where they are enjoying comfortable retirement.

George William Bailey, who is more famil-

iarly known by his second personal name, William, is living on his father's farm—the northeast quarter of section 31, township 18, range 24. February 28, 1912, recorded the marriage of Mr. Bailey to Miss La Verna Wilcher, who was born and reared in Custer county, a representative of a splendid family, and who is a gracious young wife and mother who is doing well her part in maintaining the attractive and hospitable home. The opportunities that are afforded this popular young couple are being fully improved and appreciated by them, and the home is made the more attractive by the presence of their winsome little daughter, Luda Marie, who is six months old at the time of this writing.

The fine farm which is the stage of the operations of Mr. Bailey comprises 160 acres, as previously intimated, and virtually the entire acreage is under effective cultivation. He maintains a high grade of live stock, and he has made many excellent improvements on the place, including the erection of good buildings, the while he has provided the best of equipment and accessories for furthering his operations in both departments of his farm enterprise. In short, Mr. Bailey has stated that his equipment includes everything from a hammer to a farm truck. In politics he maintains an independent attitude, gives his support to men and measures meeting the approval of his judgment and is not amenable to mere partisan dictates.

JOHN C. HENDERSON, whose experience in agricultural pursuits in Custer county covers a period of twelve years, and who is now the owner of a valuable and well improved farm of 320 acres, is another of the men who have been the architects of their own fortunes. He was born in Mercer county, Illinois, December 16, 1868, and is a son of John and Nancy (Milligan) Henderson.

The Henderson family is of Scotch origin and the American progenitor was a sturdy Scotsman who became an early settler in Ohio, where John Henderson was born, the paternal grandfather of John C. Henderson. He was a farmer by vocation and in his later years moved to Illinois, where his death occurred. The maternal grandfather, David Milligan was born in Pennsylvania, later became a resident of Illinois, and rounded out a useful career in farming. John Henderson, father of John C., was born in Ohio, in 1835, and as a young man he moved to Pennsylvania, where he married a young woman who was a native of that state. Subsequently he went to Illi-

nois and located in Mercer county. After farming there for a number of years, he came with his family to Saunders county, Nebraska, in 1883, and there the rest of his life was passed in tilling the soil, his death occurring in 1897. Originally a Republican, in later years he transferred his allegiance to the Democratic party. He belonged to the United Presbyterian church, of which Mrs. Henderson, who survives him and resides at Lincoln, is a member. They were the parents of four children—Nettie, the wife of F. A. Mason, of Greenwood, Nebraska, formerly a contractor at Lincoln for twenty-five years; Ed, a traveling salesman for the Hebb Automobile Company, of Lincoln; John C., of this review; and Zena, the wife of C. M. Dodds, a farmer near Brule, Nebraska.

John C. Henderson was educated in the public schools of Illinois and eastern Nebraska, and was reared on his father's farm, where he developed a fondness for horses and expert skill in handling them. So proficient did he become in the latter direction that he was retained for some years by prominent horsemen as a jockey and piloted his mounts to victory in a number of important events. When he settled down to farming it was as a renter in Saunders county, and this continued to be his status for ten years, for success did not come easy, and during the poor years of 1894, 1895, and 1896, he was not able to make even enough from his land to pay his rent. However, he was persevering and determined and was finally rewarded with success. In 1906 he came to Custer county, where he bought a farm of 480 acres. This land was only partly improved at the time, its main building being a sod house, but each year Mr. Henderson has added to its equipment, and he now has a comfortable and attractive home and good buildings for all farm purposes, in addition to which his equipment is of the most modern character. Mr. Henderson is equally at home in each department of agricultural work and has gained his knowledge at first hand, in the hard school of experience. His standing in the community is an excellent one, and he has served his township as treasurer for four years. His political belief is generically that of the Democratic party, but he has independent inclinations, and his fraternal affiliation is with the Knights of Pythias.

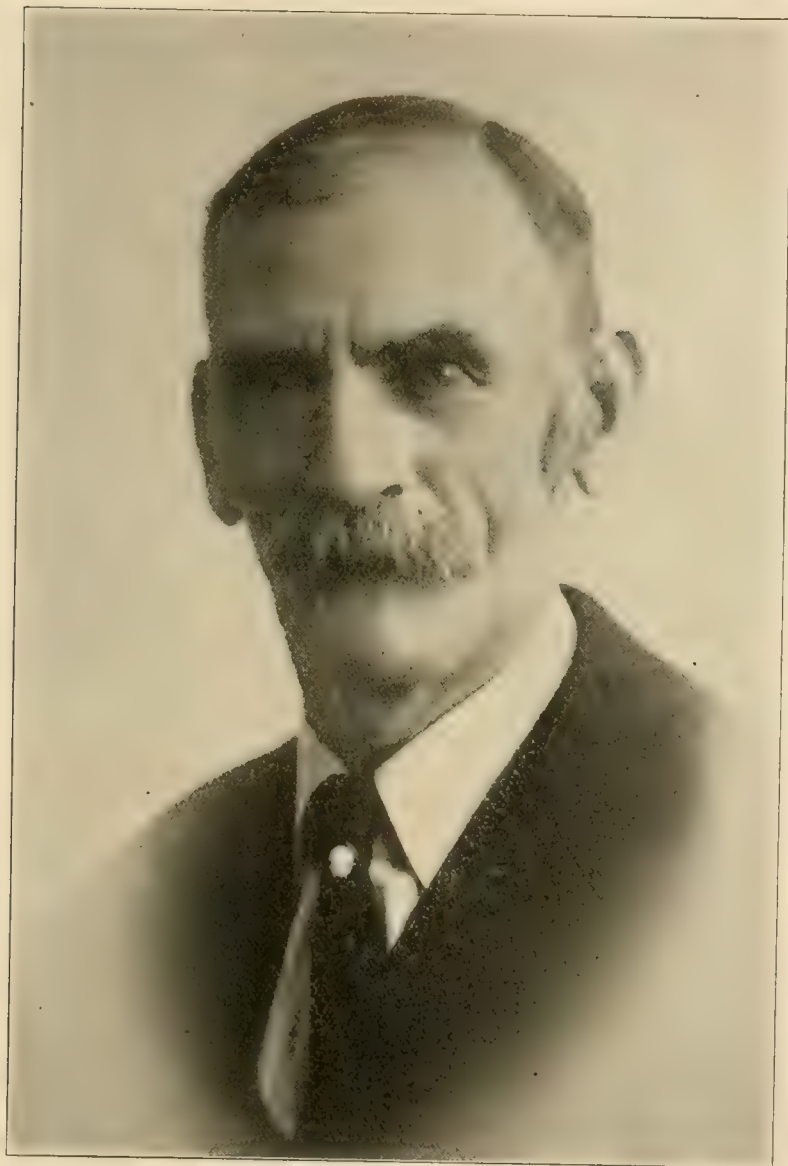
In 1894 Mr. Henderson married Miss Lillie Stevens, who was born in Saunders county, Nebraska, a daughter of Cal Stevens, for many years well known as the village blacksmith at Weston. Seven children have been born to this union—Erciell, LeRoy, Lenore, Edgar,

John Cal, Orville, and Max. All of the children are at home except LeRoy, who died at the age of two years, and Erciell, the eldest son, who attained to his legal majority on the 4th of July, 1918, and who on the following day enlisted in a United States engineering corps, for service in France. Mrs. Henderson is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and like her husband has many friends in the community of their home.

JOHN E. GRINT is one of the best known stock-raisers of his part of Custer county, as proprietor of the Prairie Home Stock Farms, and is also prominent in a business way, through his presidency of the Crownover Telephone Company, of Sargent. During his thirty-five years of residence in this county he has proved a decidedly active and helpful citizen whose public spirit has been demonstrated in a number of ways, and at all times his own interests have been held subservient to those of the general welfare.

Mr. Grint was born in County Norfolk, England, in the hamlet of Mileham, April 27, 1857, his parents being John and Sarah (Twite) Grint, who never left their native land, but spent their lives, until retirement, in farming. Both passed away in the faith of the Church of England. There were three children in the family: Elizabeth, of Hull, England, the widow of Job Miles; John E., of this review; and William, employed in the government dock-yards of England.

The early education of John E. Grint was obtained in a private grammar school of England, and he was still a young man when he embarked in mercantile ventures on his own account. He was married in his native land, in 1880, and about three years later he embarked for the United States. Upon his arrival he at once came to Custer county, Nebraska, where he settled on a homestead in close proximity to Sargent. From modest beginnings he has built up a large and important industry in the breeding and sale of Short-horn cattle and Poland-China hogs. Mr. Grint was compelled to teach himself the business of farming and stock-raising, for he had had no experience in these lines prior to coming to the United States, and his success is therefore all the more remarkable and commendable. He has also interested himself in business matters, having a number of important and valuable investments and connections, and is president of the Crownover Telephone Company, at Sargent. His reputation is a most enviable one in business circles, and he is known as one who honors



JOHN E. GRINT

and respects the highest business ethics and principles in his dealings with his fellow men.

Mr. Grint was married January 15, 1880, in England, to Miss Alice Hutchins, who was born in that country, and they became the parents of eight children, of whom six are living: Ada, born in England, makes her home with her parents; Jessie is the wife of Harry Bentley, living east of Sargent; Howard J., who married Inez Sturm, was conducting a dairy farm near Chicago at the time of his death, which occurred December 16, 1918; Mabel is the wife of Charles Roe, a farmer northwest of Sargent; Harold A. is at the time of this writing a sergeant in the American national army in France; Sidney and Ernest are at home and are assisting their father in his farming operations.

Mr. Grint joined the Independent Order of Odd Fellows when he was but eighteen years of age, in England, and before he had reached the age of twenty-one years had held all the chairs and become noble grand of the order. He still belongs to that fraternity and takes a great deal of interest in the local lodge at Sargent. He is independent in his political views and has been active in civic affairs. He has been a member of the township board for fourteen years and for four years was a member of the county board of supervisors. Mrs. Grint also has been before the public in an official capacity for a number of years, having been, as at present, a member of the school board for twelve years, and, prior to its cancellation by the government, having been for more than fourteen years postmistress of the postoffice at Phillipsburg.

NICHOLAS M. MORGAN.—The year 1880 saw the arrival in Custer county of Nicholas M. Morgan, a man who was in the prime of life and who had already made good progress along the road to success, as he had developed self-confidence through participating in many of the battles of war and peace. In Custer county Mr. Morgan found the opportunities with which to round out a successful and prosperous career, and at the present time he is living in honorable retirement at Callaway, where he enjoys the material comforts won through a life of industry, with the objective respect and confidence that mark due popular appreciation of his sterling integrity in all of the relations of life.

Mr. Morgan was born at Kalmar, Sweden, August 28, 1836, a son of Samuel and Stena (Keyse) Morgan, and a grandson of Nels Keyse. His father, who was a farmer in the

old country, was an industrious and able man, but was in moderate circumstances. There were five sons and four daughters in the family, and of the number three survive: Nicholas M.; Swan, a resident of Olds, Iowa; and Clara, the wife of John Carlson, of Olds, Iowa.

Nicholas M. Morgan attended the public schools of his native community, grew up in an agricultural atmosphere, and earned his first money by hauling wood on a sled for his father, with whom he remained until he was eighteen years of age. He was an ambitious youth, and saved his money carefully, so that in 1854 he had accumulated a sufficient amount to bring him to the United States. When he arrived in New York city his total financial reinforcement was represented in the sum of two dollars, after his passage had been paid, but he was fortunate in meeting a minister, Rev. Mr. Wallstrom, who managed to secure him a position with a friend. He recommended the young immigrant to the countryman, who gave the youth a position on his farm, at a wage of six dollars a month. When the year's contract had expired, Mr. Morgan had all except about ten dollars of his wages, his habits of thrift having not forsaken him, and a part of this money was spent in traveling to Chicago, and later to Minnesota City. In the latter community he secured employment on a farm, and there he remained about three years, having had several employers in the meantime. In 1859 Mr. Morgan enlisted in Company L, Second Regular United States Artillery, and he was stationed at Fort Ridgely, Minnesota, his command being engaged in keeping the Sioux Indians in check and order. In the following spring he was ordered to Fortress Monroe, Virginia, to attend a school of practice, and when the Civil war came on, in 1861, his command went to Washington, D. C. In 1862 his company formed a part of a contingent sent to the stage of conflict in Virginia, and during the time that he was in service he took part in twenty-one distinct battles, aside from numerous skirmishes, forages, etc. Among his engagements may be mentioned: Chickahominy, June 27, 1862; Malvern Hill, July 1-5; Fairfax Court House, September 3; South Mountain, September 13; Antietam, September 17; Shepherdson, September 20; Halltown, October 3; Warrenton, November 5; Chancellorsville, May 2-3, 1863; Beverly Ford, June 9; Frankstown, July 6; Falling Waters, July 14; Chester Gap, July 22; Brandy Station, August 1-4; Morton's Ford, October 12; Culpeper, October 15; and Oak Shades, October 25.

Mr. Morgan was given his honorable dis-

charge from service at the expiration of his term of enlistment, in 1864, and he then went to Iowa, where he again found employment in farming. In that state, on the Beverly farm, near Mount Pleasant, he was married December 2, 1869, to Miss Lucinda A. Bailey, daughter of Silas Bailey, and to this union there were born three daughters and a son: Josephine A. is deceased; Elsie A., who is the wife of L. Phillip, a farmer fifteen miles south of Callaway, has one child, and is a member of the Evangelical church; Hattie C. is deceased; and Harry W., who is still a bachelor, is a resident of Louisiana, where he owns a great acreage of land. Five years after their marriage Mr. Morgan's first wife died, and on the 9th of June, 1876, at Burlington, Iowa, he wedded Miss Anna C. Johnson, daughter of John and Hannah Johnson. Five children were born to this union—Laura; Alvin S.; Otto D.; Lillian (the wife of Fred Payton); and Charles. Charles Morgan, the youngest son, is a bachelor and is now employed by the United States government, at Washington, D. C.

Nicholas M. Morgan came to Custer county, Nebraska, in 1880, and settled on the north side of Callaway, where he owns a beautiful home and 767 acres of land adjoining the townsite. During a long and active career he has gained prosperity and many friends, and he is now enjoying the comforts of life, after having borne the heat and burden of the day and proved himself one of the world's productive workers.

JENS P. NELSON.—One of the time-honored business interests is that which has had to do with the sale of harness, which has occupied the energies of able men since the earliest times. This business is capably and honorably represented at Mason City by Jens P. Nelson, who has successfully conducted his present establishment for more than a quarter of a century. He is a native of Denmark, and was born November 15, 1848, a son of Nels and Celia (Petersen) Jensen.

Nels Jensen, a native of Denmark, and a shoemaker by trade, immigrated to the United States with his family in 1874 and first settled at Chicago, or near that city, and for a time followed his trade. While living there he lost his wife and three of his children by death, and, becoming discouraged he returned to his native land, where he remained six years. However, he had become attracted to this country and eventually, in 1880, he returned, and homesteaded a tract of land in

Custer county, where he engaged in farming and continued to follow that vocation until his death. He and his wife were people who always merited the high regard in which they were held by their neighbors, and were faithful members of the Lutheran church. They had twelve children, of whom five survive, but Jens P. is the only one now living in the county of Custer.

Jens P. Nelson received his early education in the public schools of his native land, and as a youth adopted the trade of his father, that of shoemaker, which he mastered under the instruction of the elder man. He was industrious, skilled and willing, and found ready employment, although he also, at times, worked as a coachman and gardener for prominent families, and likewise served in the army school in Denmark for seven months. He was married there, in 1868, to Miss Anna Mary Nelson, who was born in Denmark, and they became the parents of the following children: William, of Fairfield, Nebraska, is engaged in the shoe business; Celia is the wife of Pete Hanson, a section foreman on a railroad at Clarks, Nebraska; Hannah is the wife of S. M. Chase, who is engaged in the general store business in Mason City; Mary is the wife of Leonard Cady, living on a farm north of Mason City; Christina is the wife of Art Mortenton, a traveling salesman of Lincoln; Christ is associated in business with his father; and Edna is the wife of C. K. Duke, a railroad brakeman of Alliance, Nebraska.

Jens P. Nelson remained in the United States when his father returned to Denmark, and for some years was variously employed, principally at his trade, in which he made money and saved it. Finally he saw an opportunity to become the proprietor of a business of his own, and in 1893 he came to Mason City and founded his present store, which has been a distinct success from the start. He carries a full line of all kinds of harness, whips, etc., and has attracted and held a good custom at Mason City and in the surrounding community. His business reputation is an excellent one, and as a citizen he is held in high esteem. Mr. Nelson is a Democrat, and on several occasions he has been called upon to fill school and township offices, in which he has acquitted himself admirably. With his family, he belongs to the Danish Lutheran church.

It should be a matter of special record in this article than on the 27th of November, 1918, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson had the privilege of celebrating their golden-wedding anniversary, the occasion being marked by appropri-

ate observation of social order, and the venerable couple received congratulations and greetings from their many friends in the home community. In their half-century of devoted companionship Mr. and Mrs. Nelson have encountered their share of both clouds and sunshine, but the latter has predominated and they rejoice in the many blessings that have attended them during the fleeting years.

GEORGE J. PELKEY.—Among the farmers of Custer county the results of whose operations render a good account of husbandry, is George J. Pelkey, who came here in 1891. He was born in Iowa, January 27, 1868, and is a son of Joseph and Mary (Arthur) Pelkey.

The parents of Mr. Pelkey were born and reared in Canada, where their marriage was solemnized, and shortly afterward they removed to Iowa, where for several years Mr. Pelkey was engaged in farm enterprise, as was he later in Polk county, Nebraska. He finally came with his family to Custer county and settled on a homestead. He passed the remainder of his life in this county and his death occurred in Broken Bow, his wife having passed the closing period of her life in the home of her daughter Addie, the wife of Melvin A. Gibbs, of this county. Joseph and Mary (Arthur) Pelkey were faithful communicants of the Catholic church. Of their nine children five are living—Addie, who is the wife of Melvin A. Gibbs, a prosperous farmer of Custer county; Ranie, who works for her brother George J.; Bert, who is a farmer of Wessington Springs, South Dakota; George J., who is the subject of this review; and Martin, who is a farmer in Colorado. Joseph Pelkey was a Democrat in politics, but had no desire for political activity or public office, being content to confine himself to his productive service in connection with farm industry.

George J. Pelkey was a child at the time when his parents came to Polk county, Nebraska, and there he obtained his early educational training in the public schools. He adopted farming as his life work when he came of age, and was but twenty-three years old when he located in Custer county, here securing a tree claim. Later he also took up a homestead, and he still owns these two properties, to which he has added until he has 480 acres of productive and valuable land, on which he carries on mixed farming and stock-raising. Beginning at the bottom, without assistance, he has worked his way to a

recognized position of substantiality, and has well earned the respect and esteem in which he is held by his fellow citizens. The primitive buildings which were his only improvements during the early days, have given way to better structures, his buildings now including a large concrete house, and the other farm buildings being proportionately commodious and substantial.

In 1890 Mr. Pelkey married Miss Althea Rusk, who was born in Knox county, Illinois, a daughter of David and Catherine (McDermott) Rusk, the former a native of Indiana and the latter of New York. The marriage of the parents occurred in Illinois, where Mr. Rusk followed the trade of miller until his death, in 1884, following which Mrs. Rusk came to Nebraska and settled on the homestead upon which she directed farming operations until her retirement to Broken Bow. There were six children in the Rusk family, of whom three are living—Ed, who is engaged in the restaurant business at Arnold, Nebraska; Anna, who is the wife of L. M. Pickett, a farmer of Custer county; and Althea, who is the wife of George J. Pelkey, of this review. Mr. and Mrs. Pelkey have one son: Elwood, who married Ione Russom, daughter of G. R. Russom, a pioneer of Custer county.

Mr. Pelkey is a Democrat in his political affiliations and both he and his wife are active members of the Grange, in which Mrs. Pelkey is master of the local organization.

FRANK LILES.—A settler of Custer county in the year 1886, Frank Liles finds himself, after the passage of thirty-six years, the possessor of a handsome home and a comfortable income, of the respect and confidence of the people in whose midst he has lived so long, and of a position in the community that argues well for his integrity as a business man and his probity and public spirit as a citizen. He is now living in semi-retirement at Callaway, but is still accounted an active factor in the life of the locality, where he has done much to advance the general welfare.

Mr. Liles was born at Rock Island, Illinois, December 15, 1871, and is a son of James W. and Marguerite (Smith) Liles. In the Prairie state, his father followed farming throughout the greater part of his life, and was known as an industrious and reliable citizen, he and his wife having been devout members of the Evangelical church. Frank was the fourth in order of birth of their children, his four sisters being: Ella, the wife of Carl Jepson;

Laura, the wife of Frank Chase; Emma, the wife of Charles Conley; and Belle, the wife of Jepsen Clark. In 1886 the parents moved with their family to Custer county, the family locating on a property about twelve miles east of Callaway, on the South Loup river. At that time Frank Liles was still a lad, and his education, started in Illinois, was completed here in the district schools. He was brought up to habits of industry and honesty, and carefully instructed in the art of farming, his first-earned money being secured for keeping his rows straight while dropping corn with a corn-planter. When he became of age he adopted farming as his own vocation, and he followed this for a number of years, being an extensive operator as an agriculturist and stock-raiser. Several years ago he practically retired from active affairs and settled in a beautiful home adjoining Callaway. His attractive residence is surrounded by twenty-five acres, all in a high state of cultivation. Mr. Liles had practically given up operations of a large nature, but the country's need of food products found him ready to do his part, and he is at present leasing sixty-five acres, which he is devoting to the growing of corn. Mr. Liles is one of his community's progressive and enterprising men and has loyally supported all movements that have promised to benefit the community or its people. He has improved his land both practically and with a view to appearance, and in other ways has contributed to the upbuilding of the vicinity of Callaway. He has not sought public office, preferring the quiet life of his suburban home to the doubtful honors of the political arena.

Mr. Liles was married June 4, 1896, at Carthage, Missouri, to Miss Lenora Leggett, daughter of Thomas N. and Rachel (Met-calf) Leggett, members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and well known residents of Carthage, the father having been a native of West Virginia. The surviving brothers and sisters of Mrs. Liles are John W., Sherman A., Mattie (the wife of Thomas Ledbetter), Dora (the wife of James Rodgers), Charles B., and Thomas H. Mr. and Mrs. Liles are the parents of four children: Herbert W., who is clerk in a meat market at Callaway, and who remains at the parental home, celebrated his twenty-first birthday anniversary in 1918; Walter W. resides at home and assists his father in the work of the home farm; Inez R. is teaching school; and Harry A. is a student of the eighth grade in the Callaway public schools.

VACLAV KLUNA. — The career of Vac-lav Kluna in Custer county was one of continuous agricultural activity from the time of his arrival here in 1900 until his retirement to his home at Comstock, in 1916. He has been a resident of Nebraska since 1884, having carried on farming on a large tract in Valley county until his arrival in Custer county, and in each community in which he has resided he established a reputation for industry, capability, and integrity.

Mr. Kluna is a Bohemian by nativity, and was born January 25, 1857, a son of Martin and Barbara (Kara) Kluna. His parents came to the United States with their children in June, 1877, and settled in Arkansas, where the father carried on farming, near Dardanelle. There his death occurred, in the faith of the Catholic church, of which he and his wife were lifelong members. Following his demise, his widow, with her son John, went to Omaha, but Vaclav Kluna came to Pawnee county. He had been educated in the schools of his native country, had come to America as a young man of twenty years, and all his training had been along agricultural lines. After two years in Pawnee county he went to Omaha, where he was joined by his brother John and a number of friends, thus making up a small party which traveled together to Valley county, which was at that time still undeveloped territory. Mr. Kluna located on a homestead, March 17, 1884, and settled down to the pursuits of farming and raising stock, vocations for which he showed great aptitude, and in which he gained success through hard and industrious effort, careful management, and skilled use of modern methods in soil treatment. In 1900 Mr. Kluna disposed of his Valley county land and came to Custer county, where he continued to farm and raise stock until his retirement, in 1916, here duplicating the success that he had attained in his former locality. He is still the owner of 480 acres of valuable Custer county land, and in addition has 1,440 acres in Perkins county, the latter now in its developing stages of improvement. As a citizen Mr. Kluna has fully lived up to his responsibilities and has been a supporting factor in movements which have benefited the locality. In addition to his brother John, who still resides in Valley county, Mr. Kluna has another brother, Joseph, who is living in Texas. Two other children of his parents are now deceased.

At Omaha, June 22, 1886, Mr. Kluna married Miss Mary Slaba, and they have had six children, of whom four are living: One child

died in infancy; Vaclav, Jr., born August 10, 1888, died December 26, 1912; Joseph, born September 6, 1889, married Emma Vodehnal and they reside five miles northeast of Comstock; Marie, born March 21, 1892, is the wife of Joseph Klapal, a farmer living five miles east of Sargent; Annie, born November 5, 1893, is single and resides on the home farm with her brother; and Anton, who was born May 4, 1895, is single and is operating the farm property of his father.

FRANK M. CURRIE was born April 29, 1859, on a farm in Fowler township, Trumbull county, Ohio. His parents were both born in Scotland, and immigrated to that part of Ohio before their marriage, about 1847. His father's name was Robert Currie, and his mother's maiden name was Janette Murdoch. They were married in 1853, and settled on the fifty-acre farm where they reared a family of four children — John H. Currie and Margaret M. Currie, now residing at Bradshaw, Nebraska; Frank M. Currie; and Mrs. Agnes Campbell, residing at Cortland, Ohio.

Frank M. Currie received his early education in the public schools. At the age of nineteen he became a teacher, in this way earning sufficient money to pay his expenses for one year at Grand River Institute, Austinburg, Ohio, where he prepared for college. In the fall of 1880 he entered Alleghany College, from which institution he was graduated, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, in June, 1884. In the autumn of 1884 he left the old home in Ohio and came to Syracuse, Nebraska, crossing the Missouri river at Nebraska City, on a ferry boat.

He earned his first money in the state by pitching hay for Eph Hartman. He received for this work a dollar a day, and boarded himself. Later on he secured a position as principal of the school at Dunbar, Nebraska; at that time the school had but one teacher besides himself.

August 20th, 1885, Mr. Currie returned to his old home in Ohio and married Etha L. Logan. They came immediately to Papillion, Nebraska, where Mr. Currie was principal of the public schools for a period of four years. During their residence in Papillion, two children were born — Claude A. Currie, at present residing on a ranch in Cherry county, Nebraska; and Keo, at present doing Red Cross search work, hunting for missing soldiers in France. In 1890 an epidemic of typhoid fever visited Sargent, Nebraska, and among the victims of that dread disease was Etha L. Currie,

the wife of F. M. Currie. In 1892 he was married to Keokee Logan, at Burghill, Ohio. They have one child, Lilas Currie, who is at present living at home with her parents.

In 1889 the family removed to Sargent, Nebraska, where Mr. Currie became the editor of the *Sargent Times*. This was one of the many ventures established in the new part of Nebraska for the purpose of the revenues derived from the publication of final proof notices, and for the further purpose of boosting the new country. However, the venture was not entirely voluntary on Mr. Currie's part, for the reason that the paper came into his hands as the result of a loan to a friend who happened to be in the newspaper business. A series of crop failures and a number of years of depression greatly reduced the income from the newspaper, and in order to make a living, Mr. Currie applied for and was elected to the position of superintendent of the city schools of Broken Bow, in the fall of 1894 — that terrible year when nothing was raised in Custer county, and when thousands of the early settlers abandoned their homesteads in utter discouragement.

He held the position of superintendent until the spring of 1897. His ancestors as far back as any knowledge of them is obtainable had been farmers and stock-raisers, and he had always had a desire to enter into the cattle business. In the spring of 1897 he formed what was known as the Jewel Cattle Company, a corporation composed largely of his old friends in Ohio. It had a capital stock of \$20,000, and began operations in the Douglas Grove precinct of Custer county, having a ranch on the Calamus river in Loup county.

This corporation was of short-lived existence — Mr. Currie purchasing the interests of the other stockholders and paying \$1.25 a share for the stock after the company had been in operation one year. He continued in the cattle business on his own account until 1903, when he formed the Kinsman Cattle Company, with a capital stock of \$50,000. This company purchased 4,000 acres of land, eighteen miles northeast of Broken Bow, and had its headquarters in Sargent.

About a year later he organized the Buckeye Cattle Company, and purchased 5,600 acres of land, eighteen miles southeast of Broken Bow. He was manager of these two companies for a period of three years. The Buckeye Cattle Company sold its interests at a handsome profit, and he severed his connections with the Kinsman Cattle Company.

In the year 1907, the Maine and Nebraska Mining Company was formed by B. F. Young,



FRANK M. CURRIE

of Callaway, Nebraska, and parties residing in Maine. The contract was given to Mr. Currie to develop the mining property of this company, which was situated in the state of Guerrero, Mexico. This contract called for the development of the mining property, the building of two or three miles of railroad, and the installation of mining machinery. This work was by far the most strenuous and the largest undertaking ever engaged in by the subject of this sketch. It called for the investment of a quarter of a million dollars, and was undertaken and carried to a successful completion—only to be lost by the unfortunate political conditions of Mexico.

In 1902 Mr. Currie, together with Frank H. Young, now deceased, H. Lomax, H. B. Andrews, also deceased, and Alpha Morgan, organized the Custer National Bank, in which Mr. Currie was director for a number of years. This institution has changed its name to the Custer State Bank, and is one of the substantial banking houses of the county.

In the year 1900 the same parties purchased the Farmers & Merchants Bank and the Custer County Bank, located at Sargent, Nebraska. These two banks were consolidated, retaining the name and charter of the Custer County Bank, which was later changed to the First National Bank of Sargent, later becoming the Sargent State Bank, and is still one of the substantial financial institutions of Custer county.

After his return from Mexico Mr. Currie again engaged in the stock business, and in this connection he was a resident of Blaine county for three or four years. In the fall of 1917, in company with his son, Claude A., James Lomax, Clifford Lomax, and Carl Jeffords, of Broken Bow, he purchased what was known as the Cross L Ranch, in Cherry county. This ranch is one of the largest and best equipped ranches in the state, producing annually about 5,000 tons of hay; consisting of 13,000 acres of deeded land, 7,000 acres of leased land, and a permit for the pasturage of 50,000 acres on the Niobrara forest reserve.

In the year 1918 this ranch produced and shipped to market 1,600,000 pound of beef, 25,000 pounds of pork, and seventy-five tons of potatoes. Carl Jeffords and Clifford Lomax were called to the colors, and the active management and control rested on Mr. Currie. On the return of these young men from service Mr. Currie resigned his active management of the ranch, and has accepted the presidency of the Missouri Valley Cattle Loan Company, a corporation formed in Omaha, with a capital

stock of two million dollars, for the purpose of handling loans on cattle in Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado, and Montana, which position he now holds.

In politics Mr. Currie has always been a Republican, and has taken an active citizen's interest in public affairs, although he has never sought a public office. In 1898 he was nominated as a Republican candidate for the office of state senator, to represent the Twenty-third senatorial district, composed of Custer, Valley, Loup, and Blaine counties. For a number of years this district had been overwhelmingly Populist and Democratic, and had regularly elected their candidate by fusion of these two parties. It seemed hopeless to undertake a campaign, but owing to a change in public sentiment, and partly due to Mr. Currie's large and extensive acquaintance in the district and personal popularity, he was elected by a considerable majority.

Again, in the autumn of 1900, he was tendered the nomination, at a convention held in Sargent. By this time the trend of public sentiment had drifted back to the Republican party and practically the entire Republican ticket was elected. On his return to the senate he found that eight out of the thirty-three members who had sat with him two years before had been returned. Seven of these came to him and volunteered their support to him for the United States senate. This substantial mark of respect and confidence was accepted in the spirit in which it was offered, and Mr. Currie became a candidate for the United States senate.

At this time Nebraska was electing two United States senators—one of them to fill the unexpired term of Senator Hayward, who had been elected at the previous session, but who was removed by death before he undertook the duties of his office. The other was to succeed John M. Thurston, whose term had expired. A long and serious deadlock occurred in the election. The candidates in this memorable fight were Edward Rosewater and George D. Meiklejohn, Lorenzo Crounse and F. M. Currie for the long term, or as it was commonly expressed at that time, for the North Platte country; and D. E. Thompson and various other minor candidates for the short term, or South Platte country.

During all of this memorable struggle Mr. Currie was one of the leading candidates. After a long and weary deadlock, when it seemed that the legislature must adjourn without an election, the deadlock was broken, and Charles H. Dietrich, of Hastings, was elected for the

short term, or South Platte country, and Joseph H. Millard for the long term, or North Platte.

In the following spring, at a convention held at Crawford, Nebraska, Mr. Currie was one of the leading candidates for congress. In this contest, at which 186 ballots were cast, the candidates were Judge H. M. Grimes, of North Platte; Hon. M. P. Kinkaid, of O'Neill; F. M. Currie, of Broken Bow; and A. E. Cady, of St. Paul, Nebraska. At one time Mr. Currie lacked only six votes of receiving the nomination, but in the end the successful candidate was M. P. Kinkaid, who was nominated and triumphantly elected at the next election, and who has held the office ever since.

In the presidential campaign of 1912 Mr. Currie was chairman of the Republican state convention, and in 1916 he was elected as a delegate-at-large to the Republican national convention, in Chicago, where he was a supporter of Charles E. Hughes, who was nominated for the presidency.

In 1906 Mr. Currie purchased the Independent Telephone system of Custer county and adjacent counties, from J. E. Adamson. This system was greatly improved by the construction of substantial long distance telephone lines, by the complete rebuilding and reconstruction of the system of Broken Bow; and the building of what is one of the finest telephone buildings in the state of Nebraska. After the whole system had been made modern, and rebuilt at an expense of about \$50,000, Mr. Currie sold his interest to the Bell Telephone Company.

In 1911 Broken Bow found itself without an electric-light system. It had grown to be a city of 2,500 people, and was much in need of this improvement. Mr. Currie organized a company with ample funds, and in connection with C. S. Martin, of Broken Bow, built the electric-light system which Broken Bow now has. From the beginning and up to the present time Mr. Currie has been president of this company.

Mr. Currie is a thirty-second degree Mason and is affiliated also with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and the Modern Woodmen of America. He is recognized as one of the finished scholars of the state. He has a state reputation as an orator and in addition to his fine command of the English language he speaks both German and Spanish, the while he is known as a writer of exceptional ability.

JOHN H. JOHNSON-MALM, who is one of the well satisfied farmers of Custer county, came to the United States when twenty-seven year of age, and through his industry and exercise of good judgment, has acquired a fine property, has gained respect and consideration from his neighbors, and has comfortably reared a family of sons who, in their several ways, are reflecting credit upon the state of their nativity and upon their parents and friends.

John Henry Johnson-Malm was born in Filipstad, Wärmland, Sweden, March 6, 1859, one of a family of three sons and two daughters born to John Eric and Louise Johnson.

During his boyhood Mr. Johnson-Malm assisted his father and went to school. When twenty years old he went to Norway, where he worked four years in an apatite mine, the crystals being a calcium phosphate fluoride, a source of phosphorus compounds, largely made use of in the fertilization of land. The work was hard, and danger attended it. Mr. Johnson-Malm returned then to Sweden, where he worked in the iron mines in Westmanland for about four years, in the meanwhile making plans to immigrate to the United States, where agricultural conditions were better and where it was possible to secure homesteads in some of the western states, with a reasonable expenditure.

By 1886 Mr. Johnson-Malm was able to come to America and was accompanied by his young wife to whom he was married two weeks before sailing. They reached Custer county, Nebraska, safely, in December, and for the following time Mr. Johnson-Malm worked in North Platte and in the Union Pacific roundhouse. He prudently saved his money, and kept adding to his capital until, in 1889, he came to Custer county and rented land. Here he secured his homestead in 1890—land situated in section 28, township 13, range 25—on which he has lived continuously ever since. He has made many improvements and now has one of the finest farms in this section of the country and has just cause to take pride in it. He carries on general farming and raises stock, and he has trained his sons in the business of farming.

In November, 1886, Mr. Johnson-Malm was united in marriage to Miss Johanna M. Anderson, who was born in Grangärde, Dalarna, Sweden, a daughter of Peter and Maria C. (Olson) Anderson, both of Grangärde, Sweden. Seven sons have been born to Mr.

and Mrs. Johnson-Malm, namely: Adolph Eric Malm, who is a member of Company D, Fourth United States Infantry, and who is with the American Expeditionary Forces in France, having left the United States in March, 1918, and having been wounded in the right arm on October 21, 1918; Maurits Bruno Malm, who left the United States in August, 1918, a member of Company B, Three Hundred and Forty-second M. G. B., American Expeditionary Forces; Julius Albert Malm, who is a farmer in Custer county, and who was subject to draft call, in class 3-A; Oscar Stefan Malm, who is a graduate of the Gothenburg high school and who is farming with his brother Julius Albert, on section 32, township 13, range 25; Carl Herman Malm, who is working his father's land on Oden-crantz Table; John Henry Malm, who helps his brother on the farm; and Arthur Conrad Malm, who is yet in school. All of these boys were born on Cedar Farm, in section 28, township 13, range 25, Custer county.

In a history of this kind, where records must be kept straight for the coming generations of Johnson-Malms, it must be stated that the name "Malm" has been added by the subject of this sketch since coming to America—principally in order that his mail should not be confused with the mail of the numerous family of Johnsons living in Custer county,—and he laughingly says that he has been called "Malm" so much that there are few of his neighbors who know him by any other name. Mr. Johnson-Malm is well and favorably known in the community in which he lives, is a citizen who is loyal to the country of his adoption, and always ready to help any worthy cause that is for the betterment of the community in which he lives. He believes that the more a man knows about his own county and state, the better citizen he will become.

CHARLES MATZ.—One of the sturdy pioneers of the South Loup region who gave a practical demonstration of what thrift and energy can do within the range of a short life-time, was the late Charles Matz, who made a name and monument for himself in the region of his operations.

Mr. Matz was born September 15, 1858, in Ohio, and died in Custer county, January 20, 1916. He was a son of John and Dorothy (Tikle) Matz, fine people, who were strict adherents of the Baptist church. The father was a native of Germany and the mother was French. In their family were seven children,

four of whom are now living—John, Gustavus A., Eliza Miller, and Ama Bonzo. The family lived on a farm and young Charles made himself generally useful, the while he attended the country school and acquired a fundamental education. He and his brothers rendered assistance to the family home by working for the neighbors, especially in the fall of the year, when corn husking was in order. They would husk corn for their neighbors and sometimes would go as far as forty miles from home in order to obtain the work.

Charles Matz was married January 20, 1884, in Scioto county, Ohio, to Miss Catherine Winter, of the same county. Mrs. Matz is a daughter of Frederick and Felicia (Magnet) Winter, both of whom were of French descent. In the Winter family were ten children, six daughters and four sons. One son and one daughter are deceased. The survivors are Mary Nagel, Elizabeth Lenhart, Klotilda Thurman, Margaret E. Matz, Catherine Matz, Charles B., George, and Frank. The family belonged to the United Brethren church.

The home which was made by Mr. and Mrs. Matz on their own initiative, proved an excellent one. Unusually well provided with common comforts and home-like arrangements, it has continued a splendid haven for their children and grandchildren. Of their children the following brief record is consistently given: Cora May is the wife of Walter Cox, a farmer living near Callaway, and they have three children, Mr. and Mrs. Cox being members of the Evangelical church. Walter Fred-eric, who married Elsie Huenefeld, is a young farmer and stockman living northwest of Oconto, where he owns and operates 1,100 acres of land. Being in the selective draft he sold his stock and entered the military service of the government, and at the time of this writing he is with Company C, at Camp Dodge, Iowa. Anna Margaret died March 12, 1913. John Wesley is at home helping his mother on the ranch. He owns 280 acres of good land. He is subject to military duty and is listed in class 3. Charles Wilbur also is at home, assisting on the mother's ranch. The draft exemption board placed him in class 2. Clara Dorothy is a student in the State Normal School at Kearney. Nellie is at home with her mother.

The father of these children, who are now grown to honorable manhood and womanhood, came into Custer county in 1884 and located in section 20, township 14, range 22, four miles south of Lodi. He landed here with three hundred dollars. He built a sod house, made other primitive improvements, obtained

a few head of stock, and commenced business. Mrs. Matz was his able assistant in his efforts. While he broke the sod and looked after the stock, she raised chickens, milked cows, and sold butter and eggs, by which means she supplied the family larder, while the other resources of the farm went into additional live stock and other land. Thus operations were continued during the lifetime of Mr. Matz, and to-day his estate comprises 640 acres of extra fine land, a beautiful home, with everything on the farm in fine shape—indicating thrift and prosperity.

His death occurred on the anniversary of his marriage—just thirty-two years from the day he stood at the marriage altar. He was a member of the Evangelical church, was widely known and highly regarded, and was a very devoted husband and father. His wife and two sons live on the home place and conduct the farming operations so long directed by the husband and father.

BERT F. KIMBALL.—Of the younger generation of agriculturists carrying on operations in Custer county, mention is due Bert Frank Kimball, whose progressiveness and industry are rapidly bringing him into a favorable position. He comes of an old, well known, and honored family of this county, and was born here December 23, 1884, a son of William and Myra (Bourne) Kimball. A more detailed account of the family will be found in the sketch of Harry C. Kimball, elsewhere in this work.

The district schools of Custer county furnished the means for the education of Bert F. Kimball, and his early home training was all along agricultural lines, with his influences of the best, tending toward implanting in him the qualities of honesty and industry. When he entered upon his career he did so independently, becoming a renter, which status he still holds. During the last six years he has rented his present property, a half-section of section 10, township 39, from E. H. Burrows. In January, 1918, he became a landed proprietor, when he bought a farm of 120 acres, lying southeast of Berwyn, but his activities thus far have been confined to the cultivation of his rented acreage. Mr. Kimball is an energetic, enthusiastic, pushing man who believes firmly in progress and in the community where his home is made and where his operations are centered. He has found from experience the value of modern methods and machinery, and while he does not discard the practically proven theories, he always welcomes innova-

tions and is ready to give them a trial. This is the kind of labor that has resulted in the accomplishment of advancing results.

In February, 1907, Mr. Kimball was united in marriage with Miss Mabel House, also a member of an old and honored Custer county family. She was born here and is a daughter of Ernest and Ida (Sharp) House. Mr. House, who was a pioneer of this county, passed the greater part of his life in farming here, but is now a well-to-do resident of Oklahoma. Mr. and Mrs. Kimball are the parents of four children: Claude, born May 21, 1908; Arthur, born August 7, 1910; Genevieve, born June 16, 1914; and Dorothea May, born May 1, 1918. Mr. and Mrs. Kimball are members of the Christian church. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he has filled several of the chairs, and is affiliated also with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Royal Highlanders. In all of these organizations he has numerous friends. He is independent as to politics, and has been too busy with his agricultural labors to take other than a good citizen's interest in public matters.

GEORGE A. RUSSOM.—Living in the vicinity of Broken Bow, on a farm belonging to his father, the subject of this sketch is conducting operations which entitle him to be classed both as a farmer and dairyman, and especially is he entitled to all the honors to be bestowed in these days upon food producers.

George A. Russom is a native of Custer county and was born April 17, 1886. He is a son of George R. and Mary J. (Pope) Russom, sterling citizens who are well known in the community. The father was born in North Carolina and the mother in Indiana. For further data concerning the family, reference may be made to the biography of George R. Russom on other pages of this volume.

George A. Russom ran much the same course as did other Custer county lads, received the same educational advantages, and grew to manhood under the same conditions that are so many times detailed in these columns. Here too he began his operations as a farmer and stockman, which lines of enterprise to-day do him splendid service.

September 30, 1908, at Hillsdale, Michigan, Mr. Russom wedded Virginia Lamoreaux, who was born in the state of New York, a daughter of Pater R. and Edith H. (Cole) Lamoreaux, both New York people.

The home place of George A. Russom is

one of the farms belonging to his father, and into the family circle have come two children — Raymond, seven years of age (1918), and Richard, four years of age. The farm consists of 250 acres and it is devoted to general farming. Aside from raising grain and alfalfa Mr. Russom milks an average of eight cows the year round, and from this source he receives an average of forty dollars a month. He also tries to produce from 100 to 125 hogs each year. Fifty-five acres have been seeded to fall wheat and thirty acres to rye, in order that there may be breadstuffs produced for the country and the world during these strenuous times.

Mr. Russom was in the draft for service in the great world war, which came to a close before he was called to arms. He is a Democrat in politics and the family belong to the Baptist church.

The first money earned by young George A. Russom was made by pulling a hand drill-plow while planting beans. For this he received twenty-five cents, the foundation quarter-dollar of his present possessions. Mr. Russom is possessed of a practical turn of thought and action, and all of his farming operations are conducted in the common-sense, practical way that assures success. He is thus to be classified as a practical Custer county farmer of the second generation.

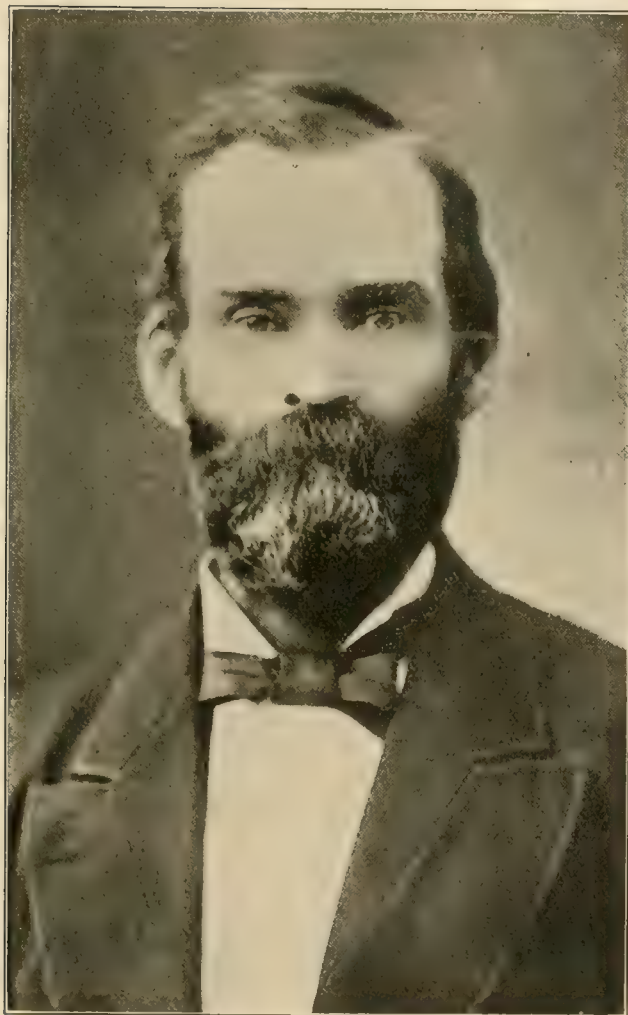
CHARLES D. BRAGG, whose business interests at Comstock are of a large and important character, is one of the men whose careers have been started in the realm of agriculture, but whose success has come through commercial avenues of activity. He has resided in Custer county since 1898, and during the twenty years of his residence here has been engaged in general merchandising for eighteen years, in addition to which, as a member of the firm of Wescott, Gibbons & Bragg, he is interested in an electric theatre and the city electric-lighting plant.

Mr. Bragg was born in Green county, Wisconsin, March 10, 1856, a son of Thomas J. and Emily J. (Noble) Bragg. His father was born in Fauquier county, Virginia, in 1813, and in 1835 went to Wisconsin and settled on a homestead in Green county. There he continued to be engaged in agricultural pursuits until the time of his retirement, when he moved to Monroe and settled down to a life of quiet and ease. He lived to the remarkable age of ninety-five years, his death occurring in June, 1908. Mrs. Bragg, who was a native of Kentucky, also attained ad-

vanced age, passing away in 1905, when she was eighty-four years old. Mr. Bragg was a man of sterling character, good business ability and marked industry, and he was influential in the Democratic party councils in his locality. He and Mrs. Bragg were the parents of five children: W. T., a retired resident and merchant of Monroe, Wisconsin, who married Mary Butterfield; Thomas J., who died at Seattle, Washington, about 1910; Alice A., of Monroe, Wisconsin, the widow of the late Archibald Glasscott, a former merchant; Emma C., the wife of R. D. Gorham, a druggist and real-estate operator of Monroe; and Charles D., of this review.

Charles D. Bragg was educated in the common schools of Monroe, Wisconsin, and was variously engaged, principally in farming, in that locality until 1898, when he brought his family to Custer county and purchased a farm, on which he made his home for two years. He then disposed of his interests and located at Comstock, buying an interest in an established general merchandise business and becoming thereby a member of the firm of Wescott, Gibbon & Bragg. This concern has a modern establishment in every way and carries a full line of general merchandise, catering to a patronage which extends for miles all around this vicinity. An excellent trade has been developed and held through a policy of honest and honorable treatment, careful selection of high-grade stock, and the offering of moderate prices, and Mr. Bragg has in many ways proven himself a most capable business man. In addition the firm owns the city electric-lighting plant and an electric theatre, both of which have proven profitable ventures. Mr. Bragg is a Democrat. He belongs to the Masonic lodge at Monroe, Wisconsin.

In June, 1882, Mr. Bragg was united in marriage, at Monroe, Wisconsin, to Eva M. Wescott, daughter of Walter S. and Thankful (Cleveland) Wescott, the former born at Wethersfield, Wyoming county, New York, in 1828, and the latter at Emden, Maine. Mr. Wescott, the youngest of six children, moved at the age of fourteen years to Green county, Wisconsin, the family traveling the entire distance by wagon. He had received a good country-school education, and an especially retentive memory enabled him to acquire a better education than that of the average person at that time. He spent much of his time in reading news of the day and this equipped him with the ability to converse fluently upon all topics of importance. His father being a Democrat politically, he had a natural bent and inclination in that direction, and eventu-



WALTER S. WESCOTT

ally became very prominent politically as a Democrat, but with the advent of the Republican party he allied himself with that organization. In 1859 he was elected to the lower house of the Wisconsin legislature, the assembly, and he was re-elected in 1860. In 1863 he was elected to the state senate, and served two years. He was a delegate to the national convention that nominated Abraham Lincoln for the presidency. In 1880 Mr. Wescott located on a ranch near Oak Grove, Custer county, Nebraska, bringing 1,000 head of cattle, but that was one of the exceptionally hard winters and he had the misfortune to lose all but sixty-seven head. He at once brought 1,000 head more, and in 1886 he made a permanent abiding place here, locating near Comstock. He established a bank, a general store, and a village called Wescott, but this latter was abandoned at the time of the advent of the railroad, which came on the east side of the river, while the village was situated on the west side. Mr. Wescott thereupon moved his general merchandise store to the new village of Comstock, where he retired from active business in 1903, placing the management of his large interests in the hands of his son-in-law, E. C. Gibbons. He was prominent in politics, having always retained his interest therein, but never held office in Custer county. His death occurred March 31, 1908, and Mrs. Wescott also died in Comstock, where she was summoned to eternal rest on the 18th of April, 1916.

GILBERT H. HUGHES.—Another citizen of whom Arnold may well be proud because of his activities in the community and his contribution to the stock wealth and agricultural products of the county is Gilbert H. Hughes, who landed on the earthly planet March 7, 1868, in Grundy county, Missouri. He is a son of Louis O. and Malinda A. (Craig) Hughes, both of whom were native Virginians. He is a member of a family of eight children, six of whom reached maturity—James F. of Gilford, Missouri; Gilbert H., of this review; Owen H., of Coffey, Missouri; Mrs. Etta M. Woody, of Gallatin, Missouri; Mrs. Adeline Dennis, of Trenton, Missouri; and Oscar, deceased. In religious matters the father belonged to the Christian church while the mother was a faithful, devoted supporter of the Baptist church.

Gilbert H. Hughes spent his early years under the parental roof. At the age of twelve, however, he went to work for himself. His first wages, which he earned by

working for his uncle, amounted to twenty-five cents a day. The first job that he tackled was that of bunching wheat with a wooden rake, this work being done behind a cradler who cut the grain in the old-fashioned way. A little later he secured a job at eight dollars a month and still later his wages were increased to twelve dollars and then to fifteen dollars a month. He gave considerable attention to well digging, which paid him better than working by the month. With his face toward the west, he pulled up his Missouri stakes and in 1892 he found himself in Arnold, Custer county, Nebraska. One year later he led one of the fair daughters of Custer county to the marriage altar. The bride was Miss Minnie Robinson, daughter of William and Ellen Robinson, a splendid couple, of Irish nativity. William Robinson was one of the sterling pioneers of Custer county, upon whose soil he first made his appearance in 1883, in which year he walked a distance of seventy-five miles, from Lexington to the place where he located his first claim. Here he preceded his family by about two and one-half months, and as the mails from and to this pioneer county were not very regular at that time his wife became very anxious about him, fearing that he had been slain by Indians. Finally, with slight realization of the privations and other hardships that were in store for the family in the pioneer community, Mrs. Robinson joined her husband in Custer county. She and her children arrived at Cozad about two days before her husband arrived at that village, to which he came for supplies and lumber, as well as to meet his family. He had not shaved for more than two months and his children failed to recognize the "hairy man" as their father. With his wife and children Mr. Robinson set forth for the little box house he had erected on his claim, as a prerequisite in retaining the land, and as a recent prairie fire had swept the country Mrs. Robinson could not but feel that she could scarcely imagine a more desolate and discouraging landscape. The family party finally arrived at Arnold, which now thriving town was then represented only by a dugout on the bank of the South Loup river. This dugout was occupied by R. E. Allen, who utilized the same as a store and postoffice, cracker boxes being used as the receptacles for mail. After obtaining their mail at this frontier postoffice Mr. Robinson and his family started onward for his claim and the modest home he had there provided. The children began to look about for the so-called town of Arnold, and they could hardly believe their father when he told them that about one and

one-half miles back they had passed through the "town." Mr. and Mrs. Robinson were the parents of two sons and five daughters — Mrs. Gilbert H. Hughes, Mrs. Eliza McIsaac, Mrs. Mattie Wayland (deceased), Mrs. Hattie Wayland, Henry, Mrs. Fannie McDonald, and John.

From the time of their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Hughes have maintained a home of comfort and hospitality, and with them remains their only child, Miss Gladys, who is popular in the representative social circles of the community. After their marriage they returned to Grundy county, Missouri, where they visited about four months, and upon coming again to Custer county Mr. Hughes took a homestead claim one mile west and six miles north of Arnold. This was the family home for twenty years, and there Mr. Hughes conducted all kinds of stock operations and general farming on a prolific scale. He and his wife now own 800 acres of land, and in addition to this landed and farming interest they have a fine property in Arnold, where they make their home and, "just to occupy spare time," Mr. Hughes serves the local public in the capacity of town marshal, constable, and water commissioner. He has things pretty much his own way. He claims that if any of the citizens do not walk to suit him he can arrest them and if them become too obstreperous, he can turn the city water on them. Without levity, and in all candor, Mr. Hughes is rendering his community a good service and the respect in which he and his good wife are held attests the appreciation of the neighbors.

MADISON M. STOUFFER. — While he is comparatively a newcomer to Custer county, Madison M. Stouffer has already given promise of becoming one of his community's most useful and substantial citizens, and of adding to the reputation which he established in the trade of carpentry and the vocation of farming in other parts of the state. He is now the owner of a good farming property, on which he has been carrying on operations since February, 1918, and the appearance of which indicates that he is a man thoroughly informed as to his business.

Mr. Stouffer was born in Pennsylvania, January 1, 1859, and is a son of Samuel and Catherine (Schall) Stouffer. He is one of a family of ten children, of whom those now living are: James, born in March, 1854, is a widower and is living in retirement at Kittanning, Pennsylvania; Madison M. is the subject of this review; William, born in 1861, is a resi-

dent of Ford City, Pennsylvania; Samuel, born in March, 1864, is now residing at Kittanning; Henry, born in September, 1866, also is a resident of Kittanning; and Isaiah, born in September, 1870, is a resident of McGrann, Pennsylvania.

Madison M. Stouffer received his education in the public schools of Kittanning, Pennsylvania, and as a youth learned the trade of carpentry, which he followed as an apprentice and later as a journeyman for many years before embarking in business on his own account. He was variously engaged and variously located until 1911, when he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, investing his holdings in a property in Sherman county, Nebraska, where he continued operations until February, 1918, when he came to his present home in Custer county. Here he has good buildings and other modern improvements, and many changes have been made even since the time of his arrival. Mr. Stouffer is a Democrat, but has never aspired to office of any kind. His religious affiliation is with the Church of God.

On August 4, 1881, Mr. Stouffer was united in marriage to Miss Julia Lemmon, and to this union there have been born eight children, of whom four are living, as follows: Robert A., born June 4, 1882, is a carpenter and farmer and is his father's associate in his interests; Clarence, who was born June 6, 1884, and who is a farmer of Holbrook, Nebraska, married Nellie Waits; John, who was born February 23, 1887, and who is a farmer near Ulysses, Nebraska, married Zilla Wynegar; and William H., who was born October 27, 1892, and who formerly was editor of the *Pleasanton Independent*, at Pleasanton, Buffalo county, Nebraska, joined General Pershing's command on its expedition into Mexico, received his honorable discharge, and when this country declared war with Germany enlisted in Machine Gun Company, Sixteenth United States Infantry, with which command he is "Somewhere in France" at the time of this writing.

CHARLES E. TAYLOR, M. D. — Among the honored professional men of Custer county none is more worthy of being represented in its annals than Dr. Charles E. Taylor, a leading physician and surgeon of Sargent. For fourteen years he has lived within the county's borders, during which time he has been a prominent factor in its social, civic, and professional affairs, fairly earning an honorable reputation for straightforward dealings with his fellow citizens in such a degree as to make

his name a synonym for professional capacity and correctness of morals. Doctor Taylor was born in Guthrie county, Iowa, April 28, 1872, and is a son of Edgar and Sarah (Williams) Taylor.

Edgar Taylor was born in New York, where he was residing at the outbreak of the Civil war, and he enlisted in the Third New York Cavalry, with which he served four years, three months, and twelve days. His record was a splendid one, and he rose from private to sergeant, having been twice promoted on the battlefield, for bravery, and having sustained two sabre wounds and one gunshot wound. At the conclusion of the war he returned to New York, but shortly thereafter he accompanied his parents to Ashtabula, Ohio, where the parents died. He later moved to Guthrie county, Iowa, where he married Sarah Williams, a native of Kentucky, and they located on a farm. Mr. Taylor was a man of industry and ability and became one of the large stock-raisers of his community, but he disposed of some of his interests in Iowa in 1900 and came to Callaway, Custer county, Nebraska, where he continued to be engaged in various operations until his retirement. He is a Republican in politics, and he and his wife are members of the Baptist church, which they attend at their present home locality, the town of Oconto. They are the parents of five children: Mrs. J. J. Douglas, wife of a retired farmer of Callaway; Mrs. B. U. Harshberger, a widow, of Oconto; Mrs. J. W. Ballard, who acts as stenographer to her husband, an attorney of Kimball, Nebraska; Dr. Charles E., of this notice; and Mrs. W. V. Mathews, wife of the president of an Omaha bank.

Charles E. Taylor attended the district schools of Guthrie county, Iowa, following which he spent several years in completing the course at the Woodbine (Iowa) Normal School. He was engaged in teaching for two years thereafter, but, becoming interested in medicine, he gave up his educational work and began studying his new profession. He completed his preparation in the medical college at Lincoln, Nebraska, where he was graduated with the class of 1905, in which year he began practice at Oconto. After four years spent in that community he changed his field of activities to Sargent, and this has been his home and the scene of his professional labors and success to the present time. Dr. Taylor has not ceased to be a student, but has taken post-graduate work at Chicago, at Des Moines, and at Rochester, Minnesota. He is a member of the Nebraska Eclectic Medical Society, keeps

fully abreast of the advancements being made in his calling, and has attained a high place in the ranks of his vocation, having the complete confidence of a large and representative practice and the esteem and respect of his fellow practitioners. He is prominent in Masonry, having attained Scottish Rite degrees and being also a member of Tangier Temple, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. His political proclivities cause him to support the Republican party.

In 1907 Dr. Taylor was united in marriage to Miss Flora E. Marrs, who was born in Missouri, and who is a graduate of pharmacy at Fremont, Nebraska. While residing at Oconto, Dr. Taylor conducted a drug store, and prior to their marriage Mrs. Taylor acted as his pharmacist. They have no children. Mrs. Taylor is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and is actively interested in its work and movements.

WILLIAM McDONALD.—This brief review presents a young farmer who is widely known and who is a Canadian by birth. He was born in the Dominion of Canada in 1878 and came to the United States in 1906, since which time he has ranked himself with the wideawake and aggressive young farmers. He is a son of Ranold and Katherine McDonald, both natives of the Dominion of Canada. The father is deceased but the mother is still living, at the age of seventy-five years. She continues to maintain her home in the land of her nativity. In the parents' family were six children as follows: Jessie Morris, who lives in Boston; William, who is the subject of this sketch; Duncan and Mary Ann, who are deceased; and Marcella and Martin, who live in Boston. The father was a saw-mill worker and quarryman by occupation.

In the city of Boston the early activities of young William McDonald were staged. It was there that he earned his first money, by driving an ice wagon. Since coming to Custer county, however, he has been enabled to make money somewhat faster. In this he has had the assistance of a good wife, for, in 1901, he led to the marriage altar Miss Fannie Robinson, a daughter of William and Ellen (Reedy) Robinson, estimable Irish people. The father died in 1906 at the age of sixty-one years, and the mother is still living, at the age of seventy-two years. Mrs. McDonald's father was a splendid type of the indomitable pioneer spirits who made good in the west. With practically nothing with which to begin, he came to this county in 1884 and home-

steaded a quarter-section of good land, upon which he put splendid improvements. Mr. Robinson belonged to the Presbyterian church, was a member of the Mystic Legion, and was a Republican voter. His wife belongs to the Catholic church. In their family were seven children: Minnie Hughes lives in Arnold, where her husband is town marshal; Eliza McIsaac is a nurse, in Arizona; Mattie Wayland is deceased; Hattie Wayland lives in Boston; Henry is an electrician, living in Arizona; the sixth child in the family was Mrs. McDonald; John lives on a farm in Iowa.

The McDonalds have a half-section of land and rent 420 acres where they now live. They are hard-working, industrious, painstaking people and enjoy the respect and confidence of a large circle of friends. They are socially connected with the best circle in the community and are members of the Catholic church. They have two children — Ellen, aged fourteen years (1919), and Loyde, aged twelve years. Independent in politics, Mr. McDonald insists that it is his right to select his candidate when exercising his election franchise.

JOE TALBOT, who belongs to the younger generation of representatives of the farming industry of Custer county, is showing judgment, skill, and good management in the operation of 290 acres of land near Berwyn. This property has been his home from boyhood, and since he has assumed its management he has attained results that mark him as one of the progressive and energetic young farmers of his community.

Mr. Talbot was born in Missouri, May 6, 1896, and is a son of Benjamin and Minerva Helen (Evans) Talbot. His father was born in Illinois, in 1850, and there received his education and was reared to agricultural pursuits. When still a young man he came to Butler county, Nebraska, where, in 1874, he was married to Minerva H. Evans, who was born in 1857, in Wisconsin, a daughter of Sterling and Mary J. (McKnight) Evans, the former a native of West Virginia and the latter of Wisconsin. The parents of Mrs. Talbot were married in Wisconsin and in 1869 came to Butler county and located on a homestead, later moving to a farm in Custer county. Following the death of her husband, Mrs. Evans went to live with her daughter, at Berwyn, with whom she now makes her home. Mr. and Mrs. Talbot became the parents of nine children, of whom three are living: Ethel, the

wife of Owen Miller, engaged in farming in Custer county; Cora, the wife of U. Sorensen, also a Custer county farmer; and Joe, of this review. At the time he started housekeeping, Mr. Talbot's cash resources were represented by the sum of fourteen dollars, but this amount was sufficient to start him on his way to success, and as the years passed he accumulated more and more property until, at the time of his death, he had 590 acres of land, all of which he had obtained solely through his own efforts. He was a man of marked business ability, shrewd and far-seeing, and able at once to recognize an opportunity, the while he always bore an excellent reputation for integrity and commanded the esteem of the people of his community. He was a Republican in politics, but did not seek office, while his religious faith was that of the Church of God. His widow still survives him and makes her home at Berwyn, she likewise being a member of the Church of God.

Joe Talbot attended the district schools of Custer county, as well as those of Ansley and Janesville. He was brought up to habits of industry and integrity and was taught the principles of farming and stock-raising, so that he was competent to be named the successor of his father when the latter died. He was married before attaining his majority, January 18, 1917, to Miss Vera Gebhart, who was born at Ansley, Custer county, a daughter of Fred Gebhart, a native of Germany. Mr. Gebhart immigrated to the United States in young manhood, and was one of the early pioneers of Custer county, where he settled in 1875. For many years he was successfully engaged in farming, but at present is living in Broken Bow.

Mr. Talbot is now engaged in operating 290 acres of land, this property being owned by his mother and being a part of the estate of his father. This land is under a high state of cultivation, and by reason of the fertility of its soil and the ability of its manager is a producer of big crops, while its buildings are commodious and modern and its equipment up-to-date in every way. Mr. Talbot has not had time thus far to engage in activities aside from those connected with his farm work. In political affairs he maintains an independent stand.

JOHN A. MYERS. — One of the younger farmers of West Table who has made good use of his opportunities, and by diligence and a display of good judgment has won for him-

self a place among the progressive men of his community, is John Abner Myers, of whom mention should be made in this history.

Mr. Myers was born in Jersey county, Illinois, February 24, 1874, and is a son of Henry H. Myers, whose record as a pioneer settler of Custer county is to be found elsewhere in this volume.

John A. Myers was a lad of nine years when the family came to Nebraska, and the home was established in Boone county. Two years later witnessed the packing up and again going to a new country, this time to Custer county. He attended the district school which his father helped organize, his time as a boy being divided between his studies in the school-room, the pleasures of the playground, and assisting in the work of the farm. As his years and strength increased, he assumed more and more the heavier tasks, and under the instructions of his father he learned the best method of planting, caring for, and harvesting crops, so that when he became a man he was in a position to take up farming on his own account. At first he operated land as a tenant, meeting with the success that enabled him to see his way clearly to invest in land of his own. He purchased 160 acres that had been entered by his maternal grandfather in an early day, as a homestead. The place was unimproved when it came into his possession, but he has erected a large frame house with suitable barn and outbuildings for the shelter of grain and stock, and he is to-day the owner of 400 acres of valuable land, devoted to general farming and stock-raising.

As a boy Mr. Myers witnessed the hardships of the early days, and as a young man starting out upon his own career he shared in some of the same privations and trials as the older settlers. He has often unhitched his team at noon and gone to find a water-hole to supply his horses with water before he would go to the house for his dinner. He has hauled water for long distances, to supply stock and for family use.

February 24, 1897, Mr. Myers was united in marriage to Barbara Thostensen, a daughter of Zachariah Thostensen, an early settler of Custer county who now lives retired in Broken Bow and whose record as a pioneer will be found elsewhere. Mr. and Mrs. Myers have seven children.

Mr. and Mrs. Myers are members of the Methodist church. He is a Republican in politics and has rendered efficient service as a member of the school board. By untiring industry and a display of good judgment he has become one of the substantial men of his

community, and he is held in the highest of esteem by all with whom he comes in contact.

JOHN C. WEHLING. — By reason of his sterling character and large and worthy achievement, John C. Wehling is a citizen who may well be honored and valued by Custer county, within whose borders he has maintained his residence for more than thirty-four years, so that he is clearly entitled to pioneer distinction. His fine farm estate, comprising 1,240 acres, is eligibly situated about twelve miles west of Broken Bow, and is one of the model places of the county, so that it is gratifying to present in connection with this sketch an attractive view of this admirable farm property. The career of Mr. Wehling has been marked by purposeful energy and well directed endeavors, so that he has been one of the constructive forces applied in the splendid civic and industrial development and progress of Custer county.

Mr. Wehling was born in Germany, on the 25th of August, 1850, and after he passed the school age he learned the carpenter's trade. After he had attained to his majority, in accord with the regulations of his native land, he served two and one-half years as a soldier in the German army, in which connection he has sagely stated that he learned obedience, frugality, and work. He received his discharge from the army in the year 1874, and in that same year he severed the ties that bound him to his home and fatherland and came to the United States. He landed in the port of New York City and thence proceeded forthwith to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he was employed six months as a carpenter, by the firm of Brandt, Bennett & Company. Work then became slack and he was discharged by the firm. After that he worked in a livery stable for his board, thus continuing until the following spring. For the ensuing five years he was employed in a second-hand store in the Wisconsin metropolis, and this service he then abandoned to assume a position as driver for a livery stable, an occupation that engaged his attention for two years. In 1880, as a member of a Milwaukee turnverein, Mr. Wehling returned to Germany. He remained for an interval at Frankfurt on the Main, and thence proceeded to his native village, where his marriage was solemnized soon afterward.

In 1881, in company with his young wife, Justine, Mr. Wehling returned to the United States, and it is worthy of special note in this connection that 150 other young folk from Germany immigrated to America with Mr.



JOHN C. WEHLING AND FAMILY

and Mrs. Wehling at this time. After landing in New York City Mr. and Mrs. Wehling came direct to Madison county, Nebraska, where they remained three years. Mr. Wehling then sold his 160 acres in that county and removed to Boone county, where he purchased a quarter-section of land, near Albion. This was in the year 1884, and within a short time after his arrival in Boone county Mr. Wehling there formed the acquaintance of Thomas Fay, who offered him his pre-emption claim in Custer county. In obtaining this property, Mr. Wehling paid to Mr. Fay the sum of \$257 for the latter's relinquishment. He then filed on the claim as a pre-emption, and in six months he perfected his title to the property, after paying to the government the sum of \$200.

Mr. Wehling has given the following interesting account concerning incidents of his pioneer experience in Custer county, and the same is well worthy of perpetuation in this sketch:

"In March, 1885, I removed to Custer county. At the time I arrived in Broken Bow the people here told me I was crazy to establish myself on the West Table, as no water was to be had there. In that locality I met Hiram Caswell, who had a well outfit. Amos Gandy, who had a mortgage of \$140 on this outfit, assigned this chattel mortgage to me and I moved the well outfit to my farm on the West Table. In October, 1885, Caswell and I attempted to construct a well on the place. We bored down to a depth of 140 feet and this was as far as the drill would go down. I heard that Charles Milligan, residing in the Eureka valley, had 200 feet more of the well-auger than I had, and this extra supply would give me a total of 340 feet. In order to obtain the outfit and services of Mr. Milligan I had to give him a mortgage on my two mules. Then I went to Plum Creek and bought tubing for 400 feet. We put the tubing down 300 feet and then came to quicksand. Under these conditions we used the sand-pump for fifty feet and then struck water, which raised up for fifty feet in the tubing. I then proceeded to have a bucket constructed, this being eight feet high, and with this equipment I was able thereafter to draw water for domestic and other farm uses. For two years I used an old mare to pull up our water supply, and afterward I bought a windmill, besides putting iron casing in the well. This well stood in a lagoon, and after it had been in service six years it was destroyed by a cloudburst that struck this part of the county. In 1891 Charles Willis, of Broken Bow, constructed the hydraulic well which I am using

at the present time, and which is one of the four now on my farm."

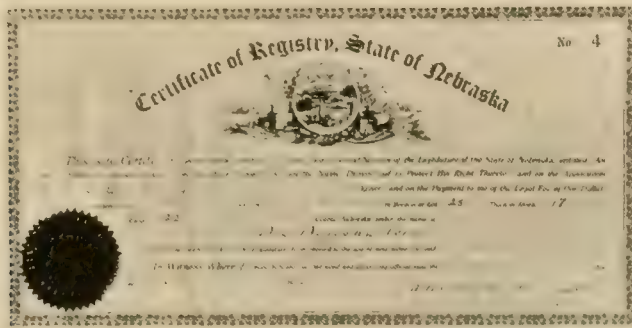
Mr. Wehling is now the owner of two sections of land on the West Table. He erected on the home place an attractive and modern residence of eight rooms, and he has given to his valuable landed estate the consistent name of "Die Deutchie Farm," the accompanying illustration showing the legal authorization of this name. On his home place Mr. Wehling gave thirty-three years of assiduous, unremitting, and well directed toil, and the results of all this are plainly shown in the fine farm estate of the present day. Thus Mr. Wehling is well entitled to the ease and comfort which he has enjoyed since his retirement from the farm and his removal to Broken Bow, where he and his wife have a pleasant home that is known for its generous hospitality and good cheer. Mrs. Wehling has been a true helpmeet to her husband during the many years of their gracious companionship. They became the parents of five sons and two daughters, all of whom are living except one, John, who was drowned in a water tank on the old home farm, when about eighteen months old. The sons of Mr. and Mrs. Wehling have attained to maturity and are accounting well for themselves as productive workers in the world. A fitting close for this review are the following reminiscences, which are given in the words of Mr. Wehling himself:

"In March, 1886, I went to Plum Creek for flour, and in making the trip I drove a four-mule team. I loaded 3,000 pounds of flour and other goods and then started for home. Coming close to Charles Finlen in crossing a bridge, the bridge gave away and we fell into the water. I lost 600 pounds of my flour. Mr. Finlen dried my clothes for me and when I arrived in Broken Bow, with the remainder of my flour and other supplies, a constable arrested me for having destroyed the bridge. He took me before Justice of the Peace Olcott, who, after hearing my account, discharged me.

"In October, 1888, horse thieves stole two of my finest horses — four and five years old respectively and weighing 2,400 pounds. I called on Sheriff Penn and told him my story. He assigned to my case his deputy, who was Jesse Flora. We were both green in the matter of detective skill. We trailed the horse thieves to a point ten miles northwest of North Platte. The thieves stayed all night at the home of Joseph Wolfor, and thence we followed them into Colorado, where we lost all trace of them. I never saw my team again. Penn ran for sheriff again and he looked well



VIEW OF THE FARM



JOHN C. WEHLING

to his political fences. His deputy was as green as I—and greener yet. His activities in connection with the attempt to recover my team clearly justify this statement.”

WILLIAM SMITH.—Among the well known farmers of Custer county whose industry, energy, and good management have placed them in comfortable circumstances and gained for them a reputable standing among their townsmen, is William Smith. Mr. Smith is one of the early settlers of the Ansley district, where he filed on a homestead in 1884, and during his career here he has been known as a constructive and public-spirited citizen and a supporter of movements which have led to advancement and resulted in development.

William Smith was born on a farm in Washington county, Iowa, May 24, 1863, a son of John and Nancy (Morris) Smith. His father was born in Pennsylvania, in 1826, and was married in that state, where the mother was born in 1836. Not long after their marriage they went to Iowa and in 1870 they came to Saline county, Nebraska. In 1884 they came to Custer county, where they passed the remainder of their lives, the father dying four years after their arrival, and the mother having survived him until 1911 and having been seventy-five years old at the time of her demise. Mr. Smith was a Republican, and he and his wife, who were industrious and honorable farming people, were consistent members of the Presbyterian church. They were the parents of eight children, of whom seven are living: Henderson, who resides in Oregon; O. F., who is a nurseryman of Blackfoot, Idaho; Emma, who is the wife of Arel Real, a retired farmer of Ansley; William, whose name initiates this sketch; Florence, who is the wife of S. A. Gardner, of Salem, Washington; Mrs. Seth Gibson, who resides at Forest Grove, Oregon; and Mrs. Charles Daniel, who is a resident of Spanaway, Washington.

William Smith gained his early education in the common schools of Nebraska and as a youth learned the trade of butcher, which he followed for several years. This vocation, however, did not prove congenial, and he subsequently turned his attention to farming and stock-feeding, in which he met with success. This encouraged him, in 1884, to come to Custer county and secure a homestead near Ansley, and, although he was but twenty-one years old at the time, he immediately displayed abilities that gave him an even opportunity for success with the older and more experienced men of the community. His advancement has

been continuous and consistent, and from the time that he dug the first well at Ansley and duplicated that accomplishment at Mason City, he has continued to show himself a man of advanced views and progressive ideas. He has had his share of success and his share of reverses, but successes have been in the majority, and as a result he is to-day accounted one of his community's well-to-do men. His first house, built to succeed the small habitation of pioneer days, was destroyed by a tornado which visited these parts, but this he subsequently replaced with a more modern structure, commodious in size, attractive in appearance, and with all modern conveniences. His other buildings are proportionately substantial and handsome, and his machinery and appurtenances are of the latest manufacture. He is a Republican and a public-spirited citizen, but has not been a candidate for office. He and Mrs. Smith were charter members of the local organization of the Royal Neighbors, to which order they still belong, and Mr. Smith is also a member of the Masonic fraternity and the Modern Woodmen of America. Mrs. Smith holds membership in the Methodist Episcopal church at Ansley.

In April, 1888, Mr. Smith was united in marriage with Miss Alice Kestner, who was born in Belmont county, Ohio, a daughter of Henry and Mary (Howard) Kestner. Mr. Kestner was born in Germany, and was fourteen years of age when he came to the United States, settling in Ohio, from which state he moved to Iowa. At the time of the Civil war he enlisted in an Iowa regiment of volunteer infantry and served bravely for the Union for three years, establishing a splendid record. In 1881 he removed to Seward county, Nebraska, where both he and his wife were residing at the time of their death. Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Smith: Glenn is engaged in farming in Custer county; Ralph is a member of the United States navy; Ray is farming in Custer county; Kathryn resides with her parents; Walter is with the American Expeditionary Forces in France at the time of this writing; and Edith, Dean, and Dale remain with their parents.

MISS ELIZA DOWSE.—Both personally and professionally is Miss Dowse to be designated as one of the most highly esteemed women of Custer county, which has represented her home in a generic sense since the year of her birth, when she was brought here by her parents, who became sterling pioneers of this now favored section of Nebraska. While she has

thus looked upon Custer county as her home, Miss Dowse is known in other sections of Nebraska and also in other states of the Union, her mature life having been one marked by earnest service and distinctive usefulness.

Miss Eliza Dowse, educator and trained nurse, was born at Grinnell, Iowa, on the 13th of March, 1873, and she is a daughter of Lewis R. and Sarah M. (Wagner) Dowse, who now have the distinction of being the oldest living pioneers of Custer county, Samuel Wagner, father of Mrs. Dowse, having been one of the very first settlers in Custer county. The parents of Miss Dowse came to this county in 1873, long before the great rush of homeseekers to this part of the state, and the government land which they then obtained constitutes the fine homestead on which they have lived during the long intervening years. The hardships which they endured in their isolated frontier home were serious enough at the time and called for great courage and resourcefulness, but all of these tribulations are virtually forgotten by the venerable couple save in a retrospective glance from the vantage point of their present-day comfort, ease, and prosperity—the due rewards for years of earnest toil and endeavor. They have a wide acquaintanceship, and in their charitable and kindly attitude and their interest in others is still displayed that sympathetic friendliness that was so strong a tie among the early settlers of the county. Mr. and Mrs. Dowse, of whom further mention is made on other pages of this publication, thus have a circle of friends that is limited only by that of their acquaintances. They are earnest members of the Congregational church. In politics Lewis R. Dowse gives unflinching allegiance to the Republican party, and while he has never sought or desired the honors or emoluments of public office, he has at all times been loyal and public-spirited as a citizen and has lent his influence and co-operation in the furtherance of the civic and material development and advancement of the county. Concerning their children the following brief data are consistently entered: William R. is a farmer near Comstock, this county and the maiden name of his wife was Florence Murphy; Eliza, the immediate subject of this review, was the next in order of birth; Alice is the wife of Charles R. Sims, a farmer near Newkirk, Oklahoma; Lewis S., who married Miss Marie Pickel, operates a saw mill at Lake Stevens, Washington; Lawrence E., who married Miss Mabel Miner, is a farmer near Comstock, Custer county; Elmer E. married Miss Elsie Day and they reside on the old and historic Dowse

homestead, near Comstock, the same being under his active management; Ethel M. is the wife of Frank S. Steele, a shoe manufacturer at Comstock; and Nellie died at the age of seven years. Mr. and Mrs. Dowse have also an adopted daughter, Faye, who is at the present time in the service of the government, as a skilled stenographer and bookkeeper, in the city of Seattle, Washington.

As previously stated, Miss Eliza Dowse was not yet one year old when the family home was established in Custer county, and here she was reared on the old pioneer homestead of her parents, under the conditions and influences that marked the early period in the history of the county. Her initial educational advantages were those afforded in the primitive rural school in the vicinity of her home, and later she attended the high school at Arcadia, as well as summer sessions of the normal school at Broken Bow. That she made good use of the scholastic opportunities thus afforded her, is shown in the marked success and popularity which she gained as a representative of the pedagogic profession. For a period of fourteen years she was continuously engaged in teaching in the public schools, and her services were thus given not only in Nebraska but also in Idaho and Massachusetts. She proved very successful as an instructor and gained the affectionate regard of the many pupils who thus came within the sphere of her influence. With her fine intellectual attainments and executive ability, Miss Dowse has the dominating sympathy and kindness that ever beget confidence and love in the school-room, and the same qualities have also insured greatly to her success in the field of endeavor in which she is now working with characteristic earnestness and ability and with a high sense of personal stewardship. Upon her retirement from the pedagogic profession Miss Dowse began a thorough course of training in hospital work, and on the 16th of October, 1915, she was graduated as a trained nurse, in the celebrated training school maintained in connection with the Massachusetts General Hospital in the city of Boston. Since that time she has followed the work of her profession in Custer county, and her ministrations have done much in the alleviation of human suffering and distress. She finds satisfaction in being a member of a professional sisterhood whose heroism has met the highest test during the climacteric period of the great world war, for greater heroism than that of the devoted nurses who have ministered with all of self-abnegation and zeal to the wounded soldiers in France and Belgium has never

been recorded in the annals of humanity. Miss Dowse remains on the old homestead at such times as her professional duties do not require her presence elsewhere, and she is known and loved as one of the noble women of the county in which virtually her entire life has been passed.

RICHARD E. ALLEN. — Among the men who have contributed materially to the growth and development of Custer county since the pioneer settlement of this part of the state, one who has been an eye-witness of and participant in this great growth and progress is Richard E. Allen, who is now living in retirement at Arnold. Mr. Allen was a homesteader, was one of the early postmasters of the county, and was one of the first merchants of his section, but the greater part of his active career was passed as a farmer and stockman. In whatever capacity he found himself, he always carried on his transactions and conducted himself personally in a manner that won and held for him the respect and esteem of his fellows, and his life record has been unmarked by stain or other blemish.

Mr. Allen was born April 21, 1857, at Mount Morris, New York, and he is a son of Silas E. and Evaline (Blakeley) Allen, natives of the Empire state. There were six children in the family, of whom four are living: Eugene F., Marion S., Richard E., and Mrs. May Gunnison. Richard E. Allen was but one year old when the family moved to Clinton county, Iowa, and in 1863 removal was made to Linn county, that state, where Mr. Allen's father purchased 160 acres of land in the prairie country. There his boyhood and youth were passed, his education being secured in the public schools of the country, and he having been reared under the vital discipline of the home farm. Mr. Allen earned his first money by shocking wheat, having been promised fifty cents a day, but through some misunderstanding he failed to get his money, and the bitter disappointment made such an impression on his youthful mind that he remembers it to this day and has always been careful in making promises to his own children. Mr. Allen remained on the home farm until he was nearly twenty-two years of age, and he then married. December 8, 1878, in Linn county, Iowa, he wedded Miss Lovira L. Parks, who was born in that county, a daughter of Morgan S. and Lydia (Harris) Parks, natives of Indiana. Three children were born to this union: Gertie E., Mertie M., and Blanche R. Gertie E. is the wife of An-

drew J. McCants, a farmer one-half mile west of Arnold, and they have no children. They are members of the Christian church. Mr. McCants is a blue-lodge Mason, is a member of the Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen, and in political faith is a Democrat. Mertie M. is the wife of William Chadima, an ice and coal dealer of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and they have no children. They are members of the Christian church and Mr. Chadima is a Democrat in politics. Blanche R. Allen married Charles F. McGuire, a farmer who operates his eighty-acre farm one mile southwest of Arnold, and leases 600 acres in Powell canyon. They are the parents of two sons and one daughter — Edgar and Willie, and Genevieve. Mr. and Mrs. McGuire are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, he is a Republican in politics and is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, in which he is past master of his lodge, besides which he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mrs. Allen has a brother, David R. Parks, two sisters, Mrs. Josephine Gross and Mrs. Jane Weatherwax, and one half-brother on her mother's side, George Clark.

In June, 1880, Mr. and Mrs. Allen came to Custer county and settled on the land on which the village of Arnold is now located. After the hard winter of 1880, the cattlemen here prevailed on Mr. Allen to take the post-office, which at that time was being conducted by George Arnold, for whom the town of Arnold was afterward named. Mr. Allen decided to start a store at the same time, and he accordingly went to Kearney, where he bought one hundred dollars' worth of merchandise such as he knew would fill the needs of the men in his locality, and he hauled this merchandise overland 100 miles, with a pony team. The cowboys were not long in finding out that a store had been established and they soon cleaned out the little stock, which Mr. Allen replenished by another trip, this time to Cozad, fifty miles distant. This operation was repeated a number of times, Mr. Allen remaining in the mercantile business about seven years. In 1889 he gave up his business and resigned the postmastership. When he had started as postmaster, the stamps cancelled at his office averaged \$2 per month, but when he gave up his position they had reached the approximate sum of \$35, which gives an idea of the settlement of the country during the period of seven years. In 1889 Mr. Allen settled down in earnest to farming and raising stock, and soon he became one of the important men in these lines in his community. He ran stock and farmed, carried on his operations in

a well ordered, progressive, and energetic way, and through the exercise of good judgment and natural ability he worked out a splendid success. He is now the owner of 351 acres of fine land, in addition to his modern home adjoining Arnold, and is living in retirement, in the enjoyment of the rewards that have come to him as a result of a well spent and honorable life.

Mr. Allen is affiliated with both the York Rite and the Scottish Rite bodies of the Masonic fraternity, as well as the Mystic Shrine, his son-in-law, Charles F. McGuire, being also similarly identified with the time-honored fraternity. Mr. and Mrs. Allen are consistent members and generous supporters of the Methodist Episcopal church and in politics he supports the principles of the Democratic party.

D. J. JONES. — These lines concern one of the younger generation — a young man just rounding the mile post of his majority; one who comes of sturdy stock and possesses those indomitable characteristics that insure a high degree of success.

Mr. Jones was born at Omaha, Nebraska, May 13, 1898, and is a son of J. B. Jones, whose life record is known to nearly all of Custer county and who is the subject of an extended sketch in these pages.

D. J. Jones received his early education in the district schools and from very early years worked on the farm and planned to follow farming as an occupation. His initial efforts indicate plainly that he will succeed in the occupation he has selected, and that he will be a credit to the community and county in which he is located. He rents from his father one-half section of land, on which are splendid improvements and everything that goes to make a good farm equipment. He makes excellent use of these facilities and is doing a general farming and stock business that is more than commendable for a man of his age and experience. He has good stock in the foundation of his herds, both in the cow lot and the hog pen. This will mean fine specimens of cattle and hogs in the near future. He has been for fifteen years on this place, which belongs to his father, who operated it before the marriage of D. J.

In April, 1917, Mr. Jones married Miss Emma Harmon, daughter of Ray Harmon, who lives near Ansley. One child blesses this union and makes happy the home of the young parents, Vivian being the name of this bright little daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Jones are a highly respected young couple who have many friends in the vicinity of their home and as far as their acquaintance extends. Young, active, and gracious in social circles, it is not surprising that they have a host of friends. They are members of the Baptist church and give to it a valuable support and able assistance in many ways aside from their financial help, which has always been generous.

JOSEPH H. LINDER. — The rich possibilities of the farming country of Custer county have attracted men not alone from various other states of the Union and even from other countries, but have also enlisted the services of numerous agriculturists who formerly had centered their activities in other parts of Nebraska. In this class is found Joseph H. Linder who, prior to coming to Custer county, in 1906, was interested in farming in Saunders county. He is now one of the leading farmers of the Berwyn community, where he is carrying on extensive and successful operations on a tract of 400 acres, all acquired through his own efforts.

Mr. Linder was born in Clarke county, Iowa, September 7, 1858, a son of H. B. and Sarah (Davis) Linder. His father, born in 1824, was a native of Virginia and as a young man traveled overland to Illinois, where he was married and settled down to life as an agriculturist. His father having moved to Clarke county, as an early settler, and having found that part of the country promising, H. B. Linder followed him to the Hawkeye state and secured land. He was an industrious and progressive man and made a success of his activities, and about the year 1884 changed his residence to Wahoo, Nebraska, where he lived in retirement until his death, in 1890. At that time his widow, who is a native of Illinois, went to live with her son J. D. Linder, and in March, 1918, she came to live with her son Joseph H. Linder, at whose home she still resides, aged eighty-three years. There were nine children in the family, of whom six are living, and of these Joseph H. is the only one living in Custer county. Mrs. Linder is a devout member of the Baptist church, to which her husband belonged. He was an adherent of the Republican party.

Joseph H. Linder was educated in the public schools of Clarke county, Iowa, where he grew to manhood, and about the time of his father's removal to Wahoo, he likewise took up his own residence in Nebraska, where he secured a farm in Saunders county, near the city of

Wahoo, the county seat. There he secured a start, as an independent farmer in a small way, and he had the usual struggles in gaining his foothold, although in his case these were made somewhat lighter by reason of inherent ability and thorough information regarding the art of agriculture. In 1906 he disposed of his interests in that locality and came to Custer county, where he purchased his present farm of 400 acres, on which he has since done mixed farming. This compares favorably with other properties of the locality, and Mr. Linder has been unsparing in his labors in making improvements and generally raising the standard of buildings and equipment. His success as a farmer rests upon his many years of faithful and well directed work, and his prosperity is all the more gratifying because of the fact that everything that he has has been self-gained, and in an honorable and straightforward manner.

While still living in Iowa, in 1882, Mr. Linder was united in marriage with Miss Rebecca Loudon, who was born in Pennsylvania, a daughter of John Loudon, an early settler and farmer of Iowa. They have had seven children, as follows: Marshall Boyd, who is the owner of some good Custer county agricultural land; M. Melville, who operates a rented farm in Custer county; Genevieve, who is the wife of W. D. Pratt, a farmer of this county; W. G., who farms in this county; Harry, who operates a rented farm; and Anna Belle and Laura Belle, twins, who are at home. Mr. and Mrs. Linder have been members of the Presbyterian church for thirty years. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Daughters of Rebekah, and the Modern Woodmen of America, and is a Republican in politics. He is a supporter of all public-spirited movements and his belief in and friendship for the cause of education has led him to give his services for ten years as a member of the school board.

FRANK E. NEEDHAM is a substantial citizen of Custer county, where he owns valuable farm lands and also a business building and a cream station in the town of Arnold. He has spent almost his entire life thus far in Nebraska and hence considers himself almost in the light of a native son. He was born at Princeton, Iowa, August 3, 1866, one of the four children of Arthur H. and Camelia (Porter) Needham, the others being: Leroy, who married Grace Chapple; Bertha, who is the wife of Grant Mills; and Mattie M., who is the wife of Keith Walker. The mother of

Mr. Needham died February 20, 1900, but his father survives and makes his home with his daughter Bertha (Mrs. Mills), at Forest Grove, Oregon.

Frank E. Needham was two years old when his parents brought him to Nebraska and settled twelve miles east of Lincoln. In 1882 removal was made to Custer county and a pre-emption claim was secured, situated five miles south of Arnold. There Frank E. Needham grew up, having as many advantages as the ordinary farmer boy at that time, as to schooling and recreation. He remembers that the Fourth of July was about the greatest day in the year's calendar, and to celebrate it seemed almost a patriotic duty. He found, one year, that he would have to earn the money in order to enjoy celebrating, and therefore he engaged to plow a neighbor's corn field. He was only ten years old at the time, the task was pretty heavy, and along toward noon he mentioned to his employer that he thought it was a very long forenoon. All the satisfaction he received was a benevolent look from the old farmer and the consoling remark: "Son, don't you know while man makes the forenoon, God makes the afternoon?"

Mr. Needham was united in marriage August 7, 1893, at Broken Bow, to Miss Hattie Burk, a daughter of James and Martha (Crabb) Burk. He and Mrs. Needham have one daughter, Ruth, who has prepared herself to be a teacher and was graduated in 1918 from the Nebraska Wesleyan University, at University Place, near Lincoln. Mrs. Needham has three brothers and two sisters, namely: John, William, Albert, Mrs. Laura Rodgers, and Mrs. Emma Beltz. Mr. Needham owns several properties that he has under rental, and he is also the owner of twenty-two acres of land and a substantial business building in the town of Arnold, where also, as mentioned above, he conducts a cream station, in which town he is an influential citizen in many ways.

LEWIS L. PRESTON, a general farmer and well known citizen of Custer county, resides on his valuable landed estate in the neighborhood of Oconto. Mr. Preston is one of the county's pioneers, and he has been a resident of Nebraska since he was seventeen years of age. He has lived through a wonderful period of state development and, as opportunity has been afforded, he has done his full share in assisting to bring about the prosperous conditions of the present day. Mr. Preston was born in Freeborn county, Minne-

sota, December 21, 1860. His parents were Smith and Margaret E. (Killmer) Preston, who had six children, the five survivors being: Lewis L., Elmer, Mrs. Agnes A. Feddersen, Mrs. Alice M. McJunkins, and Henry — all well known people in Custer county.

Lewis L. Preston assisted his father on the home farm in Minnesota and went to school during his boyhood. He was seventeen years old when his father moved to Beaver City, Furnas county, Nebraska, and took up a pre-emption claim, on which he lived for six years, with pioneer courage and determination holding on to his land even though discouraging periods of drouth that not only ruined the crops but imperiled the live stock and also made hardships out of the most ordinary of domestic tasks.

In April, 1888, Lewis L. Preston came to Custer county, and he has lived here ever since. The section in which he finally secured a homestead, after working several seasons with the owners of the Kennebec ranch, was almost unsettled at that time, his nearest neighbor, two miles to the southwest, being Mr. Christensen, and Hans Knudsen being the nearest neighbor to the west. His claim was a piece of rough land, but Mr. Preston finally perfected his title and then traded the property for his present fine place, paying a substantial difference in cash. He has one of the best wells in this part of the county, its depth being 200 feet, and none can appreciate such a blessing better than the old settlers who, like Mr. Preston, had to haul all the water for domestic purposes for eight years and also all for the live stock. For eight years Mr. Preston was compelled to obtain water in this way, except what he could catch in the canyons. There were other hardships that early settlers in this county bravely faced and overcame, but the greatest was the lack of water, which disadvantage has long since disappeared, Custer county now being a rich agricultural section.

At Beaver City, Nebraska, December 26, 1882, Lewis L. Preston married Miss Catherine Hancock, who was born in Wisconsin, a daughter of Robert and Louisa (Bowman) Preston, the former a native of Illinois and the latter of Wisconsin. Mr. and Mrs. Preston have three sons: Clarence M., Harry S., and Chester A. Clarence M. Preston, who is engaged in farming two miles northwest of Buffalo, Dawson county, married Lizzie Hilmuth, a daughter of William Hilmuth, and they have four sons and one daughter. Harry S. Preston, who is operating his land in Buffalo valley, one mile north of his fa-

ther's farm, married Daisy Smock, a daughter of Anton Smock, and they have one son and one daughter, Harry S. Preston being a patriotic young man who held himself ready to fulfill any demands his country might make upon him in connection with the world war. Chester A. Preston, like his next older brother, held himself in readiness for military call. He is a farmer near Buffalo, Dawson county. He married Verna, a daughter of Nathan Province, and they have no children. Lewis L. Preston and his sons are all staunch Republicans and the religious faith of the entire family is that of the Evangelical church.

JOSHUA WOOD.—This is one of the historic names of Custer county—a name that harks back to the pioneer days when the South Loup river ran as wet as it does to-day but when skirting its banks were not so many well improved farms and when the valley through which it flowed was not dotted with so many elegant farm homes. The possessor of the name lives in Kearney but, nevertheless, he belongs to Custer county, and into the history of this county his life and years are so interwoven that they cannot well be separated.

Joshua Wood is a native of the state of Iowa, where he was born October 8, 1851. His parents were Thomas K. and Deme (Mann) Wood. The father was a farmer and stock-raiser whose operations were attended with fair success. The parents moved to Buffalo county, Nebraska, in 1868, and in 1873 they located a homestead west of Sumner. The father died in 1897 and the mother in 1905. In their family were ten children, eight of whom are still living: Sarah F. Berry is now widowed and lives in Missouri Valley, Iowa; William B. is a carpenter and he likewise resides in Missouri Valley; Rhoda Hammer is the widow of Lewis Hammer and lives in Council Bluffs; Joshua is the subject of this sketch; Perry C., who lives in Sumner, is a farmer and stock-raiser; Delia Drake lives at Steamboat, Colorado, her husband being a farmer and stock-raiser; Nora Keen lives in Sumner; Lee is a barber and resides at Laurel, Nebraska; Mary Butts is deceased; Edward was killed at Meeteetse, Wyoming, while hauling lumber down a mountain side.

Joshua Wood moved to Nebraska when his father did and here he filed his first pre-emption in 1874, on the South Loup river, this being the beginning of his career in Custer county. He lived on the place three years, operating for himself, and he then became con-



James H. Joseph Wood

nected with the Loup Valley Live Stock Company as vice-president and superintendent. In 1868 there was no Kearney, no B. & M. Railroad. He killed a buffalo south of Gibbon, when the Gibbon colony came to this county in 1871. This was the last buffalo killed in this section. Prior to this time, when he first came to the west, buffaloes were killed by the wholesale. The hunters took only the hind quarters, and often four or five wagons were loaded down with the meat and hides. This gives an idea of the plentifulness of game in the early days. Mr. Wood has been married twice. His first marriage was to Etta Kilgore, daughter of Coe Kilgore, who was one of the early pioneers of the South Loup and whose history is given elsewhere. To this union three children were born: Of Walter and Frank, both of whom are prominent South Loup stock men, extended mention is made under their own respective names, on other pages of this book; Ada Overmire is on the home ranch. The second marriage of Mr. Wood was to Mrs. Barbara (Byers) Davis.

During the early years Mr. Wood had much to do with the organization of the county. He attended the early political conventions and was the first sheriff of Custer county. Although there was little business in those days for sheriff or any other officer, his name is recorded at the head of the official roster of Custer county sheriffs. In those days he rendered the county valuable service and, along with such kindred spirits as Kilgore, Douglass, Wise, Young, Boblits, George, Allen, and many others, he assumed his share of responsibilities.

He has always stuck to the farming business but has made it always conserve the interests of stock-raising. He and his boys are in partnership now and they have on hand splendid herds of fine cattle. Their fancy has always been for the white-faced Herefords. They have never failed to keep on hand registered bulls, and by this means they have proved the worth of their fine stock and made their ranch famous for the cattle they produce. Mr. Wood is a member of the Woodman lodge, is a Democrat in politics, and, withal, is a highly respected and influential citizen. Mr. Wood was interested with the Loup Valley Live Stock Company up to 1887. In 1885 the company established a ranch near Fort Buford, Montana, and drove surplus ranch cattle, in the years 1885 and 1886, to the Montana ranch. Mr. Wood and Mr. Lewis Hammer, of Council Bluffs, Iowa, bought out the Loup Valley Live Stock Company in 1904, Mr. Wood acting as president and general mana-

ger up to 1916, when he and his two sons bought Mr. Hammer's interest. They still own and operate this ranch together.

WILLIAM T. JONES, who has contributed to the development and upbuilding of Custer county through his connection with agricultural affairs, is known as one of the aggressive and skilled farmers of the Berwyn locality. When he began his career in this county he was possessed of only a little live stock and a small amount of equipment, but within six years he had placed himself in a position where he was able to purchase a farm, and from that time to the present his career has been one of continued and uninterrupted success.

Mr. Jones was born on a farm in Saunders county, Nebraska, February 17, 1870, and is a son of James and Louisa (Joslin) Jones. His father, a native of Indiana, was there reared and educated. He took up farming as a vocation, and when he started operations on a property of his own he established himself as a family man by his marriage with Miss Louisa Joslin, who was born in Kentucky and who had been taken to Indiana as a child. After farming in Indiana with indifferent success for a number of years, in 1869 Mr. Jones came to Saunders county, in the new state of Nebraska, where he settled on a homestead and continued operations for fifteen years. He next disposed of his interests there and took up his residence in Butler county, where he passed the last years of his life, and where his death occurred in 1898. Mr. Jones was one of the men whose abilities were allowed to develop through the opportunities offered in this state, and who, in their new environment, worked their own way to prosperity. He was never a public man, preferring the atmosphere of his farm to the honors of political place, but he was a staunch supporter of Democratic principles and an adherent of all movements making for advancement in any way. His widow survived him until 1916, when she passed away, having been the mother of ten children, of whom seven are living.

William T. Jones commenced his education in the district schools of Saunders county, Nebraska, and completed them in Butler county, where his parents established their home when he was still a lad. He was reared to sturdy manhood and was taught the complete curriculum of farming in Butler county, and there, in 1903, was married to Miss Mary Kockrow, who was born at Lincoln, Nebraska, a daughter of Martin Kockrow, who was both a farm-

er and stone-mason. Mr. Kockrow home-steaded in Clay county, Nebraska, where he carried on operations for a number of years, and as a stone-mason he followed his vocation for a long period at Lincoln, during which time he had the honor of doing the mechanical work in the laying of the cornerstone in the old postoffice at the state capital. Mr. and Mrs. Jones became the parents of two children — Martin and Pauline.

After following farming in Butler county for several years, Mr. Jones temporarily gave up that occupation and moved to Broken Bow, where for four years he was engaged in teaming, one of his contracts being the delivering of the materials of which the court house was built. When he again decided to follow farming, his equipment consisted of a team of horses, two cows, and a little household furniture; but his energy was still unbounded and his ambition and spirit still unbroken, he having had a full amount of these desirable qualities at the outset of life. He settled down to a determined effort to win success, and in 1912 purchased eighty acres of land. To the development of this he has since applied himself with excellent results, and he now has his land well broken and planted to grain, of which he is raising large crops. He is rapidly attaining success, and no man is more worthy of achieving success. As a citizen Mr. Jones has done all within his power to assist in good movements, civic and educational. He is a staunch Republican in politics, although his interest therein lies principally as a voter. His fraternal membership connects him with the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America.

LOGAN W. CHILES is consistently to be designated as one of the well-to-do and prominent citizens of Callaway; a citizen who has contributed heavily to public improvements and county development, and a man whose past experience savors of the wild days when laws were lax and ill-starred characters took advantage of the law-abiding better class.

Mr. Chiles was born July 19, 1864, in Davis county, Missouri, and is a son of Richard E. and Permelia (Enyeard) Chiles, both of whom were born in Kentucky, their children having been four in number, and all are living — Mrs. Emma Sicloff, Richard E., Elieu Thompson, and Logan W. The father was a colonel in the Confederate army, under General Lee. After serving with distinguished valor; he died from the effects of a gunshot wound which he received in battle. At

the time of his death, his son Logan was but four years of age, and as the mother had passed away two years previously, Logan W. was doubly orphaned at a very tender age. He came to live with his grandfather, Captain Enyeard, of Otoe county, Nebraska. Later Captain Enyeard invested a good deal of money in Custer county land, and he is well remembered by the old settlers in the southwestern part of the county.

Logan W. Chiles was given good educational advantages and finished his equipment with a two years' course in the Nebraska City College. Connected with the early days in the state he relates the following experience:

When about twenty years of age he contracted to break prairie for a Holt county farmer. The place where the prairie was to be broken was in a sparsely settled district, two or three miles from the nearest neighbor. These were in the palmy days of Doc Middleton and Kid Wade, when horse-flesh changed hands easily — and sometimes suddenly and without much ceremony. Logan had a fine span of black mares, very valuable. Their handsome appearance attracted the attention of the sheriff of the county, who warned the boy to keep his eyes open or he would find himself, some morning, afoot and alone on the prairie, as there was a gang of horse-thieves operating in the vicinity that would not stop at murder if necessary to secure such a prize as those black mares would be. Logan thanked him for the advice and decided that he would better follow it. He stuck to his work, picketed the mares on the grass near his wagon, under which he slept, and he did his best to keep watch of what was going on. He had been there but a short time when, one evening just before dark, he noticed a man following the main road on foot, with a bridle in his hands. Supposing it was some of the settlers looking for a stray horse, he gave the matter small thought until later in the evening, when the man passed by again. This aroused his suspicions, and he resolved to take precautions. He fastened the mares to the wagon wheel with a log chain locked round their necks. A little later, when the last rays of the day were almost gone, he saw the man standing on a nearby hill, with his form clearly silhouetted against the western sky. He took his Winchester and sat down in a place from which he had unobstructed view and could watch the operations of the man. After a while, when it had grown darker, the man began to move down toward the camp. The boy kept his eye on the marauder as best he could, all the

while concealing himself in the tall bluestem grass. He waited until the man was nearly up to the horses, then he raised up out of the grass, within ten feet of the fellow, covered him with his Winchester and warned him that if he valued his life not to move. He added, "I know what you are here for, and you have struck the wrong fellow." The man, who was heavily armed, turned deliberately around and walked off without a word. Young Logan, kept his Winchester pointed directly on the man as long as he could see him. That was not a good night for sleep, and the next morning dawned bright and fair, inviting Logan to resume his work, which he did, but it might be said that the next night he pulled out for town and did not camp alone on the prairie again.

At Lorton, Nebraska, on March 12, 1886, Mr. Chiles was united in marriage to Miss Mattie M. Rexer, who was born in Otoe county, Nebraska, and who is a daughter of John J. and Mary (Wright) Rexer, the former a native of Germany. Mrs. Chiles has always been popular in social circles and has been a splendid companion and helpmeet to her husband. To them have been born eight daughters and one son: Mrs. Bessie Burk, Mrs. Pearl Campbell, Mrs. Stella Tidd, Mrs. Grace Brega, and Mrs. Mary Ross are happily married and have homes of their own. Hazel, Mary, and Edith are at home, and the youngest child and only son is Joyce E., who is said to be the home dictator. That the last child is a boy, seems to have been a special dispensation by which each of the eight girls could have a brother. The Chiles family are very interesting, and Mr. and Mrs. Chiles maintain a hospitable home.

Mr. Chiles came to Custer county in 1911 and owns 160 acres one mile south of Callaway, as well as the old Bannister and Finch-Hatton ranch, eight miles west of town, and 160 acres two miles south of Arnold, making in all 1,200 acres. Before settling in Custer county Mr. Chiles made extensive trips through Oklahoma; Kansas, and portions of Nebraska, hunting a location, but he found that he could get more for his money in Custer county than in any other place he visited. He has unbounded faith in the future of the county. The family home, in Callaway, is a beautiful residence, well equipped with all modern conveniences and comforts, and this home is not only enjoyed to the fullest extent by Mr. and Mrs. Chiles, but is also known for its generous hospitality. Mr. and Mrs. Chiles are connected with the Methodist Episcopal

church and are held in unqualified esteem in the community.

GRANT HENDRICKS. — Down six miles northwest of Oconto, on a splendid tract of land, in a comfortable home, surrounded by valuable property of various kinds, lives the man who bears the two historic names of Grant and Hendricks. He is a representative farmer and is a Custer county citizen who might be used for exhibition purposes almost any time.

Grant Hendricks discovered America in Indiana, where he was born at South Whiteley, March 28, 1864. He is a son of Henry and Rebekah (Wagner) Hendricks, very estimable people, the father being a native of Germany and the mother of the state of Pennsylvania. The parents were devout Christian people, being members of the Baptist church. They reared a large family of children, and of the twelve children eight still survive — Katherine Clapp, Peter W., May Winn, Samuel, W. Scott, Esther Hart, Alice Hittle, and Grant, whose life history these lines epitomize. Mr. Hendricks says the first money he earned was some that he didn't get. He worked for an old gentleman, paddling dirt from the drill with which they were putting in wheat. As his employer had no money, young Grant's step-father took a calf for the wages. Grant took good care of the calf, but when it was sold, his dreams of wealth vanished with the calf, for he saw none of the money. He remained on the home farm until he was seventeen years of age and received a common-school education. After he was seventeen he worked out by the month until he was twenty years old. By common consent he and his future wife fixed their wedding day on Christmas eve, 1882, when at Angus, Indiana, he and Florence Kay were wedded. The bride was likewise born in Indiana, and she is a daughter of Isaac and Anna (Gordon) Kay, in whose family were five children — Mrs. Ida McDaniels, Mrs. Florence Hendricks, Orrin (deceased), Elsworth, and Mrs. Anna Cummins. The parents were members of the Baptist church.

From the time of their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Hendricks have maintained a home in which comfort and plenty have been apparent. They have a large family of children, of whom they can be justly proud: Tressie is the wife of Milton Williams, a farmer living in the vicinity of Broken Bow, and they are the parents of five children. Milton was in the last

national draft for service in the world war, but the war closed ere he was given assignment. James J., who married Daisy Bryner, a daughter of Z. K. Bryner, lives on a farm of 240 acres near Sterling, Colorado, and they have one child. Addie is the widow of Charles Williams, who died in April, 1916. Mrs. Williams lives near Callaway and has four children. Letha is the wife of Harrison Maxson, an inspector and grader in a hide and fur establishment in St. Joseph, Missouri, and they have two children. Ethel is the wife of Theodore Lange, a farmer near Callaway, and they have one child. Rollie volunteered for military service and was sent to Camp Grant, Rockford, Illinois, as a member of the One Hundred and Sixty-first Depot Brigade. Edith is the wife of Chris Rookstool and they reside on a farm of their own, near Oconto. Mr. Rookstool has one child by former marriage. Glenn J. Hendricks works on the home farm with his father. Mabel I. is at home and is attending high school. William K. also is at home and in the high school. Cecil, the youngest, but treads the lower rungs of the educational ladder, with very bright prospect of advancement.

Mr. Hendricks came to Custer county in 1886, and homesteaded south of Berwyn, on part of what was then known as the old Pancake ranch. He lived there twenty-two years, and then moved to his present farm site, six miles from Oconto. He operates 640 acres of land, and is seemingly well fixed, so that he can take life easy and spend his days in comfortable retirement. The present home of the family stands out in striking contrast with their sod house of early days. The inside dimensions of that pioneer dwelling were twelve by thirteen feet, and it had a dirt floor and a straw roof. When it rained, more water fell in the house than on the same territory outside.

Mr. Hendricks relates that after he had his "soddy" built and had sent for his wife, he had fifty cents in his pocket. He went to Kearney to meet the train, and while he was waiting at a livery stable a stranger approached him, and explained that he had a sick horse and begged the fifty cents with which to purchase medicine. To save a poor man's horse, Mr. Hendricks parted with his half dollar, but down at the depot, an hour or two later, he saw the man with a pint of whiskey which he was using for himself instead of the horse. Mr. Hendricks has no doubt but that the bottle was rubbed on the horse and probably had the desired effect.

Grant Hendricks and his family are very

reliable, commendable people, than whom Custer county has no better.

ALOIS ZIMMER, who is one of the highly esteemed representatives of agricultural industry in Custer county, is known as a substantial citizen and an experienced and skilled farmer and stockman. More than thirty years of connection with his vocation in Custer county has given him a thorough intimacy with conditions in his community, near Mason City, and has also served to establish him in the good will and high regard of his fellow citizens.

Mr. Zimmer was born in Silesia, Austria, July 1, 1868, a son of Julius and Helen (Koeler) Zimmer. His parents, natives of Germany, where they were small farming people, immigrated to the United States in 1887 and at once came to Custer county, where they took up a homestead and continued to be engaged in agricultural pursuits during the rest of their lives. Through industry and perseverance they succeeded in building up a comfortable home for their children and in developing a productive farm, and they were highly esteemed for their many sterling qualities of mind and heart and as devout members of the Catholic church. They were the parents of seven children: Julius, a well-to-do farmer of Custer county; Helen, the wife of Andrew Bower, a carpenter of Ravenna, Nebraska; Louisa, the wife of Peter Streecker, a Custer county farmer; Alois, of this notice; Steven, engaged in farming in Custer county; Frank, a farmer in the vicinity of North Platte, Nebraska; and Othelia, the wife of Tom Frame, an engineer at Buena Vista, California.

Alois Zimmer received his early education in the public schools of Germany, and in that country began his career as a farmer. He was nineteen years of age when the family settled in Nebraska, and here, the year after their arrival, he began to work out, continuing thus for the next fifteen years. During that time he carefully saved his earnings, with which he bought 160 acres of land, an uncultivated tract without improvements of any kind. He at once set to work, made his land productive, and began installing improvements as rapidly as his finances would admit. As a result of his hard and persistent work, he is now the owner of a handsome tract of fertile and productive land, which is made more attractive by the presence of a large and comfortable modern residence, with commodious and substantial barns and attractive and

well built outbuildings, all erected by him. He does a general farming business, in which he has been very successful, and also has raised a considerable number of hogs, as well as Hereford cattle. In his operations he has used modern methods, and in his business transactions his integrity has been such that he bears an excellent reputation among his associates.

In 1903 Mr. Zimmer married Kate Kramer, a daughter of Frank Kramer who was born in Germany and died in Custer county. Mr. and Mrs. Zimmer are the parents of one daughter, Catherine, living at home and attending school. They are members of the Catholic church, and Mr. Zimmer is a Democrat in politics, although inclined to be independent in local elections.

GUY P. MILLS.—Custer county has many "Mills" of different varieties, but among all the "Mills" of every description there is none more prominent or generally useful than the Mills family at Arnold. The name dates back to pioneer times and it is always connected, so far as this family is concerned, with everything that is helpful or progressive. Guy P. Mills, whose name introduces this sketch, is a native of Custer county. Here he was born in 1885, the son of William Mills, a prominent pioneer whose life sketch is given elsewhere in these columns. It was in this county that Guy P. Mills received a common-school education and then, that he might be better qualified to conduct the business incident to modern-day farming, he took a commercial course in a business college. With this equipment he began operations on a Custer county farm. To-day he has 360 acres of land, 115 acres under cultivation, and has the place well equipped with improvements, machinery, and a good grade of live stock. He breeds Duroc hogs and has made their propagation very profitable. In the cattle line his fancy runs to polled Durhams. These are of a splendid grade, all bred for double registry. His horses show good breeding and careful selection of type.

The domestic life of Mr. Mills dates from February 16, 1910, at which time he led to the marriage altar Miss Daisy V. Phifer, who presides over his home and makes it a comfortable, hospitable domicile. Two children reign in this home—Sylvan Parris, born March 27, 1913; and Merrill Guy, born March 19, 1916. Mr. and Mrs. Mills belong to the Methodist church. He is treasurer of the school district, in which office he is serving

his third term. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen and in politics is an independent voter. Just in the prime of life, with a good start and located in the land of opportunity, there is no doubt but that the future years will reward his toil and provide handsomely for the proverbial "rainy day" or the retirement of after years.

HENRY H. MYERS.—Of the men of Custer county who, after years of toil and labor to help make Custer a better place in which to live, have been called from the scene of earthly activities, the subject of this memoir well deserves a place in the records of the county.

Henry Hellery Myers was born in Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, August 27, 1847. His father, John G. Myers, was a native of Pennsylvania, of German parentage, and died in Custer county, Nebraska, November 26, 1900. The mother of our subject was Charlotte Hellery, a native of Württemberg, Germany, who came to the United States with her parents when a girl of nine years, and she too passed away in Custer county, where her death occurred November 15, 1907.

Henry H. Myers was the eldest of eight children and accompanied his parents when the home was established at Elsah, Illinois, in 1857. Here he was reared and grew to manhood, acquiring his early education in the public schools. In February, 1864, he enlisted in Company C., One Hundred and Fifty-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and he served until the close of the war, being discharged at Camp Butler, Illinois, in September, 1865. For two years after the war he was a pilot on the Mississippi river.

On December 13, 1868, at Elsah, Illinois, Mr. Myers was united in marriage to Miss Mary L. Hartley, a native of Cincinnati, Ohio. The young couple made their home on a farm in Illinois until October, 1882, when they came to Nebraska and settled in Boone county, where they resided until the spring of 1885, when they came to Custer county and secured a homestead in section 15, township 17, range 23. He became a successful farmer and purchased 320 acres adjoining the old homestead, where he carried on agricultural pursuits until he retired and moved to Broken Bow, in March, 1910. Here his death occurred, in December, 1917.

Mr. Myers was one of the early settlers on West Table and helped to organize the school district as well as the first Methodist church of Cliff township, to which he contributed lib-

erally in support. He held various offices of trust and honor and in every relation of life measured up to the highest standard of manhood. He and his wife reared a family of six children who have grown to maturity and become useful members of society. O. L. is a resident of Sidney, Iowa; J. A. and Ed and Earl are farmers of Custer county; Clara is the wife of Frank Barrett, of Broken Bow; and Mrs. Ethel Jones resides in Denver.

JULIUS ZIMMER.—Included among the substantial farmers and stock-raisers of Custer county, Julius Zimmer is also known as a helpful, useful, and energetic citizen whose public-spirited services have contributed to the advancement and development of his community's interests. For thirty-three years he has been a resident of the Mason City locality, and there has been identified with many of the movements that have served to aid progress in both agricultural and civic lines. He was born in Silesia, Prussia, August 18, 1859, and is a son of Julius and Helen (Koeler) Zimmer.

In their native land the parents of Julius Zimmer were small farming people who were industrious and energetic but whose efforts did not gain them satisfactory progress. They accordingly decided to try their fortunes in the United States, to which country they came in 1887, locating in Custer county, to which they had been preceded by their son Julius several years previously. Homesteading a property, they followed farming here during the rest of their lives, the father passing away in 1888 and the mother a number of years later, both having held the faith of the Catholic church. They were highly esteemed people, industrious, honest, and God-fearing, and they well merited the high esteem in which they were held by their neighbors. They were the parents of seven children, as follows: Julius, of this notice; Helen, the wife of Andrew Bower, a carpenter of Ravenna, Nebraska; Louisa, the wife of Peter Streeder, a Custer county farmer; Alois, engaged in agricultural operations in Custer county; Steven, also engaged in farming in Custer county; Frank, a farmer in the vicinity of North Platte, Nebraska; and Othelia, the wife of Tom Frame, an engineer of Buena Vista, California.

Julius Zimmer, the younger, received his education in the public schools of Germany, in which country he received his introduction to farming. He came to the United States in 1884, in which year he located at Kearney, Nebraska, but in 1885 he came to Custer

county, where he took up a homestead, a tract which he still owns. During the early days he experienced many hardships and had to overcome numerous obstacles, but he perseveringly kept at his task, proving himself ready for every emergency. He is a general farmer, with a knowledge of his vocation's various departments, and has met with much success also in the raising of a good grade of live-stock, modern methods always having been given a preference by him. The little sod house which was his first home here has long since disappeared, having been replaced by a commodious residence, around which are to be found a full set of farm buildings of the most modern type. Mr. Zimmer's reputation for business integrity has been built upon more than thirty years of honest transactions. As a citizen he has performed his share of the duties of office, including service as overseer of roads, and a quarter of a century of service on the school board, his public record being an open book. Independent in politics, he belongs to the Non-Partisan League.

In 1894 Mr. Zimmer was united in marriage to Miss Mary Reimer, who was born in Austria, and to this union there were born twelve children, all living and at home: Anna, Helena, Leo, Mary, Joseph, Barbara, Gregor, Hattie, Gertrude, Clement, Louisa, and Margaret. The family belongs to the Catholic church.

DAH WOODRUFF—The Dominion of Canada gave to Custer county a splendid citizen when Diah Woodruff left his native province and made his way eventually to Nebraska, where he gained pioneer distinction and where he wielded a powerful influence in connection with the civic and material development and upbuilding of Custer county. He became one of the extensive landholders of this part of the state, conducted agricultural and live-stock enterprise on a very extensive scale, and he was one of the honored and influential pioneer citizens of Custer county at the time of his death, which here occurred on the 15th day of October, 1918. Recognition of his worthy character and achievement is most consistently made in this history, which likewise exercises a legitimate function when it pays a tribute to his memory.

Diah Woodruff was born in the province of Ontario, Canada, on the 7th of May, 1849, and is a son of Hawkins and May (Tool) Woodruff, of whose ten children the following named are now living: Mrs. Elizabeth Pauly, of Hannibal, Missouri; Catherine, a resident of Toronto, Canada; Emmett, a resi-



Oiah Woodruff

dent of the state of Oregon; and Emma, the wife of William Hallaway.

Diah Woodruff was reared to adult age in his native province, where his early educational advantages were those afforded by the public schools, and he continued his residence in Canada until 1866, when he went to Lockport, New York, where for a time he was employed in a nursery establishment, he having been an ambitious youth of about seventeen years when he came to the United States. Before the close of the year 1866 Mr. Woodruff proceeded westward as far as Illinois, where he obtained work by the month, his wages being merely nominal, as gauged by the standards of the present day. From Illinois he finally came to Nebraska, determined to find ways and means for the winning of independence and a due measure of prosperity. He was dependent entirely upon his own ability and efforts, and within a short time after his arrival in the state he obtained a homestead claim in Hamilton county. There he instituted development work and there he continued his activities until 1875. In that year he and his wife numbered themselves among the pioneers of Custer county, and that he made good use of the splendid opportunities afforded in connection with the development of the great natural resources of the county, needs no further voucher than the statement that here he eventually accumulated and developed a magnificent landed estate of 3,600 acres, the nucleus of which was a pioneer tract of 160 acres which he obtained at the time of his removal to the county and which is still a part of his estate. On this original homestead he erected good buildings, including the attractive farm residence, which was built about thirty years ago and which has been remodeled and otherwise modernized since that time. Vigorous and self-reliant, indomitable in energy, and possessed of mature judgment, Mr. Woodruff made steady and substantial progress toward the goal of prosperity, and eventually he gained secure status as one of the extensive and representative agriculturists and stock-growers of the county. He was liberal and loyal in the support of those measures and enterprises that conserved the social and material advancement and welfare of the community, and his sterling integrity gained and retained to him the unqualified confidence and esteem of those with whom he came in contact in the varied relations of life. Though never desirous of public office, he gave a staunch support to the cause of the Democratic party. His religious faith was that of the Presbyterian church, of which his wife likewise was

a zealous member. He was affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and was deeply appreciative of its history and teachings.

The year 1871 recorded the marriage of Mr. Woodruff to Mrs. Louisa (Montgomery) Woodruff, the widow of his brother Henry. Of the children of this union the following data are available: Harry, who is one of the representative farmers of Custer county, married Miss Frances Judge, and their home is on land formerly owned by the subject of this memoir, who gave a splendid farm to each of his children; Florence is the wife of Oscar Thompson, another of the substantial farmers of Custer county; Thomas married Miss Lena Wood and they reside at Hastings, Nebraska; and Frances is the wife of Lora E. Mohler, of Eddyville, Dawson county. In 1896 Mrs. Woodruff passed to the life eternal, and two years later Mr. Woodruff wedded Mrs. Lizzie J. (Barratt) McSherry, a daughter of Joseph and Susan (Squires) Barratt, who came to Nebraska from Tama City, Iowa. Diah and Lizzie J. Woodruff had no children. By her first marriage Mrs. Woodruff has two daughters, both of whom reside in Nebraska, Fern being the wife of Earl Myers, of Eddyville, Dawson county, and Ruth being the wife of William Spurgin, of Custer county.

MARSHALL B. LINDER, who belongs to the progressive younger element of the agricultural fraternity of Custer county, has had experience both here and in Saunders county, and out of his labors he has worked the start of a successful career and the establishment of himself in a position where the outlook for his future is remarkably bright. His present property, consisting of 320 acres, in the Berwyn community, is under a high state of cultivation and is devoted exclusively to general farming, although in the future he expects to make the raising of hogs and cattle a feature of his farm enterprise.

Mr. Linder was born in Page county, Iowa, April 24, 1883, and is a son of J. H. and Rebecca (Louden) Linder. H. B. Linder, the paternal grandfather of Mr. Linder, was born in 1824, in Virginia, and as a young man went to Illinois, where he married Sarah Davis. He was engaged in agricultural pursuits there for a time and then followed his father to Clarke county, Iowa, where he successfully followed his vocation until 1884. He then removed to Wahoo, Nebraska, where his death occurred in 1890. His widow then moved to the home of her son Joseph H., with whom she still lives, at the age of eighty-three years (1918).

There were nine children in the family, of whom six are living, but Joseph H. is the only resident of Custer county. Mrs. Linder is a devout member of the Baptist church, to which her husband also belonged, and he was a Republican in politics.

Joseph H. Linder, father of Marshall B., was born in Clarke county, Iowa, September 7, 1858, and there he grew to manhood and received his education in the public schools. About the time of his father's removal to Wahoo, Nebraska, he also took up his residence there and secured land, farming this until 1906, in which year he came to Custer county and bought 400 acres of land. This lies in the Berwyn community, and Mr. Linder still follows successfully the pursuits of farming and stock-raising. He is one of his community's public-spirited men and for ten years has served as a member of the school board. He is a Republican in politics, and he is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Daughters of Rebekah. He and his wife have for thirty years been identified with the Presbyterian church.

In Iowa, in 1882, Joseph H. Linder wedded Miss Rebecca Loudon, who was born in Pennsylvania, a daughter of John Loudon, an early settler and farmer of Iowa. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Linder: Marshall B., who is the subject of this sketch; M. Melville, who operates a rented farm in Custer county; Genevieve, who is the wife of W. D. Pratt, a farmer of this county; W. G., who also is a farmer of Custer county; Harry, who operates a rented farm; and Anna Belle and Laura Belle, twins, residing with their parents.

Marshall B. Linder received his education in the public schools of Wahoo, Nebraska, and after he had passed through the ninth grade, he began his career as a follower of the same vocation as that of his forbears. When he came to Custer county, in 1907, he rented a farm, on which he resided for five years, and he then moved back to Wahoo, and for six years farmed in Saunders county. In the fall of 1917 he purchased 320 acres of land in Custer county, and in March, 1918, he returned to this county, where he has since successfully engaged in general farming, although he intends in the near future to take up cattle and hog raising on an extensive scale. He has a pleasant and commodious modern home and other up-to-date buildings, fully equipped, and through his progressive and energetic work he is attaining a creditable success. Mr. Linder is a Republican in his political views, and his fraternal connection is with the In-

dependent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he has numerous warm friends in the local lodge.

In September, 1904, at Wahoo, Nebraska, Mr. Linder married Miss Elizabeth Peterson, a daughter of C. J. Peterson, a stone and brick mason of that city. They are the parents of two children, Wilmer and Ruth, both of whom are attending the Berwyn schools.

JAMES DINWIDDIE.—Originally a Custer county settler and pioneer of the year 1880, James Dinwiddie returned to this community in 1915, after twenty years spent in another part of the country. Success had rewarded his efforts elsewhere, but the lure of his old homestead was still strong, and he is now settled permanently on the property to which he came thirty-eight years ago with the high hopes of youth.

Mr. Dinwiddie was born in Genesee county, New York, July 14, 1855, a son of Robert and Elizabeth (Anderson) Dinwiddie. His father, who was born at Penpont, Scotland, in 1812, as a young man immigrated to the United States and settled in New York, where he married Elizabeth Anderson, who was born at Poughkeepsie, New York, in 1817. Mr. Dinwiddie was primarily a farmer by vocation, but for a number of years operated a tannery in Genesee county, and when he disposed of his property there it was to move to Michigan, where the death of Mrs. Dinwiddie occurred in 1879. He continued to make his home in that state for three years, but in 1882 he came to Custer county, Nebraska, and settled on a homestead, which, however, he had the misfortune to lose. His death occurred here in 1892. He was a Republican in politics, and he and his wife were devout and uncompromising members of the Scotch Presbyterian church, it being Mr. Dinwiddie's custom for some years to walk twenty miles through the backwoods of Michigan in order to lead the choir.

James Dinwiddie was still a lad when his parents moved to Michigan, and his education was secured in the public schools of the town of Hope. For his first occupation he took up farming for his father, and in 1879 he came to Custer county, where, in the following year, he secured a homestead. This at the time of his taking possession was an absolutely barren tract, with no improvements of any kind, but within the following fifteen years great changes took place—the land was put under cultivation, buildings were erected, and equipment and improvements made their appearance, so that the property became valuable and

one of the handsome and productive farms of the locality. In 1895 Mr. Dinwiddie returned to the east, and at Woodford, Vermont, identified himself with the lumber business. He remained in New England for twenty years, but in 1915 he came back to Custer county and again settled on the old homestead, where he carries on general farming and the raising of stock, on his 152 acres. He has continued to make improvements and to develop his property in a modern way, and his manner of doing business and managing his affairs has given him an established reputation as a man of general worth, reliability, and progressive ideas. Every dollar that he possesses to-day has been gained by hard work. He helped to set up all the timber that is located in the vicinity of his home and in various other ways has assisted, in a public-spirited manner, in developing the community.

In 1883, at Loup City, Nebraska, Mr. Dinwiddie was united in marriage with Miss Mary F. Gleason, who was born at Woodford, Vermont, and to this union there have been born six children: Robert A., who is deceased; Elizabeth, who is the wife of Arthur J. Dewey, of Bennington, Vermont; Richard D., who is engaged in the cultivation of his father's farm; E. H., who is employed in a hardware establishment at Bennington, Vermont; Ray, who is a member of Company F, Twentieth Infantry, at Camp Douglas, Utah; and Edna, who is the wife of Marion Rogers, of Custer county. Mr. Dinwiddie is a member of the Union church of Woodford, Vermont.

LOUIS E. PERRIN.—The lumber trade in Custer county is well represented by a sound and substantial organization doing business as the Dierks Lumber Company, with yards located throughout this section, an organization that for years has demonstrated progressiveness and sound knowledge of business conditions. To be a representative of this concern is to have proved one's self worthy of confidence and the possessor of marked capacity, and for this reason Louis E. Perrin's position as manager of the yards of this business at Arnold stamps him as a business man entitled to mention among the constructive citizens of his community.

Mr. Perrin is a native son of Custer county, and was born at Sargent, July 16, 1889, a son of Similien L. and Sophia (Tobias) Perrin. His father, a native of New Orleans, Louisiana, came to Custer county in young manhood, settled on a homestead, and through industry

and perseverance succeeded in the development of a good property and the accumulation of a competence. In 1899 he moved to Sargent, to take charge of the Beatrice cream station, which he conducted nine years, subsequently going into the postoffice, where he administered affairs as postmaster for seven years and established a good reputation as a public official. He is now living in retirement at Sargent, where he is one of his community's reliable and greatly respected citizens. Mr. Perrin married Miss Sophia Tobias, daughter of Isaac C. Tobias, and they became the parents of three children: Harold I., Louis E., and Watt W. Harold I. Perrin, who is successfully engaged in the jewelry business at Sargent, is a member of the Masonic fraternity, a Republican, and he and his wife belong to the Methodist Episcopal church. He married Miss Allona Wood, and they have two children. He was assigned to class 4-A in the draft for the national army, as was also his brother Louis E. Watt W. Perrin, who is engaged in farming near Sargent, married Gladys Ruse. He is a member of the Odd Fellows and is a Republican in politics.

Louis E. Perrin was educated in the public schools and was ten years of age when taken by his parents to Sargent, where he was a student for several years. While living at that place he entered the employ of the Dierks Lumber Company, as "second man" in the yard, and he continued in that capacity until he was given the promotion, in June, 1912, to the position of manager of the yard at Mason City. Mr. Perrin continued to demonstrate his fidelity and business ability, and June 4, 1916, he was made manager of the Arnold yard, a much more important post, where he still directs the policies of the business and has charge of its working force. During the eleven years Mr. Perrin has been identified with this company he has made his career one of steady advancement, not alone in position but also in the confidence and esteem of his employers and in the friendship and respect of the people with whom he has had business dealings. He is a young man of pronounced ability, and, judging by what he has accomplished thus far, he is destined to make further advancement in winning success and prestige. He is a Democrat in politics, but has been too busy to take part in public matters, save as good citizens do. He is prominently affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, in which he has attained to the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite and is a member of the Mystic Shrine.

September 21, 1915, at Mason City, Nebraska, Mr. Perrin was united in marriage to

Miss Lorene Rusmisell, daughter of William C. and Victoria (Reissner) Rusmisell, and they are parents of one daughter: Pauline L. Mrs. Perrin is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and the Daughters of Rebekah, her membership being in the organizations at Arnold, this county.

CHARLES B. MATHAUSER, who is one of the successful general farmers of the Comstock region of Custer county, and who makes a specialty of raising O. I. C. hogs and short-horn cattle, is one of the agriculturists of the younger generation who are native Nebraskans and who are recording creditable achievement in the state of their birth. He has been a resident of Custer county since 1898, and during the intervening years he has witnessed a number of changes, all making toward progress and advancement in his vocation.

Mr. Mathauser was born in the city of Omaha, February 6, 1885, and is a son of Charles and Maggie (Hvezda) Mathauser, natives of Bohemia. The parents immigrated to the United States and at once took up their residence at Omaha, where resided a colony of their country-people, the father securing employment as the fireman of a furnace in a smelter. He held that position many years, but was energetic, ambitious, and industrious, carefully saved his money, and in 1898 came to Custer county and settled on a farm. He continued to be engaged in agricultural pursuits during the remainder of his energetic and useful career, and achieved a modest competence to reward him for his years of hard labor. He was a staunch Democrat in his political allegiance but never cared for office or took an active part in campaigns, being satisfied to exercise his right of franchise in behalf of the men he deemed best fitted for office. He was a faithful member of the Catholic church, as was also his wife, who died in that faith in December, 1917. There were eight children in the family: Charles B. is the subject of this sketch; John is a resident of Omaha; James, who married Sadie Klat, is a farmer in Valley county; William, who married Emma Rousek, is a farmer in the same county; Emil, who married Annie Rousek, is engaged in farming in Custer county, near Comstock; Edward, who is a bachelor, resides at Comstock; and Misses Annie and Mary reside at home.

The public schools of Omaha furnished Charles B. Mathauser with his early educational training, and when he came to Custer county with the family, in 1898, he began working on

the farm for his father, continuing to be thus employed until he embarked upon proceedings on his own account. He was twenty-two years old when he took this step, and at the present time he is the owner of 160 acres of finely cultivated land, on which he carries on general farming, and also makes a specialty of breeding O. I. C. hogs, of which he always keeps a large supply on hand, and short-horn cattle, of which he now has a herd of about twenty-five head. He has the reputation of being a skilled and progressive member of both of his vocations, while in business circles his rating is that of a man of honorable principles and upright dealing. He is a Democrat in politics, but has found no time to seek office, being too busily engaged with his own affairs to take other than a good citizen's interest in public affairs.

Mr. Mathauser was married September 22, 1909, to Miss Hazel L. Fees, daughter of Louis and Lydia (Cain) Fees, who came to Custer county in 1902, but are now residents of Holt county. To this union there have come three children: Margaret, born June 18, 1910; Clara E., born February 8, 1912; and Charles E., born August 3, 1914.

CHARLES ZACHRY was one of the early settlers of West Table and from a humble beginning has become one of the well-to-do men of Custer county. A native of St. Clair county, Illinois, he was born July 14, 1859. His father, Henry Zachry, was a native of Germany and when a young man came to the United States, locating in St. Clair county, Illinois. In 1908 he came to Custer county, Nebraska, and here he passed away at his home in Merna, May 15, 1918. The mother of our subject was Martha (Robinson) Zachry, a native of Illinois, and she passed away when her son Charles was a lad six years old. Henry Zachry contracted a second marriage, with Sarah Siter, who resides at Merna.

Charles Zachry was the eldest of four children, three of whom are living, the other two being Mrs. Frank Sharp, of Custer county, and Mrs. Joseph Mills, of Illinois.

When a boy of sixteen years Charles Zachry was thrown upon his own resources and began working on a farm as a hired man, at the munificent wages of eight dollars a month. October 25, 1879, he left Illinois and came to Saunders county, Nebraska, where he found employment feeding cattle for a stockman at Ashland. In the spring of 1884 he came with his wife and their infant child to Custer county, his possessions consisting of a team of horses,

a wagon and two dozen chickens. He possessed also an ambition and determination to have a home, and he secured as a homestead the southwest quarter of section 6, township 17, range 22. Not an improvement had been made, and a sod house served as the home of the family for twelve years. They shared in all the trials and hardships that fell to the lot of the early settlers of Custer county, obstacles were met and overcome, and by persistent effort and a display of good judgment the goal of success has been attained.

January 1, 1884, was solemnized the marriage of Charles Zachry and Miss Lillie Bachelor, a daughter of Kellander and Adeline Bachelor. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Zachry has been blessed with seven children: Lulu is the wife of A. C. McGuire, of Arnold, Nebraska; William is married and operating one of his father's farms; Edward is married and engaged in farming; Nido is married and is farming in Custer county; Lewis is at home; Bertha is the wife of C. R. Woods, of Custer county; and Myrtle is at home.

Aside from general farming Mr. Zachry has engaged in raising thoroughbred short-horn cattle and registered Percheron and Shire horses, of which he owns some very fine specimens. He helped to organize the school district and has been interested in all those enterprises that have aided in making Custer county a better place in which to live.

Mr. Zachry can truthfully be called a self-made man, as all that he has accomplished has been through his and his family's untiring efforts, and they are held in high esteem wherever known.

JAMES A. HOWELL. — A careful reader of the biographies of this volume will not the fact that Roten Table is the home of an unusual number of substantial, prosperous farmers, and it is to this class and to this locality that Mr. Howell belongs.

Mr. Howell hails from the southern part of the country. He was born in Ashe county, North Carolina, in April, 1861, and is a son of Calvin and Rachel (Roten) Howell, a splendid couple whose children were John, Henry, James, Amanda, Patrick, Barbara Riddle, and Martricia Owens. The father's occupation was farming, which operations were conducted in North Carolina, while James A. was a growing lad. He worked at home on the North Carolina farm and received an education in the schools of the vicinity. Here his first work was performed, and here he learned soil culture and the fundamental principles of

farming under vastly different conditions than exist in the middle west. It was in this south country that he performed his first work, and there he hoed corn for twenty-five cents a day, which was the first money he earned.

The marriage of Mr. Howell occurred December 8, 1887, at Lexington, Nebraska, when Sarah J. Benckeser became his wife. Mrs. Howell is a native of Illinois, and is a daughter of John and Mary E. (Chard) Benckeser. The father of Mrs. Howell was a native of Germany, but her mother belonged to the Hoosier state. In the family of Mrs. Howell's father and mother were eleven children, of whom Sarah J. (Mrs. Howell), was the first born. The others are Olive E., Nora Rowens, Laura Copas, Gertrude Barnes, Minnie, May Gage, Daisy Copas, Charles E., Henry, and William. The family are all members of the Lutheran church.

The Howell home, presided over by Mr. and Mrs. James A. Howell, has afforded domicile and shelter to nine children: Bertha M. married Robert Bryant. Her husband is in the national military service, and at the time of this writing is "somewhere in France." They have five children, who are living with their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Howell. John H., who is a bachelor, owns 160 acres adjoining his father's place, in Roten valley. He was in the draft, under Class 2. Olive is the wife of Bryan E. Paxton, an employe of the Standard Oil Company, located at Cozad, and they have three children. Walter E. is farming with his brother Henry H., in Roten valley. The draft placed him in Class 1, Division A. Wily E., Orpha M., Rachel M., Calvin H., and Violet I. are all at home under the parental roof, the older ones pursuing their studies either in the district school at home or the high school at Cozad.

Mr. Howell's arrival in Custer county occurred in 1884, and here he worked by the month, helped build sod houses for pioneer settlers, and became an expert sod layer — one whose services were in great demand among the early settlers. He complains that when he came to the country he had to drink water from the lagoons where the cattle and wild horses watered. The settlers had to let the water settle and then strain it before using it.

Mr. Howell bought the old William Ashley claim in 1892. Ashley will be remembered as the man killed by Hauenstein. To his original purchase Mr. Howell has added an adjoining 160 acres. His son Henry owns the Hiram Roten place, Mr. Roten having been the other settler killed by Hauenstein.



ROBERT M. SEEVERS AND FAMILY

Mr. Howell and his good wife are well and favorably known in Roten valley. They have made their money farming and stock-raising. They have a host of friends who rate them among the first citizens of the community. Anent the early experiences of former days, Mr. Howell says that he worked for Harve Andrews, who sent him into Cedar canyon to split cedar posts. Harve watched him for awhile and then said, "Where are you from?" Howell replied that he was from North Carolina. Andrews replied that he himself was from Virginia, saying, "I see now that I need not watch you nor tell you how to use an axe." Harve went back to his dugout and left young James alone with his cedars.

ROBERT M. SEEVERS.—Thirty-five years have come and gone since the subject of this record cast in his lot with the early settlers of Custer county, and during all those years he has been closely identified with the development and progress of this part of the state.

Robert Milton Seevers was born in Mahaska county, Iowa, July 18, 1862. His father, Benjamin F. Seevers, was born in Virginia, December 1, 1802, and when a young man was united in marriage to Elizabeth Forney, on the historic bridge at Harper's Ferry, she also having been a native of Virginia, where she was born July 10, 1827. In the early '50s they came west and settled in Mahaska county, Iowa, where they engaged in farming. It was here the father passed away, at the age of eighty-four years and the mother's death occurred in Custer county, Nebraska, at the age of sixty-five years. They were the parents of eight children, of whom Robert M. and Mrs. J. D. Ream are the only ones residing in Custer county.

Robert M. Seevers was reared on a farm in his native county and acquired his education in the public schools. When a young man he was employed for a time as a civil engineer, and also engaged in farming. In May, 1883, he came to Custer county, Nebraska, and secured a homestead in section 26, township 18, range 23. He also took a tree claim adjoining. His first home was the usual sod house and he shared in all the hardships and trials incident to those pioneer days. As the years passed and his prosperity increased, he added to his holdings, and to-day he is the owner of 800 acres, with as fine a set of improvements as can be found in Custer county. The beautiful frame house was erected in 1907 and is equipped with steam heat, electric lights, and

air-pressure hot and cold water system, providing for the family every convenience to be found in the finest homes of a city. Large barns and outbuildings provide ample shelter for grain and stock and the housing of farm machinery. Mr. Seevers possesses unusual mechanical skill, and any work requiring a plumber or blacksmith he is able to attend to himself.

For a companion and helpmeet Mr. Seevers chose Miss Rosa Butler, who was born in Hancock county, Illinois, a daughter of Marion and Milliann (Huffman) Butler, who came to Custer county in 1882 and were among the early settlers of Ortello valley, where both passed away. Eleven children have come to brighten the home of Mr. and Mrs. Seevers: Franklin, Lewis, Bly, Guy, Ina, Xa, Tava, Ada, Cecil, Robert M. Jr., and Kenneth. The mother of this family is a member of the United Brethren church.

Mr. Seevers is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, at Merna, and in politics is a Republican. He has always taken an active part in all lines of progress in his community, helped organize the school district, has held various township offices, and he can always be depended upon to give his support to any worthy cause. Coming to the county when the work of development had just begun, he not only witnessed the vast changes that have taken place but has also been a factor in helping to make Custer county what it is to-day. The success that has attended his efforts is well deserved, and the family are held in unequivocal esteem by all who know them.

LLOYD HINES.—When you note the age of this young man and understand the few years that he has been farming, it is not hard to believe the statement that has been made concerning him, that he has succeeded because he was equipped with a "self-starter." Certainly his energy has had its effect, and he has to-day the foundations of what will be a modest Custer county fortune.

Lloyd Hines was born January 12, 1893, in Randolph county, Missouri. His parents, H. Mitchell Hines and Susan (Adams) Hines, both natives of the Bluegrass state, and both fine people, transmitted to their progeny the fundamental characteristics of thrift and energy. In the father's family were six children—Homer H., Aubrey C., Lloyd, Reta Waterfield, Ralph H., and Arnold. The father was a carpenter and contractor by occupation, although he owned a farm about one mile from Darkville, Missouri. This farm served as the

family home and there young Lloyd began his career. There he lived until he was sixteen years of age, when he came into Dawson county, Nebraska, with his brother Homer. They arrived at Gothenberg, and here young Lloyd worked for two years. He then went to Washington, one of the great and attractive regions of the west at that time, and there he worked in a logging camp for two years. He then returned to Nebraska and worked on the Callaway branch of the Union Pacific Railroad, from Callaway to Stapleton.

December 22, 1915, at Broken Bow, Nebraska, Mr. Hines wedded Miss Mabel Gordon, who was reared in the district west of Callaway, Custer county, and who is a daughter of Robert and Mattie L. (Stapelman) Gordon. Mr. Gordon, a splendid gentleman of Scotch descent, came from Ohio to Custer county with Edward Smith, in an early day, and he located a homestead five miles west of Callaway. At the time of his death he owned about 1,040 acres, which descended to his three children — Mrs. Mabel C. Hines, Mrs. Sadie L. Fosno, and Archie R. Gordon. Mr. Hines was fortunate enough to buy the interest of one of the heirs, Mrs. Sadie Fosno, and as a consequence of his transaction he and his wife own two-thirds of the fine property. At the present time Mr. Hines is farming 280 acres, raises hogs and cattle, is counted on one of the "live wires" in the community, and is bound to make his mark in the county as a farmer and stock-raiser. He is a Democrat in politics and is one of the counselors of the public in his local community.

JAMES W. MAXSON. — One of the well known names of Arnold is that of James W. Maxson, who was born August 28, 1856, in Lewis county, West Virginia. He was the seventh son of Herman and Druzilla (Brown) Maxson, both natives of West Virginia. In this family were nine children besides the subject of this sketch, the others being John E., Mrs. Elizabeth E. McClain, Thomas (deceased), Timothy, Martha J. (deceased), Alexander, Mrs. Mary M. Ward, and Benjamin W. The father followed farming and blacksmithing as an occupation, but was also a shoemaker, at which trade he worked on different occasions. James W. recalls that the first pair of shoes he ever wore were made by his father. As the father was not in good health, James W. had to help on the farm and do all he could toward making a living for the family. When he was nine years of age his parents moved to Clark county, Missouri, where

they made their home for four years. They then moved to Grundy county, where the parents bought a farm that was only partially cleared, and James W. had to assist in clearing the remainder of the farm. This gave a very valuable experience in dealing with stumps and stumpy ground — an experience that enabled him to meet and uproot the various kinds of stumps encountered in active life. Mr. and Mrs. Herman Maxson were considered prominent people of their community and were staunch supporters of the Baptist church.

James W. Maxson lived at home until he was twenty-two years of age; thereafter he farmed the home place on shares. December 30, 1880, in Grundy county, Missouri, he was united in marriage to Martha A. G. Marrs. Mrs. Maxson is a daughter of Wesley P. and Saletha A. (Tabor) Marrs, and in the immediate family were the following named children: Mrs. Elvina Ratliff (deceased), Ryley, Mrs. Sarah Maxson, Mrs. Martha A. G. Maxson, David C., Mrs. Della Crogan, Mrs. Alice Price, John W., Bartley, and Mrs. Fanny M. Collins.

Mr. and Mrs. Maxson established a home of their own which in many respects has been ideal, and in every way comfortable and convenient. They have five living children: Gertie is the wife of Emery D. Parson, who owns a harness shop in Arnold. They have three children, all girls, and the family is connected with the Methodist church. Caddie E. married Mollie Koch and lives on a farm near Arnold. They have two sons and both he and his wife are Methodists. Nellie M. Wimple is the widow of Dudley Wimple and she has four sons and one daughter. Elsie E. is the wife of Ernest Cunningham, a farmer near Arnold, and they have two sons and two daughters. Bertha A. lives at home with her father, in Arnold. Mrs. Maxson died December 19, 1894.

Mr. Maxson arrived in Custer county September 21, 1885, and located a homestead seven miles northwest of Arnold. On this place he lived until after the death of Mrs. Maxson, and he then moved closer to school and took care of his children until they were grown and large enough to go out into the world for themselves. In 1908 he moved into the village of Arnold, where he now lives, but he still owns the old homestead and has added to it until he now owns 480 acres. His has been an unusual career. More than the usual share of early-day hardships seemed to fall to his lot. Left with five children, it was a hard struggle to keep them together and

maintain a home with unbroken family relations, but he met his difficulties and to-day has the satisfaction of knowing that he furnished his children a good home after the death of their mother, the while he finds himself in possession of enough of this world's goods so that the years of his retirement from active life may be free from care and worry.

JAMES JOHNSON, who is one of Custer county's most valued citizens, is a man of substance and stability. For thirty-three years he has lived on his valuable homestead and has been very successful in his agricultural industries. From every point of view, after all these years, he declares he is well satisfied that chance and good judgment led him to make his permanent home in Custer county.

James Johnson was born in Moen, Denmark, June 3, 1855. His parents were Jens and Anna E. (Hanson) Paulson Johnson, and they and their parents were all born in Denmark and were members of the Lutheran church. James Johnson was the youngest born of his parents' five sons, the others being: Hans, Nels, Christian, and Peter. He was reared in a farming district and well remembers, among other incidents, the day on which he earned his first money. A neighboring husbandman of his father's engaged him to ride a horse over the field of wheat stubble, while the daughter of his employer managed the old wooden horse-rake to gather up the loose wheat heads. Little did he think in those days of the wonderful farm machinery he would some day own and operate on his own land in a far-distant country. Although he did not know the English language when he came to the United States, in 1871, Mr. Johnson did not feel like an entire stranger on these shores, because three of his brothers had already come to America. He traveled by rail across the country and by steamboat then reached Omaha, Nebraska. During his first summer in the state he worked on the farm of one of his brothers, and he then went to school during the winter, in order to learn the English language more quickly. Strong, willing, and companionable, Mr. Johnson found no difficulty in securing employment, and for a time he worked at coal-mining in Carbon, Wyoming. Later he was a cowboy, and he was variously engaged until 1883, when he came to Custer county, which has been his chosen home ever since. In 1884 he secured the fine homestead on which he yet lives, in the neighborhood of Oconto, and in the course of years he has quietly added to his original homestead until

now he owns 640 acres. Of this large body he cultivates 240 acres, and he has a well adjusted farm, with an abundance of grazing land for his stock. He has everything exceedingly comfortable around him and his success here merely illustrates what intelligent industry, courage and resourcefulness can accomplish.

Mr. Johnson was married November 5, 1885, at Lexington, Nebraska, to Miss Anna K. Kjar, who was born in North Jutland, Denmark, the youngest of the five children of Nels and Cecelia M. (Anderson) Kjar, natives of Denmark. Mrs. Johnson is one of a family of six children and the others who are now living are Christian, Kronburg C., Andrea Sorrenson, and Johanna M. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Johnson—Theodore C., Ralph, Arthur K., Marie E., and James P. Theodore C. Johnson, who is located on the Dawson county line, in section 33, township 13, range 22, owns a valuable farm and raises grain and stock. Ralph Johnson, who is a farmer and stock-raiser, owns a farm on section 27. Arthur K. Johnson is his father's partner on the home farm, on Buffalo creek. Marie E. Johnson, the only daughter, was graduated from Broken Bow College in 1913, and further pursued her studies, during 1915, 1916, and 1917, in the Fremont Normal School. She now resides at the parental home, although she has taught school about four years. James P. Johnson, the youngest son, is a graduate of educational institutions at Broken Bow and Fremont and for three years was so acceptable as a teacher that he was appointed principal of the Randall high school. This honor he declined in order to enter the service of his country. He enlisted in the United States service in July, 1917, and at the time of this writing he is at the officers' training camp at Louisville, Kentucky. His older brothers are equally loyal and all made preparations to answer the call of the government for service in the cause of world-wide freedom. None of the young men is married, and all are held in the most unqualified esteem in Custer county.

BARTHOL DITTMAR, a prosperous farmer and the owner of many acres of valuable land in Custer county, came here with the pioneers of the middle '80s. While none perhaps, expected a life of ease, they were soon called upon to endure hardships and privations that disheartened many but only aroused greater courage in others, and to the latter the country at large is greatly indebted, for which reason the historical annals of the state should carefully preserve their names. Barthol Ditt-

mar was born in Germany, November 4, 1858. His parents were Michael and Dora (Snyder) Dittmar, and his father was a small farmer near Kissingen. There were four children in the family, Barthol being the second in order of birth, with an older brother, John G., and two sisters younger, Margaret and Dorothea.

Barthol Dittmar attended the schools of his class in his native land and as long as he remained there he was engaged in farm pursuits. When fourteen years of age he received for farm work but seventy-five cents a week. He remained in Germany and fulfilled all the laws of the land as to military service, but in 1881, when twenty-three years old, he came to the United States. He sought an agricultural section of the country, and found ready employment and good wages in Jo Daviess county, Illinois. He remained in that section, working on farms, for the following five years. In the meanwhile Mr. Dittmar had made up his mind to remain in the United States, and he began to seek a suitable location in which to establish a permanent home. In looking over different sections for the advantages and opportunities that would come within his means and desires, he chose Custer county, Nebraska, and he came here in 1885. He located in section 20, township 13, range 22, on Buffalo creek, and here he has lived ever since. Since then, through his persistent industry, he has accumulated much more land, and at the present time he owns all of section 20 and three-fourths of another section. He has his farms equipped with stock and machinery for the most effective live-stock and crop production, and up to 1918 he had never permitted himself to slacken for a day in the prosecution of his work; therefore it was a matter of family rejoicing when he consented to take a vacation of three weeks.

Mr. Dittmar was married February 1, 1887, at Mount Carroll, Illinois, to Miss Dora Dittmar, who was born in Germany, as were her parents, Lawrence and Dorothy (Schmitt) Dittmar. Mrs. Dittmar accompanied her husband back to Custer county, and in recalling early times here she intimates that people who actually survived conditions through 1893-4 can speak with authority of real pioneer hardships. Mr. and Mrs. Dittmar have five children: Albert L., who lives on one-half section of land and is farming independently, was ready to respond to the call of the government for military duty; Charles C., who is farming on the home place, was likewise awaiting military call; Herman W., the third son, also was eligible for military service; Lulu M., twin sister of Herman W., is the wife of C. Heine, a

farmer one mile south of Oconto, and they have one daughter; and Fred H. is a school-boy of twelve years, with very sensible, practical ideas. Mr. Dittmar and his family belong to the Lutheran church.

WILLIAM T. BUCKNER, who is a representative business man of Oconto, Nebraska, is a large owner of realty here and is an energetic and progressive citizen who entertains a very high opinion of this section of Nebraska, for he was born here, on the site of this flourishing town, April 28, 1882. He bears a famous old Kentucky name and his respected father, J. B. Buckner, who is a retired resident of Oconto, was born in the Bluegrass state, he having been a farmer throughout his active career. J. B. Buckner married Elizabeth Stairs, who was born in Indiana, a daughter of Ezra T. and Dorcas (Fitzwater) Stairs, and they came to Custer county in 1879. Their children are as follows: Fred; William T.; Maud, who is the wife of Peter Overgard; Agnes, who is the wife of James Overgard; Glenn, who became a soldier in the national army and went to Camp Dodge, Iowa, for training, in July, 1918; and Anna M., who is the wife of Fred Thurman.

William T. Buckner was reared on the home farm in Custer county—the place on which his parents lived for twenty years. He was educated in the schools of his native county and when old enough to go into business for himself, he purchased a farm situated one and one-half miles south of Oconto. This he operated for several years, and he then moved to Oconto. He has been one of the active Republicans of the county for many years and during the administration of President William H. Taft he served as postmaster of Oconto. He thus served from 1912 until he was succeeded by an appointee of President Woodrow Wilson, when political changes came about all over the country. As a loyal citizen Mr. Buckner has been active in many ways, and he is a very popular man in Custer county. He owns a beautiful home in the little city of Oconto, together with a number of profitable renting properties, and a large part of his time is occupied in the management of a hauling and draying line that he has had in operation here for some time.

Mr. Buckner was married January 2, 1905, at Oconto, to Miss Nancy Wiseman, who was born in Custer county, but is of West Virginia ancestry, her parents, John P. and Ella (Twining) Wiseman, having been born and reared in West Virginia. Mr. and Mrs. Buckner have

three daughters and one son, namely: Maude, Lucy, Edna, and James F. — all exceptionally intelligent young people for whom there is full assurance of educational and social advantages. Mr. Buckner has long been identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is affiliated also with the Modern Woodmen of America.

GEORGE W. LINCOLN, who owns a large body of land and carries on general farming on an extensive acreage, is one of the substantial men of Custer county, where he is widely known. Mr. Lincoln has spent almost his entire life in this county and has done his part in assisting in its development. He was born in Carroll county, Iowa, December 9, 1881, and is a son of Charles W. and Edna (Johnson) Lincoln. His father was born in Massachusetts and has been a farmer all his life. He brought his family to Nebraska in 1886 and located in Turner valley, nine miles northwest of Callaway, Custer county, freighting across from Plum Creek.

George W. Lincoln was five years old when his parents settled in Custer county. He is the third born in their family of five children, the others being as here noted: Ida, who is the wife of John Foxworthy, and Frank A., Ross W., and Carl, the last named being deceased. George W. Lincoln grew up on his father's farm and spent an industrious boyhood, finding time, however, to attend school during the winter seasons. That is one thing very much to the credit of the pioneers of this county, the founding of schools in every community, and their wise foresight is reflected in the high grade of intelligence that marks Custer county citizenship. Mr. Lincoln not only assisted his father but also, in order to make a little pocket money, sometimes worked for neighboring farmers in corn-planting time. Sometimes, he had to take "trade" for his wages, as real money was very scarce in the neighborhood in those days, and he recalls one occasion when he was paid off with a hen which was decorated with a "top-knot," and which was supposed to be worth several ordinary fowls. There were those who were a little skeptical, but Mr. Lincoln still believes he got a bargain, and probably poultry-raising has been one of his many farm industries. He cultivates over 500 acres of land, some of which he has rented to capable tenant farmers, but in the main he superintends the operations himself, employing modern methods and improved farm machinery. Mr. Lincoln is one of the large land owners of the county, for at

the present time he has 1,280 acres, and every square foot of it is increasing in value annually.

Mr. Lincoln was married June 24, 1916, to Mrs. Mary J. Griffith, who was a widow and who is a daughter of Moses and Anna Weaver. By her first marriage Mrs. Lincoln had five children, namely: Lynn, Ivan, Nellie, Clarence, and Eva. Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln have one son, Oral, who was born in 1917. Mr. Lincoln is a Democrat in politics but has never taken any active part in public matters, though he has always showed a good citizen's interest. He is a member of the Masonic lodge at Callaway.

BENJAMIN F. COX. — As standing in the front rank of the successful farmers and stockmen of Custer county, mention should be made of the gentleman whose name introduces this record and who from pioneer days has been identified with the upbuilding of this part of the state.

Mr. Cox is a native of Indiana, his birth having occurred in Jackson county, August 16, 1856. His father, Jabez Cox, was a native of Kentucky, served as a soldier in the Mexican war and became a farmer in Indiana, where he spent the remainder of his life. The mother of our subject bore the maiden name of Margaret Hubbard and was a native of Indiana, where her entire life was spent.

Benjamin F. Cox was one of a family of eight children, four of whom are living. He and a brother Henry are the only ones residing in Custer county. Reared on a farm in his native state and educated in the public schools, Mr. Cox was a young man of nineteen when he went to Iowa, and he worked as a farm hand in various counties until 1882, when he came to Nebraska. After here spending one year in Hamilton county, he came to Custer county, in the fall of 1883, and took a homestead of 160 acres in section 7, township 17, range 22, and an adjoining tree claim of equal area. His first home was a sod house, twelve by fourteen feet in dimensions, and he shared in all the trials and hardships of the early days. He set resolutely to work developing the new farm and he has prospered in his undertakings, a fact which is manifested in the beautiful country home he has built for his family and in the landed estate of 800 acres which he has acquired.

February 22, 1891, Mr. Cox was united in marriage to Miss Christina Kaupp, a native of Jo Daviess county, Illinois, and a daughter of Christian Kaupp, an early settler of Custer county who now lives retired in Merna and

of whom specific mention is made on other pages of this history. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Cox has been made happy by the arrival of eight children: Lloyd, who was a druggist in Omaha, is a member of the national army at the time of this writing; Adella is at home; Chester is in the national army and is located at this writing at Camp Dodge, Des Moines, Iowa; Hazel, Ralph, Benjamin F., Jr., Gladys, and Margaret are all under the parental roof.

Mr. Cox has not been remiss in any duty of citizenship. He helped organize the school district and served as a member of its board of directors many years. He has been president of the Farmers Bank of Merna since its organization. Fraternally he is a thirty-second-degree Mason and is affiliated with Tanager Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Omaha. He is a member also of the Merna organizations of the Modern Woodmen of America and Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is one of the progressive and influential men of Custer county and his success is well merited.

ALFRED SCHREYER. — The name that initiates this paragraph belongs to a retired farmer in Arnold, Nebraska, and the name itself belongs to the early pioneer period, as it has been well known in the county since long before the county was organized.

Alfred Schreyer was born March 31, 1863, in Hillsboro, Wisconsin. His father, Frederick Schreyer, was born January 11, 1826, in Mitwitz, Bavaria, and lived until December 23, 1914. The mother, Anna M. (Schaller) Schreyer, was born in April, 1833, in Heubisch, Saxe-Meiningen, Germany. She died October 20, 1882. The parents were married October 31, 1856, and landed in America November 23, 1861. The father was a shoemaker by occupation and the first home in America of the family was in Wisconsin, but in the latter part of 1864 they moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, where Mr. Schreyer enlisted in Company E, One Hundred and Eighty-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was discharged at Huntsville, Alabama, in August, 1865. After the war he settled in Atkinsonville, Indiana, where he was commissioned postmaster in 1868. Here he engaged in the mercantile business, later moving to Brazil, Indiana, when his son Alfred was seven years old. There Alfred obtained a common-school education, getting all his schooling between the ages of seven and twelve years. It was here too that he earned his first money, by plowing corn with a single-

shovel plow. The hard times and panic that ensued after the war depleted the fortunes of the senior Schreyer and, hearing about the splendid opportunities of the unsettled west, he came to Custer county in 1875 and located five miles northwest of Callaway, in Triumph precinct. This was two years before the organization of Custer county and several years before there were any schools in that locality. This curtailed the ambitions of young Alfred, who much desired an education, but he resolved to improve himself and so effectually did he apply himself that to-day he enjoys the distinction of having been the first qualified teacher in the southwest part of Custer county. In the spring of 1881, in the residence of D. E. Sprouse, two and one-half miles north of Callaway, he taught two months, finishing the term by teaching another month in the residence of John Schreyer, five miles north of Callaway. In the family of his father, Frederick Schreyer, were the following children: Alfred, of whom this is written; Mrs. Hu'da Miller, and Mrs. Rosa Cassel, both of whom are deceased; Mrs. Clara Posten; and Oscar.

Alfred was married July 4, 1884, in Broken Bow to Miss Addie Mulvany, a very excellent young lady whose native state was Indiana. She had taught several years in the Custer county schools. Her parents, John and Elizabeth A. (Dobson) Mulvany, were prominent people and early settlers of Custer county, and in their family were seven other children: Mrs. Henrietta Davis, Mrs. Darthula Aikman, John H., H. Sherman, Mrs. Hester A. Runyan, Mrs. Mary S. Wright, and George W.

Alfred Schreyer and his wife immediately established their own home and, although it lacked the comforts of the present day, it was always homelike and comfortable. Time prospered them with this world's goods and blessed the family circle with seven children, concerning whom brief record is here given: Mrs. Mary E. Longmore is the wife of a thrifty farmer near Callaway, and they have two sons and two daughters. Mrs. Frieda V. Bennett is the wife of the manager of the Harding Cream Station in Arnold, and they have one son. Walter E. is deceased. Georgia L. is the wife of Samuel H. Bailey, a farmer living near Arnold. Elizabeth N. is the wife of David N. Oberg, a farmer living near Etna, and they have two sons. Frances A. is the wife of Rally C. Hickenbottom, a farmer of Callaway. They have one son and one daughter. Mabel I. is at the paternal home and is attending the Arnold high school. Mrs. Addie Schreyer passed to the life eternal on the 25th of November, 1918, aged fifty-two years, three



ALFRED SCHREYER AND FAMILY

months, and nine days, and her memory rests as a benediction upon all who came within the sphere of her gracious influence.

Mr. Schreyer, whose residence dates from the early days of the pioneers, is one of the really substantial farmers of the county. In 1884 he homesteaded land adjoining his father's claim. This he never sold but he has added to it and eventually purchased most of the home place of his father. He now owns 908 acres of splendid land and has always been a large producer of hogs and cattle. His fancy turned always to high-grade Herefords. He lives in Arnold and rents his ranch, fully stocked. This gives him a splendid source of income. He belongs to several social orders and stands high in the community. He is secretary and manager of the Callaway & Arnold Telephone Company, and has held such local offices as school director, town treasurer, and justice of the peace, all of these preferments attesting to his ability as a community leader.

ESTEL P. SPRATT.—This review announces the name of a young farmer who is operating in the vicinity of Arnold and is making good. Estel P. Spratt was born in Marion county, Missouri, in 1880, and in that county he spent his boyhood years. From his parents he inherited qualities that have conserved his success in later years.

Prior to coming to Custer county Mr. Spratt lived on a farm in Logan county, but he prefers Custer county, as it offers greater opportunities to the man who is willing to work. He now owns 280 acres of good land, upon which he has built a new house which affords the comforts of a modern farm home. He has 160 acres under cultivation and does general farming in all its varied branches. His live stock is of good grade and he is a man who takes good care of everything on the farm.

Mr. Spratt married Miss Della Phifer, who was born in 1883, in Mills county, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Spratt have maintained a hospitable home—one that ranks well with the other homes in the community. They have two children—Gerald E. and Freda. Gerald was born in 1908 and Freda in 1909. They are bright, promising children in whom their parents feel a pardonable pride. The family belong to the Methodist church. Mr. Spratt is an independent voter but believes in rendering his community a local service whenever opportunity presents itself. He is treasurer of the school board. Socially he is a member of the Modern Woodman. The community has few more

patriotic men than he. In all the war drives he has been a liberal contributor. He has bought War Stamps, Liberty Bonds, and rendered the government every possible service. The Spratts are rated A1 in the community and are obliging, agreeable neighbors.

MELVIN K. JONES, a representative farmer of Custer county and a member of that hardy band of settlers that came here in 1887 and lived through many hardships in those early years, still owns the farm on which he first settled and which is now a well improved, profit-yielding property. Melvin K. Jones was born in Appanoose county, Iowa, September 27, 1859. His parents were David A. and Priscilla (Guernsey) Jones, natives of Indiana, and his two grandfathers were Nathan Jones and Bronson Guernsey. They were all members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and Democracy was the political creed of the family.

Melvin K. Jones was the only son and is the only surviving child of his parents. When he was about four years old his parents moved to Pottawattamie county, Iowa, which at that time was still a wild, undeveloped region of country. They located at what was called Shantytown, a point on the Missouri river near the present town of Loveland, and there the father of Mr. Jones worked in a saw mill. At that time the Winnebago Indians were more numerous along the river than white settlers. At first, living conditions were primitive, but after the close of the Civil war a great army of eastern settlers came to that region and by the time Mr. Jones had become ready to settle down permanently, states "farther west" had become attractive. When he came to Custer county, in 1887, he located southeast of Callaway, adjoining the old Olive ranch on the south and west, and here he yet resides, as the owner of 240 acres of fine land.

Mr. Jones was married March 12, 1885, on Custer Ranch, Custer county, Nebraska, to Miss Mattie Dickson, who was born in Vermilion county, Illinois, a daughter of Joseph B. and Clorinda (Wells) Dickson, the latter of whom was a daughter of John and Martha (Odell) Wells. The parents of Mrs. Jones came to Custer county, Nebraska, in November, 1884, and located three miles southeast of Callaway. They had the following children: Mrs. Mattie Jones, Mrs. Mary Miller, Mrs. Jane Deal, Mrs. Emma Maier, Mrs. Susie Van Antwerp, and James A. Mr. Dickson had served in the Civil war and later was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, while in politics

he was a Republican. Mr. and Mrs. Jones have four children—Millie E., Roy C., Florence E., and Elva O. Millie E. is the wife of Albert B. Downin, a farmer and stock-raiser south of Lodi, this county, and they have two sons—Ralph and Morris. Roy C. Jones married Miss Ulah Murphy and they have two daughters—Leah A. and Delma E. Miss Florence E. Jones is a teacher in the schools of Custer county, in 1918, and Miss Elva-O. Jones is attending the graded schools. Mrs. Jones is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Jones has been measurably active in the development of Custer county, by co-operating in the public-spirited enterprises that have conserved the general welfare, but he has never consented to become a candidate for public office. He is independent in his political attitude and gives his support to men and measures meeting the approval of his judgment, irrespective of partisan lines. Mr. Jones can recall many interesting events pertaining to the pioneer period of Custer county history and is, perhaps, one of very few left who had only Indian boys for playmates in the pioneer days of the history of the state of Iowa.

CHARLES B. MATTOX, who is in many ways one of the representative men of Custer county, owns a very large body of valuable, well improved land, and successfully carries on agricultural industries. Mr. Mattox has spent almost all his life in this county, being ten years old when he accompanied his parents here, and he is thoroughly identified with the best interests of this section.

Charles B. Mattox was born December 1, 1874, in Coles county, Illinois, near Mattoon, the fourth of a family of eight children born to his parents, William and Mary (Larue) Mattox. William Mattox came to Custer county with his family in the fall of 1884 and homesteaded in Dry valley, the name indicating one of the discouraging conditions that these early settlers faced in those pioneer days. The Mattox family, like many others, was called upon to exercise courage, self-reliance, and hope, and in the course of time many of the earliest disadvantages were overcome. William Mattox and his wife continued to live on the homestead for twenty-four years, in 1908 retiring from active life and moving to Comstock where they now live. While never very active in politics, Mr. Mattox has always been a staunch supporter of the Republican party. Following is a record concerning their children: Thomas, who is a farmer south of

Comstock, has been twice married, first to Anna Tennant, who died in 1895, and, second, to Etta Davis; James, who lives near Sargent, married Almeda Tennant; Laura E. is the wife of William Westbrook, who is a farmer in Custer county, south of Sargent; Charles B. is the subject of this sketch; Joseph, who is a farmer in Rose valley, married Flora McCaslin; Anna is the wife of Frederick Neidt, a farmer in Dry valley; Harvey O., who is a resident of Antioch, Sheridan county, Nebraska, married Zella Wills; and Arthur died at the age of two years, during his journey from Illinois to Custer county.

Charles B. Mattox was old enough to assist his father when the family reached Custer county, and he remained at home and worked on the farm up to the time when he started out for himself, in the meanwhile attending school as opportunity was afforded. He has devoted himself to farming and stock-raising, and through hard work and intelligent management he has greatly prospered. He now owns 600 acres of fine land, and his home property is well improved, with evidences of thrift and careful, methodical farm operation to be seen on every hand.

September 10, 1902, Mr. Mattox married Miss Mary Roth, who was born near Comstock, Nebraska. She is one of a family of eight children born to Jonas and Jennie (Eubank) Roth, who were early pioneers in Custer county, their homestead being located four miles west of Comstock, all their children living in the neighborhood of this pleasant town. Mr. and Mrs. Mattox have two children, Beatrice and Paul, who are being given good educational advantages. In politics Mr. Mattox has always been a Republican, and the nature of his standing in party and community is evidenced by the fact that he has been retained in the office of township treasurer for more than four years.

CHRISTIAN KAUPP was one of the early settlers of Custer county and, after a period of many years spent in the development and operation of his farm, he is now living in honorable retirement in a beautiful home in Merna.

Mr. Kaupp was born in Germany, February 10, 1836, and is a son of August and Rosina (Wolf) Kaupp, who spent their entire lives in the fatherland. When a young man Mr. Kaupp came to America, in 1864, and after spending about two years in New York and other parts of the east, he became a resident of Henry county, Illinois, where he resided until 1887. He then came to Custer county

and took a homestead of 160 acres, in section 15, township 17, range 23, as well as a tree claim of an equal area. Here he spent many years in agricultural pursuits, and in 1910 he retired with a competence.

In March, 1867, at Lorraine, Illinois, Mr. Kaupp was united in marriage to Miss Katherine Heimindinger, a native of Germany, who came to America in 1852, and they became the parents of fourteen children — William, Christina, Charles, Rosina, Julia, Florence, Sophia, Mamie, Hardy, Albert, Walter, Nettie, and two children who are deceased.

Mr. Kaupp was among the early settlers of West Table, shared in the hardships of the pioneer days and became one of the well-to-do men of Custer county.

JAMES R. FORSYTH was one of the very early settlers of Custer county. He came here in 1875 and from that time until he retired he was one of the substantial men of the community.

A native of Louisville, Kentucky, he was born in 1835, a son of Henry and Eleanor Forsyth. Reared and educated in the south, he there made his home until about the time of the Civil war, when he became a resident of Dane county, Wisconsin, later moving to Iowa, where he was engaged in farming until 1875, when he came to Custer county and took a homestead in section 10, township 19, range 21. His first home was a log house, which still stands on the place and which was the family home for many years. He also took a tree claim, and this was the scene of his activities for many years. He was interested in all those things which had to do with the upbuilding of his community. In 1906 he retired from active life and moved to Kearney.

He was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Dryden, a native of Dane county, Wisconsin, and a daughter of Nathaniel and Emma (Bolsh) Dryden, who also were among the early settlers of Custer county.

Mr. and Mrs. Forsyth reared a family of seven children: David D.; Elizabeth; Alpha; William H., residing at The Dalles, Oregon; Theron E., of Naches, Washington; C. M., who owns and operates the old homestead; and John R., a resident of Great Falls, Montana.

The parents were members of the Methodist church and in politics James Forsyth was a Democrat. He came here at a time when hardships and privations were to be found on every hand but he was equal to the task and lived to see the changes that have made the Custer county of to-day. The life record of

such a man ought to serve as an inspiration to the present generation and help to make better men and women of them.

JAMES KRISS, whose success as an agriculturist in Custer county, Nebraska, proves that determination and industry will be generously rewarded here, has spent the most of his life in Custer county and is well known and highly esteemed by his neighbors in general. He owns a valuable farm in the vicinity of Comstock, his land being fertile and level and he has made improvements that are suitable and substantial.

James Kriss was born in Europe, in the province of Bohemia, September 28, 1871, and is the youngest of the six children born to Frank and Annie (Nickedah) Kriss, the others being as follows: Frank, who is a farmer, married Josie Severien; Fannie is the wife of Charles Severien, a farmer in Michigan; Charles, who is a farmer south of Comstock, married Annie Palavek; Mary lives in the city of Omaha, Nebraska; and Christie.

The parents of Mr. Kriss were natives of Bohemia and from there they came to the United States in 1881. During the first year they lived at Omaha, Nebraska, the father in the meanwhile looking about for a desirable section in which to settle permanently, and finally he secured a homestead situated about eight miles north of Comstock, Custer county. The mother died there in 1906 but the father survives and resides with his son James. The old homestead property was sold four years ago.

James Kriss received the larger part of his schooling in Custer county, and remained at home and assisted his father until ready to begin business life for himself. His success has been unusual, and he now own 480 acres in section 24, township 18, which is his home place, and another farm of 240 acres, which lies to the north of the homestead. This large acreage gives him an opportunity to farm extensively and to raise live stock successfully. He has taken full advantage of these opportunities, and is numbered among the representative farmers and stock-raisers of the county.

Mr. Kriss was married in June, 1898, to Miss Mary Weverka, whose parents, John H. and Frances Weverka, were early settlers in Custer county and who still live on their old homestead which they secured from the government. Mr. and Mrs. Kriss have a fine family of sons and daughters, all of whom still live at home, namely: James, Hettie, Emma,

Barbara, William, Joseph and Edward. Mr. Kriss and his family are members of the Bohemian Catholic church and attend services at Comstock. In politics he is a Democrat, and he is a willing worker for his party when called upon, for he has much influence among his Bohemian neighbors, but he has never consented to accept any political office. His reputation is that of an honest, upright man, and good American citizen.

WILLIAM FLIEDER.—The good judgment shown by many of the early settlers when they came from other countries to find a home in the United States, has resulted in the development and improvement of a wide area of land, not only in Nebraska but also in other sections. Within the last thirty-seven years many sturdy people have come from Bohemia, and wherever they have settled, substantial results have followed, for, as a people, they are steady, industrious, and home-loving. About 1881 the parents of William Flieder, who is a well known resident of Custer county, came to America, and after some time spent at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, they came into Nebraska and homesteaded in Valley county. In this state they passed the remainder of their lives.

William Flieder was born in Valley county, Nebraska, July 5, 1882, a son of John and Annie Flieder. They had eight children and William is the only survivor of the entire family who is now living in Custer county. He was educated in the public schools of Dakota county and remained at home and worked on the farm for his father until he was eighteen years old. He then started out for himself, and has been a farmer ever since. At the present time he has a large farm under his care, operating some of the James Kriss land in Woods Park, six and one-half miles north of Comstock. He carries on general farming and raises considerable live stock, modern methods governing his operations and resulting in satisfactory returns. Mr. Flieder has never married. In politics he is identified with the Democratic party.

HENRY HOGG, who is now one of the successful agriculturists and highly respected citizens of Custer county, is another one of the men who came to Nebraska in the early days with little else than their ambition as capital, and who have lived to see their resources grow and develop and to attain positions of marked prominence in their communities.

Mr. Hogg is a native of Scotland and pos-

sesses all the sturdy characteristics of the Scottish race. He was born in the shire of Haddington, November 6, 1860, a son of Henry and Mary (Forrest) Hogg, the former a native of Berwickshire and the latter of Haddingtonshire. The parents were staunch and uncompromising members of the Scotch Presbyterian church, in the faith of which they reared their children, and were people greatly respected in their home community in Scotland, where Mr. Hogg, the father, was variously engaged in business pursuits. They came to the United States in 1890 and joined their son Henry, at whose home both passed away in peace and contentment, when well advanced in years. There were four children in the family: Henry, whose name introduces this sketch; Robert, who is engaged in farming eight miles west of Burwell, Nebraska; Mary, who is the wife of William McLennan, a tailor of Rapid City, South Dakota; and Agnes, who is the wife of A. S. Winch, a fruit grower and dealer of Washougal, Washington.

Henry Hogg was educated in the public schools of his native land and grew up an industrious and energetic lad, applying himself to his studies and mastering the trade of carpenter, in the city of Tranent. In his native land he saw no future for himself, and accordingly, when twenty-one years old, he turned his face hopefully toward the shores of America, in which country he felt sure that a youth of his ambition and industry could gain independence and prosperity. By the time he had reached Grand Island, Nebraska, his small capital was completely exhausted, but he managed to make his way to St. Paul, this state, where he secured employment at his trade. Three years later, on August 9, 1884, he secured a homestead in the Berwyn community, the first improvement on which was a dugout built by himself. As noted, Mr. Hogg's capital was nothing large, and in order that he might live he had to spare some of his time from his farm to work at his trade at Ansley, as opportunity presented itself, and this process he kept up for twelve years, thus carrying himself over the rough places. Also, during this time, he was able to make improvements, to build a good house and other buildings, and to stock his property with a good grade of cattle and other live stock. It was not until 1896, however, that he sent for his bride, Mary Riddell, who was born in Scotland, and they were married in Hall county, December 7th of that year. They became the parents of five children, of whom three are living: Janet, who is engaged in teaching a rural school near Oconto, this county; Edith, who is attending

the Ansley high school and will graduate in 1919; and Walter, who also is attending school.

Mr. Hogg is now the owner of 160 acres of well improved land, all developed and improved under his own eye and through the work of his hands. He carries on general farming and stock-raising, and through industry and good management has made a success of his various ventures. He and Mrs. Hogg are consistent members of the Presbyterian church, and fraternally he is identified with Ansley Lodge No. 176, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. Mr. Hogg holds independent views as to political matters, but has the complete confidence of the people of the community, and since he held the office of town clerk in the early days he has frequently been called upon to represent the people in positions of public trust and responsibility.

JOHN P. LONG. — Arnold has a long list of substantial citizens. One of them is named above. Mr. Long was born September 29, 1863, in Jasper county, Illinois. It was there that his early boyhood days were spent and there he received the education of the common schools. It was in this state also that he was united in marriage, in February, 1885, to Miss Mary S. Mills, who since that time has been the partner of his joys and sorrows and co-builder of his modest fortunes. Shortly after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Long came to Nebraska, and in the spring of 1886 they located a pre-emption claim eight miles east of Arnold, Custer county. They proved up on this in fourteen months and homesteaded a quarter-section in the same locality. Here they made their home until 1909, when they moved to Arnold, where Mr. Long assumed charge of the telephone office, handling farm implements on the side. This occupation he followed nearly eight years, and he then engaged in the hardware business, which he has conducted until recently. Mr. Long is a public-spirited citizen and has been connected with every public enterprise promoted in Arnold. He has served as a member of the school board for more than twenty years. He is interested in the new Security State Bank, which is erecting a new building, at a cost of more than \$30,000. Mr. Long is one of the directors, and one of the managers of the Arnold Telephone Exchange. In the recent election he was chosen supervisor to represent the Fifth supervisory district in the affairs of Custer county. In connection with the nation's participation in the world war every war appeal

has received ready response from Mr. Long. He devoted time and made liberal donations to every object appealing for support from the people. He and his wife are faithful members of the Methodist church. Mr. and Mrs. Long have three children: Letha A. is the wife of John S. Harrell, a farmer living near Arnold, and they have one son and two daughters. Arthur C. married Mary Lehmkuhler and they live on a farm near Arnold. Myrtle A. is the wife of Clarence N. Brummett, a young farmer living near Lantry, South Dakota, and they have two sons and two daughters.

Financially Mr. Long has always been successful, although his accumulations are modest and have been made and expended without ostentation. He and his wife live in a modern home and are possessed of enough of this world's goods to provide comfortable retirement for them during the remainder of their lives. All he has been made in Custer county. He is a prominent Odd Fellow and in politics he delights to be called independent.

EMERY J. CHAPIN. — Here is related the story of a successful young business man who came to Custer county in an early day, received his education in the common schools, learned the carpenter's trade, and at present occupies a responsible position in an Arnold mercantile establishment.

Emery J. Chapin was born in the city of Chicago, May 12, 1878, and he is a son of Chester A. and Laura (Tyler) Chapin, the former a native of New York and the latter of Illinois. Chester A. Chapin came to Custer county in 1887 and located in Broken Bow, where he followed the carpenter trade. Here Emery J. Chapin grew from boyhood to manhood. Here he learned his father's vocation and worked with him most of the time during his minority. The parents were excellent people and were devoted members of the Christian church.

Emery J. Chapin has been twice married and has three children by the former marriage, two daughters and one son. On November 22, 1908, he led to the marriage altar his present wife, Lulu (Phifer) Chapin, whose parents were early settlers in the Arnold neighborhood and are well remembered by all of the old-timers. Of this second union three children were born, Charles, James, and Virgil. Master Virgil is but two years old, in 1918, and he "manages things" at home while his older brothers are in school.

As Mr. Chapin recalls his early experiences, he relates that his first money was earned by

blackening boots and that this was put to good use. He and his wife are members of the Methodist church, in which they are influential supporting members. Socially, he is in good standing in the Odd Fellows lodge and is present counsel of the local camp of the Modern Woodmen of America. His occupation at the present time is that of a clerk in one of the Arnold stores, where he is well established and enjoys the respect and esteem of the large number of patrons. In the village and surrounding community the Chapin family are well and favorably known and their many friends wish them abundant prosperity, all of which they declare is well merited.

CHARLES MASON FORSYTH, familiarly known as "Mace," represents one of the pioneer families of the Anselmo district of Custer county.

He was born at Loup City, Nebraska, July 26, 1876, and is a son of James and Elizabeth (Dryden) Forsyth, mentioned elsewhere in this volume.

In the year 1876 the early settlers of the Victoria creek neighborhood heard of the Indian uprising in the west and became alarmed to such an extent that nearly all of the families in the settlement went to Loup City, a settlement where they thought they would be safer. During the stay there the subject of this biography was born.

His boyhood days were spent on the old homestead and his preliminary education was acquired in the district school. Later he attended the public schools at Kearney and also the University of Nebraska. Reared on the farm, he naturally chose the occupation with which he was familiar. When his father retired he purchased the old home place, where he successfully carries on general farming.

For a companion and helpmeet Mr. Forsyth chose Miss Pearl Swan, a native of Indiana, and they are the parents of the following named children: Donald Mason, Theodore Scott, David D., Claude Eugene, and Mary Eleanor.

Mr. Forsyth is a Republican in politics and fraternally belongs to the Ancient Order of United Workmen. Mrs. Forsyth is a member of the Methodist church and both are held in high esteem by all who know them.

GODFREY NANSEL. — This review has to do with an Arnold citizen, a substantial, progressive Custerite, who has given a practical demonstration of what thrift and energy, com-

bined with business acumen, can do in this good county. It is a remarkable story, and one that can hardly be duplicated in any other section of the state.

Godfrey Nansel was born April 24, 1857, in Nauvoo, Illinois. He is a son of Conrad and Ann G. (Bollin) Nansel, who were born in Germany, and who became the parents of five sons and three daughters — Godfrey, Joseph, Mrs. Mary McGary, Mrs. Margaret Owens, Mrs. Ella N. Lively, Michael, John, and William, the last two being twins. After coming to this country Conrad Nansel showed his loyalty by serving as a Union soldier during the last eight months of the Civil war. After his discharge he settled in Nodaway county, Missouri, and there his son Godfrey lived until he was eleven years of age, when, on account of a disagreement in the home, young Godfrey gathered up his belongings and faced the world for himself. That he has "made good" will be seen when this sketch enumerates his present-day possessions. After leaving home he went to work for a farmer, Frank Frawley, his wages being ten dollars a month. Later he worked three years for a man named Moore, from whom he received eighteen dollars a month, which was at that time considered very high wages. Later he returned to his former employer and worked two years, for twenty dollars a month.

January 10, 1881, Mr. Nansel was united in wedlock to Sarah E. McCreary, a daughter of Jehiel and Margaret A. (Jackson) McCreary. Mrs. Nansel's native state was Iowa and in her father's family were four children — Lewis, Indiana (deceased), Ambrose, and Sarah E. Mrs. Nansel's mother was closely related to General Andrew Jackson.

The next day after their marriage Godfrey Nansel and his young bride started for Council Bluffs, Iowa, where they made their first home, and where he worked for a dollar a day until he accumulated enough money to buy a team and a few farming implements, and he then rented a farm and started farming for himself. Mrs. Nansel was a plucky woman and determined to do her part toward making a living and accumulating a fortune. Aside from the housework and outdoor chores, she took in washing and saved the thirty-five dollars with which they bought their first cow. In 1885 they came to Custer county and pre-empted a quarter-section of land six miles west of Calaway. This was their home until 1890, when they sold out and went back to Council Bluffs. In the memorable dry year of 1894 they returned to Custer county, and this has been their home ever since. Mr. Nansel has retired from



GODFREY NANSEL



MRS. GODFREY NANSEL



GODFREY NANSEL AND FAMILY

active farm operations and in the village of Arnold he has built a beautiful residence, which is equipped with modern conveniences and home comforts. He now owns over 4,000 acres of land — 2,280 acres in Logan county, Nebraska; 160 acres in Colorado; 320 acres in South Dakota; and 1,280 acres in Montana.

The years brought twelve children to the Nansel home: Arthur R. married Nannie Tietjens and they have one daughter. Anna G. is the wife of F. Earl Whaley, a farmer living near Callaway, and they have nine children. Jesse F. married Margaret McFate and they have seven children. Lillie B. is deceased. Nora J. married Perry J. Moore, a farmer living near Callaway, and they have four sons. Lewis O. married Virgie Walker and they have one son. Hubert G. married Ida Giles and they live near Myers, Montana. They have one son. Joseph E. married Phebe Giles and they are living near Myers, Montana. They have one son. Harry W. married Bernice Pierce, they have one daughter and their home likewise is near Myers, Montana. Cecil M., who is a graduate of the Arnold high school and is still at home with her parents, is a teacher in the Arnold schools. Lloyd K., still a bachelor, is operating a farm near Arnold. Charles A., the youngest of the children is in the eleventh grade of the Arnold high school. The family is connected with the Methodist church and is one of the most substantial families in the community. Socially Mr. and Mrs. Nansel are prominent members of the Mystic Legion and other organizations.

During the last two years no one has been more prominent in all the war activities than Mr. Nansel—he has been a heavy contributor to all war objects. He conducts a real-estate business, into which he puts the same energy that made his farming and stock-raising operations successful.

JOSEPH F. RUSSELL.—When Joseph F. Russell became a homesteader in Custer county, in 1884, he had already entered his thirty-third year, but his advantages up to that time had been so few that he was in the most modest financial circumstances. His resources, in fact, totaled only twenty-five cents in money, in addition to which he still was in debt for a part of the purchase price of his horse and wagon. He had, however, many far more dependable resources, and among them were grit and determination and a capacity for untiring industry. These have elevated him to a place of wealth among the substantial men of Ansley, to prominence as a

farmer, merchant, and politician, and to public-spirited participation in all that tends to the permanent upbuilding of the community.

Mr. Russell was born in Henry county, Ohio, December 16, 1851, and is a son of William and Eliza Ann (Ingraham) Russell. His paternal grandfather, Elisha Russell, was a native of Maine and of English descent; he was a shoemaker by trade and his death occurred in Ohio. The maternal grandfather, A. Green Ingraham, was born in England, and on his arrival in America first settled in New York. Later he migrated to Ohio, where he pre-empted land, became a substantial citizen, and for several years served in the capacity of associate judge at Tiffin. William Russell was born in Maine, in 1807, and during his early years was a merchant in his native state. Later he became a boat captain on the Erie canal, but eventually he turned his attention to farming, in which he was engaged, in Ohio, at the time of his death, in 1878. He was laid to rest in the Fort Seneca cemetery, as was also his wife, who was born in New York, in 1820, and who died in 1869, in Ohio. They were members of the Universalist church, and of their ten children three survive: W. Henry, a veteran of the Civil war, living at Liberty Center, Ohio; Joseph F., of this sketch; and M. F., who is bookkeeper for the Farmers Elevator at Liberty Center, Ohio. William Russell was a Republican in politics. A man of the strictest integrity, he was successful in his business affairs and had the respect and confidence of his associates.

Joseph F. Russell was given a district-school education in a log schoolhouse in Henry county, Ohio, and during his boyhood and youth was given a thorough training in the various departments of farm work. It seemed impossible for him to get a start on the highway of success, and in spite of his industry he was unable to make any progress, so that finally he struck out for the west, and in 1884 arrived in Custer county. He secured a homestead and began operations, and during the next eighteen years he continued to make agricultural enterprise his chief interest, with the result that he arose steadily in fortune, and finally decided to enter business affairs. However, he still is the owner of a farm of 400 acres, where general farming and stock-raising are carried on under his supervision, but his home is at Ansley, where he has resided since 1902. Upon his arrival in town he engaged in the livery business and also conducted a feed store, but he finally disposed of his interests in these enterprises in order to purchase a bakery and confectionery, of which

he is still the proprietor. He has made this venture a most successful one, and is accounted one of the town's leading and substantial citizens. Mr. Russell is independent in politics, and he has served as a member of the board of supervisors and as justice of the peace. He belongs to the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he has passed the various official chairs, and is a member of the encampment body of this fine fraternal organization.

In 1876 Mr. Russell married Miss Cordelia Leist, who was born in Ohio, a daughter of Levi Leist, a farmer who died in that state. To this union there have been born three children: Lory D., who assists his father in conducting the bakery business; Ogle F., who married J. H. Varney, a merchant of Ansley; and Carl D., who is a baker at Arcadia, Nebraska. Mrs. Russell is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

GUSTAF W. NELSON.—With its numerous opportunities for advancement, America has offered a welcome and a home to the people of other lands and has proved attractive to the young and ambitious who in their own countries have seen little chance for advancement. It is not in every case, however, that these opportunities are recognized, appreciated, and grasped in a degree equal to that shown in the career of Gustaf W. Nelson, of the Comstock community, who, borrowing money to come to the United States, is now the owner of 618 acres of excellent Custer county land.

Mr. Nelson is a native of Sweden, born April 21, 1866, in a family which was honorable but in modest financial circumstances. He was given his education in the public schools, as were his two brothers: Eric P., who now lives at the old home place in Sweden; and Carl, who lives near Comstock, Custer county, and is a farmer. The youngest of his father's children, Gustaf W. Nelson, could find little encouragement in the outlook before him in the land of his birth, and even when a mere youth he began to make plans for immigrating to America, where he felt sure there awaited him a chance to prove his worth and gain a competence. Finally, in 1885, when he was only nineteen years of age, he succeeded in borrowing sufficient money to make the trip to the United States, and he at once came to Nebraska, arriving in Hamilton county December 14th of that year. He was willing and eager, strong and ambitious, and had little trouble in finding employment and keeping it.

Also, he was thrifty and economical, saved his earnings carefully, and during the eighteen years that he resided in Hamilton county he took long strides toward the attainment of his goal, which was the possession of a farm of his own. In 1903 Mr. Nelson came to Custer county, where he bought a farm near Comstock and since that time his advancement has been constant and consistent. From time to time he has added to his property by purchase, until his landed estate now comprises 618 acres, and it is under a high state of cultivation, with improvements that are modern and valuable beyond the ordinary. He has not only shown himself skilled in the arts of farming and stock-raising, but also a business man of high calibre, and one whose reputation for integrity is built upon strong foundations. His buildings are modern and he raises a high grade of live stock. In matters which affect the welfare of his community, Mr. Nelson takes a good citizen's interest, but he has never sought to invade actively the fields of politics or public service as a candidate for offices of preferment at the hands of his fellow citizens.

On April 22, 1889, in Hamilton county, Nebraska, Mr. Nelson was united in marriage with Miss Mary Bister, who was born in Sweden and who came as a young woman to the United States, her parents settling in Hamilton county, Nebraska, in 1886. There her father carried on agricultural pursuits until his death, while the mother still makes her home in that county. To Mr. and Mrs. Nelson there have been born nine children, of whom seven are living, all residing at home: Emma, Agnes, Melvin, Dora, Dwight, Walter, and Glenn.

JAMES H. BROWN, who is one of the leading business men of Eddyville, Nebraska, is also one of the pioneers of the county, coming here in 1880, and during the thirty-eight years that have passed since then, he has been active in many ways in assisting in the county's substantial development, so that his name is probably as well known as that of any other resident.

James H. Brown was born in Delaware county, Indiana, December 18, 1860. His parents were Samuel G. and Sarah (Wills) Brown, the father being a native of Indiana and the mother of Ohio. They had five sons, namely: G. Riley, John H., Joseph P., James H., and Samuel E., all surviving except the oldest. The father was a farmer all his life and was a staunch Democrat. Both parents belonged to the Christian church. The father died in the spring of 1865.

James H. Brown was only five years old when he was left fatherless, and hence many advantages that boys enjoy under happier conditions, were denied him. He started out to make his own way in the world when but twelve years old and worked for farmers in his native state until 1880, when he came to Custer county, where his brother, John H. Brown, had already settled, on Deer creek, four miles north of the Joshua Wood ranch. Having had farm experience, he was able to help the ranchmen in this section while awaiting his twenty-first birthday, when he would be entitled to enter a land claim, which he subsequently did, securing a homestead situated twenty-four miles south of Broken Bow. He resided on this homestead six years and then sold to advantage and bought 160 acres, situated on Deer creek, this transaction showing business capacity, with which he is very generally credited. He continued on his farm and carried on its various activities quite successfully until 1907, when he moved to Eddyville, where he has been foremost in business ever since. For four years he was engaged in the real-estate business and then he turned his attention to his present line, which includes dealing in farm produce, poultry, butter, eggs, and cream, and in connection with which he conducts a cream station at Eddyville.

Mr. Brown was married first, August 22, 1884, at Muncie, Indiana, to Miss Emma Vannettie, who was born in Indiana, and was a daughter of Samuel and Savilla Vannettie. Mrs. Brown was a member of the Christian church. She died January 22, 1891, the mother of two children: Samuel W. and William O. At Lorenz, Iowa, Samuel W. Brown is station agent for the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad. He married Alta Bennett and they have four daughters and one son. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and in politics is a Democrat. William O. Brown is serving as a soldier in the national army, belonging to a supply company of the Three Hundred and Fiftieth Infantry, sent to Camp Dodge, Iowa, July 23, 1918. Mr. Brown was married, second, April 11, 1896, at Kearney, Nebraska, to Miss Ellen Cox, who is a daughter of Noah Cox. Mr. Brown and his brother Samuel are both musical and in that way, perhaps, came about the organization of what was known far and wide, during the stirring times that visited Nebraska when the Populist party was holding rallies and conventions, as the "Cat Creek Band." It was made up of local talent, including the Browns and Thomas Emerick, and

its music was so acceptable that it was called for from every part of the county.

JOHN C. KLINGBEIL is a "live wire" of the Roten district where, in addition to farming and stock-raising, he conducts enough side operations to entitle him to be called a stock dealer.

John C. Klingbeil was born at Golden, Illinois, December 30, 1879, and his parents, August and Trenke (Ostendorf) Klingbeil, natives of Germany, transmitted to their offspring the German characteristics of thrift and industry. To them were born five children — Lula Stelman, John, Hattie, Lena, and Ida. The father came to the United States in 1864 and followed milling for an occupation. He married at Golden, Illinois, and came to Custer county, Nebraska, in 1889. He located about twenty miles southwest of Oconto, in the vicinity of Roten valley.

The early days of John C. Klingbeil were spent on the farm and at an early age it was necessary for him to lend a hand. When seven years of age he went to live with his uncle, George Ostendorf, in Dawson county, and he stayed with him until he was fourteen years old, at which time he returned to his father's home farm, where he remained until he married. He received a common-school education and applied to general farming his inherited characteristics of thrift and energy.

On November 3, 1915, Mr. Klingbeil led to the marriage altar Miss Una Stinehagen, a young lady who came from Missouri, and who is a daughter of Henry and Cora (Stauffer) Stinehagen, the former a native of Illinois and the latter of Missouri. Mrs. Klingbeil had only one brother, Louis Stinehagen. Mr. and Mrs. Klingbeil have but one child of their own, baby Gyneth, who is only six months of age at the time of this writing, in 1918, but in this hospitable home two adopted children have found asylum fraught with home comforts. They are Louis and Rosella Stinehagen.

On his farm of 320 acres, John C. Klingbeil conducts a general agricultural and stock-raising business on a practical and profitable basis. He buys and sells live stock, and is uniformly regarded as a valuable man to the community. Any man who will buy what others have to sell and will sell what others want to buy is a pivotal character in any community — one upon whom much of the prosperity of that particular locality revolves. Mr. and Mrs. Klingbeil are connected with the Lutheran church, and in politics he maintains an independent

attitude, with allegiance declared to no political party.

LOUIS M. ROWAN. — It would be high treason to underestimate or underrate the services of the early pioneer, but it would likewise be an injustice to discount the contributions of those men of tireless energy who came into the county in later years and since their arrival have contributed a wealth of example and leadership, as well as practical demonstration of the county's possibilities.

Louis M. Rowan was born in Livingston county, Illinois, September 21, 1873, and is a son of Benjamin F. and Mary (Pembroke) Rowan, the former of whom came from the Empire state and the latter from Illinois. In the family of this excellent couple were eleven children—Helen Collar, James (deceased), George M., Charles W., Ida Wiltsey, Louis M., John T., Henry A., Martha Stauffer, Benjamin F., and Mary McFarland—all creditable citizens and a credit to their parentage.

During the early years of Mr. Rowan he lived on a farm, where he assisted his parents, and he often herded cattle for his neighbors. It was by this means that he earned his first money, which became the foundation of the accumulations of the present time. The first money that he earned went to purchase his first overcoat. He received the advantages of a common-school education and by application and reading has augmented the fund of school-house lore until to-day he is a well informed and versatile man of affairs. In 1896 he led to the marriage altar Miss Elnora Benckeser, a daughter of John and Mary (Chard) Benckeser. The father was a native of Germany but the mother came from the Hoosier state. Further information concerning this family is contained in the biography of James A. Howell, whose wife is a sister of Mrs. Rowan.

The home which Mr. and Mrs. Rowan established for themselves was quite up to the American standard in all its appointments of comfort and plenty. They became the parents of seven children, one of whom died in infancy: Ival L., a young man of draft age, had not been classified at the time this sketch was prepared. Raymond is at home and is assisting his father. Clarence E. and Gladys M. are students at school. Viola is seven years old. Lewis M., four years, and "Captain John," twenty months of age, will soon be promoted colonel of the "Home Squad."

Mr. Rowan came west in 1888 with his parents and settled in Dawson county, where he made his home for seven years. He then

crossed the line north into Custer and rented what is known as the John Duvall farm, on which he opened bachelor's quarters, which were not much to his liking. On August 6th of the same year, he concluded he had enough of "batching," and he was married, as recorded above. He now owns the farm, and has added to it until his holdings are now 560 acres of splendid land. He made his money in general farming and stock-raising, and year after year continues his operations, each year showing an increase of his worldly possessions, and all of this being the measure and standard of success. Mr. and Mrs. Rowan are fine people and deserve their good name and reputation. They are connected with the Evangelical church and Mr. Rowan votes the Republican ticket.

JOSEPH M. GIDDINGS. — No one who has lived and labored in the vicinity of Ansley since the early '80s has more emphatically gained the good will and confidence of his fellow men than Joseph M. Giddings, a Civil war veteran now living in retirement, after years of agricultural effort. Not only have industry and perseverance contributed to the usefulness of this highly respected citizen, but an inheritance of old New England traits has lent peculiar strength and conservatism to his character and influence. He was born in McHenry county, Illinois, September 4, 1840, and is a son of George and Harriet (Montague) Giddings.

On both sides of the family Mr. Giddings is descended from English forebears, for his paternal grandfather, Josiah Giddings, was born in England, early removed to Vermont and passed his life there, and his maternal grandfather, Joseph Montague, was likewise an Englishman by birth, was an early settler and farmer of Vermont, and later a resident of Massachusetts. George Giddings was born at Bakersfield, Vermont, January 15, 1813, and as a youth went to Massachusetts, where he met and married Harriet Montague, who was born in that state, in September, 1812. Almost immediately after their union they set forth for the west to make a home, first going to DuPage county, Illinois, and later to McHenry county, that state, where they lived for a number of years. In 1844 they penetrated the wilds of Winnebago county, Wisconsin, where, in a virgin country, they settled on a homestead. There they rounded out their careers, Mrs. Giddings dying in 1900 and Mr. Giddings having passed away a number of years previously. They experienced all the hardship of the wild life of the pioneers, but

their sturdy New England characteristics carried them safely through, and they lived to see their property become valuable, to rear their children to honorable lives, and to secure unto themselves ties of respect and friendship. They were faithful members of the Seventh Day Adventist church, and as a Republican Mr. Giddings was frequently elected to positions of public honor and trust. They were the parents of seven children, of whom four are living: Elvira, who is the widow of Chauncey Ellerton, and resides in Wisconsin; Joseph M., who is the subject of this review; Amy, who resides at Hiawatha, Kansas, and is the widow of Frank Kimball; and Ralph, who is a veterinary surgeon in Wisconsin.

Joseph M. Giddings was about four years of age when taken by his parents to Wisconsin, and in the primitive country schools of Winnebago county he secured a somewhat elementary training. Attending school in the winter months, his summers from early boyhood were given over to work on the home farm, and he thus grew to sturdy and well trained manhood. When he heard of the call for troops, issued by President Lincoln, he was anxious to join the Union army during the early months of the Civil war, but his parents were against his becoming a soldier and as he was an obedient youth he respected their commands. However, on his twenty-first birthday, he felt that he was free, and immediately enlisted, September 4, 1861, in Company K, Eleventh Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. When his term expired he was veteranized with the same company and regiment, and his service therewith continued until beyond the close of the war, he receiving his honorable discharge and being mustered out of the service September 6, 1865. His engagements were numerous, including the siege of Vicksburg, and other important and bloody battles of the big struggle between the forces of the north and south, and through all the vicissitudes of camp and army life he comported himself as a brave and faithful soldier, courageous in battle, and strict in his performance of duty.

When he returned to civilian life, Mr. Giddings resumed the vocation of farming, and in 1871 he founded a home of his own, when he married Miss Julia Sperry, who likewise was born in McHenry county, Illinois, and who is a daughter of Rais and Sarah (Lilly) Sperry, natives of Dover Center, Ohio. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Sperry lived for a time in Illinois, but later moved to Wisconsin, where, in Winnebago county, Mrs. Sperry died. Her husband then came to live with his daughter, Mrs. Giddings, and he died in Ne-

braska. Mr. and Mrs. Giddings became the parents of two children: Lillie, who married Wes Lee and lives on a farm at Polson, Montana; and Ira, who married Alice Sherbeck, and resides on his father's old homestead.

In 1873 Mr. and Mrs. Giddings came to Nebraska and settled in York county, where they made their home for two years. Their next place of residence was Custer county, where, on a farm of 160 acres, which Mr. Giddings homesteaded, they continued to live until their retirement to Ansley, in 1912. Here they have since resided quietly, in their modern home, surrounded by all the comforts which they richly deserve, because of their years of strenuous and continued labor.

Mr. Giddings is a valued member of the Grand Army of the Republic, while Mrs. Giddings belongs to Stedman Circle, of the Women's Relief Corps. In politics Mr. Giddings is a Republican, and on various occasions he has efficiently discharged the duties of township offices to which he has been elected by his fellow citizens.

MARIUS LANGE. — Eminently successful in all his farming operations, eminently successful in all of his dealings and speculations, is the way to describe what has been accomplished by the man whose name initiates this review.

Marius Lange was born in Denmark, on the 13th day of June, 1863, and he is a son of Theodore and Anna (Sorrenson) Lange, both representatives of fine old Scandinavian stock. In the father's family were seven children — Marius, James, Lewis, Christina Sorrenson, Lena Robertson, Anna Robertson, and Theresa Syerson. Concerning his early life, Marius Lange says that when a mere lad he herded sheep for a neighbor for six months, for which he received ten crowns — equal to two dollars and fifty cents. This was the first money that came into his possession and is in reality the foundation of his present competency. He early formed the habit of trading knives, watches, and other boyish commodities, and from these transactions he obtained a little money. When fourteen years of age he was apprenticed to a cabinetmaker, and he worked for four years in learning his trade, during which time he received only his board. After working twelve hours a day for his board, he had to work nights and Sundays to earn his clothes. When eighteen years of age he came to the United States and obtained a position in a rolling mill in New York, where he worked for a short time — till he got enough

money to reach Chicago. There he worked in H. H. Andrews' bank-furnishing establishment and he stayed with this concern for four years. It was in Chicago that he led to the marriage altar Miss Christina Christensen, a lady of Danish blood and, like himself, a native of Denmark. She is a daughter of Andrew and Ida Christensen, in whose immediate family were four children — Mrs. Lange, Peter, Catherine Sorrenson, and Hannah Caspersen. Mr. and Mrs. Lange established a home of their own and in time supplied it with all comforts and necessities. The stork has been kind to them and thirteen children have been born to them. Of the number ten are living: Ida is the wife of Charles Booth, a farmer in Kimball county, Nebraska, and they have five children. Anna is the wife of Willis Chadd, a farmer living near Callaway. Sophia is the wife of Chris Rookstool, a Callaway farmer, and they have had two children, one of whom died in infancy. Theodore, who is farming near Callaway, married Ethel Hendricks, and they have one child. The military draft for the great war placed Theodore Lange in the 4th class. Andrew, who married Mabel Kolbo, lives near Pine Bluff, Wyoming, where he is farming. There are two children in his home. Lena married Bert Holibaugh, a Dawson county farmer, and they have two children. Nels married May Woods and lives on a farm near Callaway. The draft exemption board had not yet classified him at the time this sketch was revised. Veile is the wife of William Helmuth, an Oconto farmer. Julius and James are both assisting their father on the home farm. Leetta, the youngest, is eleven years of age, and is pursuing her studies in the seventh grade of the public schools. She is especially fond of music, in which she is taking a special course.

The Langes came to Custer county in 1886 and settled on what is known as the Lange Table, north of the Redfern Table and eight miles south of Callaway. The old habit of trading, contracted in youth, broke out again in after years and has always been a source of some profit to Mr. Lange. He recently sold his home place, consisting of 1,350 acres, for \$47,000, and he is still the owner of 1,100 acres of good Custer county soil. His health is not good, and he and his wife will travel and investigate conditions in other states before they decide upon their relocation. Few men of Custer county have been as successful as Mr. Lange. When he started in Custer county he had nothing, and was three hundred dollars in debt. The entire family, children and all, are connected with the Lutheran

church. Mr. Lange is an Odd Fellow, affiliates with the Democratic party, and is one of the valued citizens of the county.

CHARLES E. BRANSTITER. — One of the more recent settlers of Custer county is Charles E. Branstiter, who is carrying on farming and stock-raising near Lomax Station. He has demonstrated his ability as an agriculturist and by honorable dealing has won the respect and friendship of his neighbors. Mr. Branstiter was born in Nemaha county, Nebraska, August 26, 1882, the sixth in order of birth of the ten children born to Daniel M. and Mary A. (Horn) Branstiter, the former of whom was born in Illinois, and the latter in Nebraska. The surviving children are: Claude M., Jacob L., William H., Dan M., John, Charles E., Mrs. Ethel Van Houten, and Florence. The father was a farmer all his life. He died in Nebraska, May 2, 1915.

Charles E. Branstiter attended the country schools in boyhood and grew up on his father's farm. Farming has been his business all his life, and as he is an intelligent and enterprising man he has made his vocation profitable. He has been established in Custer county since February, 1918, when he bought 320 acres of what is known as Lomax land, situated near Lomax Station, a fine property that Mr. Branstiter is rapidly developing and improving. When he was not more than eight years old Mr. Branstiter went on record concerning the matter of good wages being the due of farm laborers, his uncle, Charles Horn, being fond of telling a humorous story concerning a certain job of dropping corn from an old corn-planter, when there was much discussion as to salary.

Mr. Branstiter was married in 1909, in Nemaha county, Nebraska, to Miss Cora B. Cathcart, who was born in that county and who is a daughter of William C. and Mary C. (Starr) Cathcart, the latter being a native of Illinois. The father of Mrs. Branstiter was a native of Pennsylvania and from that state he went forth as a soldier in the Civil War. Afterward he located in Nebraska and he became well known in Nemaha county, where, with his family, he belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church. Mrs. Branstiter has two sisters, Mrs. Nettie Bailey, and Mrs. Lala Weaver. Mr. and Mrs. Branstiter have one son, Beryl E., an engaging child of three years. Mrs. Branstiter, as implied above, was reared in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church, but Mr. Branstiter belongs to the Christian church. He takes a good citizen's interest in public

matters and gives hearty support to the Democratic party, but his personal affairs have up to the present time so engaged his attention that he has never entertained a desire for public office of any kind. He is well known in several communities, through his membership in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America — orders largely made up, in this section, of representative and reliable men.

EDWIN F. MYERS. — The kind of energy, resource, and initiative required of the young man who would succeed in any of the learned professions, seems to have been an integral part of the equipment of Edwin F. Myers when he entered upon his career. He was still a school boy when he began laying practical plans for a thorough education, and his faith in himself has been fully vindicated, for to-day he is one of the successful lawyers practicing at the Custer county bar. Mr. Myers' birthplace was Georgetown, Custer county. He was born November 22, 1879, in a cedar-log house such as all the more industrious of the early settlers provided for their families.

From boyhood Mr. Myers showed marked ambition and business ability. He did his grammar-school work in the country school district and at the age of fourteen years he entered the Broken Bow high school. At the age of nineteen he built the two-story building where his office is now located, and here ran a bicycle shop on the lower floor, for two years. At the expiration of that time he sold out to enter the University of Nebraska, and had \$1,000 of clear profit.

In 1904 Mr. Myers was graduated from the State University and immediately entered the Harvard Law School, at Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was graduated from Harvard, with the degree of Bachelor of Laws, in 1907, passed the bar examinations in Massachusetts, and was admitted to practice there. His first practical work was done in the collection department of Marshall Field & Company's great retail store in Chicago, where he worked during the fall and winter following his graduation. He there became a member of the bar of the state of Illinois.

In the spring of 1908 Mr. Myers came to Broken Bow, and opened a law office, as the partner of Judge Silas A. Holcomb, former governor and former justice of the Nebraska supreme court. This partnership continued until January 1, 1910, since which date he has conducted his law office alone.

October 29, 1910, recorded the marriage of

Mr. Myers to Miss C. Julia Haumont, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jules Haumont. Mrs. Myers was born at Elton, Nebraska, May 18, 1890. To this union there have been born four sons — Edwin Jules Francis, seven years of age (1918); Kenneth Lucian, aged six years; Frank Marcellus, aged two years; and an infant, John Robert.

At the State University Mr. Myers was captain of the football team of his class, as well as a member of his class baseball team, and the second football team. At Harvard he won the much coveted "H" as a member of the swimming team. He also played on the first football team in one of the early games of the season but was put out for the remainder of the season by an injury to his face, and the following year the rules were changed to bar graduates.

Since coming to Broken Bow Mr. Myers has been instrumental in organizing the Round Table Club, which meets once each month during the winter season, for a good dinner and the discussion of some live topic.

Three of Mr. Myers' direct ancestor on the maternal side fought as patriot soldiers during the war of the Revolution, and this gives him membership in the Sons of the American Revolution. His mother's people on both sides came from old colonial stock. She is one of the more than 5,000 direct descendants of Daniel Shedd, whose landing place of 1636, now a part of greater Boston, is marked by a marble shaft. One of the very prominent members of this family is the capitalist, John Graves Shedd, president of Marshall Field & Company, of Chicago, chairman of the board of directors of the Illinois Central Railroad and prominent in other big business institutions of his city and state.

The name of Mr. Myers' maternal grandfather was Bezaleel Shedd and his maternal grandmother was Ann (Prouty) Shedd. The Proutys descended from Richard Prouty, who landed in America in 1667. This Prouty family has furnished a member of the federal interstate commerce commission, a governor, and two congressmen.

Mr. Myers' father is John E. Myers, who is spending his declining years in the milder climate of Boise, Idaho. He was born August 22, 1841, in Sussex county, New Jersey, and is a son of Jacob W. and Hannah L. (Saunders) Myers. Jacob W. Myers was a native-born American, and a minister in the Methodist Episcopal church. Rev. Jacob W. Myers moved from New Jersey to Pennsylvania, where he resided some twenty years. He came from Pennsylvania to Nebraska Territory in



Edwin F. Myers.

1864, with team and wagon, and died soon afterward, while out on a hunting trip.

In 1861 John E. Myers enlisted for service in the Civil war, in which he served three years and two months. While so serving he had the remarkable experience of being knocked down and stunned by a shell that grazed his forehead but did him no damage. He arrived in Nebraska Territory on April 1, 1865, with only such money as he had saved from his soldier pay of thirteen dollars a month, after supporting a bedridden grandmother, but, like most of the other pioneers, he possessed a very strong body and a good, clear mind. He organized a gang and went through as far as Green River, Wyoming, getting out cedar ties for the Union Pacific Railroad, the track for which was then being laid. He then returned to Nebraska and went into the cattle business, first near Grand Island, later near Fort Kearney, and finally, on June 13, 1877, he moved to the South Loup, where he pre-empted a quarter-section. Thereafter he bought land from time to time, until, at the time of his retiring, in 1910, his ranch consisted of 3,240 acres.

John E. Myers was county commissioner of Dawson county in 1875 and 1876, and of Custer county in 1879, 1880, and 1881. He was chairman of the board during the year 1881, when the commissioners ordered the county clerk to "take charge of the county properly and remove the same to Broken Bow."

At Overton, Nebraska, on the 5th of March, 1876, was solemnized the marriage of John E. Myers to Miss Amanda M. Shedd, of North Brookfield, Massachusetts. Of this union were born five sons, of whom four are still living — Edwin F. and Morris E. are still residents of Custer county, Nebraska, while Arthur I. and Herbert G. are residents of Idaho. Each of these four sons was given a college education. Mrs. Amanda M. (Shedd) Myers was born in Chester, Vermont, on February 16, 1849, and her parents soon afterward moved to North Brookfield, Massachusetts.

JAMES R. LAUGHRAN was born in Montreal, Canada, in 1852, and is a son of the late Thomas Laughran, of whom extended mention is made on other pages of this volume.

James R. Laughran is the eldest in a family of four children and accompanied the family to Nebraska in 1869. When his father moved to Custer county young Laughran remained on the farm in Saunders county. In 1876 he came to Custer county, where he remained that

winter. In 1879 he engaged in the cattle business in Blaine county, where for many years he was one of the largest cattlemen in this part of the state. Upon the death of his mother he purchased the old homestead, in the Anselmo district of Custer county, and here he is now living practically retired. The record made by his father as an early settler and the associations surrounding the old home make it a very desirable place to live.

In 1877 James R. Laughran was married, in Omaha, to Miss Margaret Foley, a native of Princeton, New Jersey. Mrs. Laughran is a daughter of Timothy and Mary Foley, who were natives of County Cork, Ireland, and who were residents of Princeton, New Jersey, for many years after coming to America; eventually they came to Saunders county, Nebraska, and both are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Laughran have become the parents of seven children: James, who conducts the ranch in Blaine county; Thomas, who is farming in Custer county; Lizzie, who is the wife of H. C. Cox, of Brewster, Nebraska; Timothy and William, who are residents of Canada; Kate, who is the wife of William Christen and lives in Custer county; and Mike, who is a farmer in Custer county.

James R. Laughran has been successful in his business ventures and his family own a ranch of thirty-two quarter-sections of land, besides his father's old homestead in Custer county.

He and his family are members of the Catholic church, and after a residence of forty years in this section of the state he is well and favorably known.

HENRY E. ZIMMERMAN, who for many years was one of the influential and substantial men of Custer county, came here as a pioneer from an old settled community in Iowa, where he was already a man of prominence. During his thirty-seven years of life in Custer county he became equally respected and relied on, and he is recalled as one of Custer's most useful and worthy citizens.

Mr. Zimmerman was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, October 9, 1851, and died in Custer county, Nebraska, July 27, 1916. When he was seven years old his parents settled in Iowa, and there he was educated and lived to the age of twenty-eight years. In the meanwhile he perfected himself in two trades and when he came to Nebraska he could point to what he had done as a brickmason and stonecutter, his work being sound and solid yet in the beautiful capitol building at Des

Moines, Iowa. Later he did a part of the fine brick work in the construction of the court house at Broken Bow—the first brick court house in Nebraska. It was in 1879 that Mr. Zimmerman came to Custer county. He took up a tree claim and homestead, and he still owned valuable farm property when he died. This had been so improved that Mrs. Zimmerman was able to dispose of it for \$125 an acre.

In May, 1880, Mr. Zimmerman was united in marriage to Miss Anola Amsberry, who was born in Marion county, Iowa, where she was educated. Her parents, Lewis Norton and Jane (Coffman) Amsberry, were born in West Virginia and had come to Marion county, Iowa, in 1851. Mr. Amsberry was a carpenter, farmer, and tanner. After his death, in Iowa, his widow came to Custer county, in 1879, and bought, for ninety dollars, a pre-emption claim, on which she lived for a number of years. She then removed to the home of her son, ten miles southwest of Ansley, where she died. The parents of Mrs. Zimmerman had twelve children, and of these the following survive: Florentine, who became the wife of T. J. Mossman, and lives in Kansas; W. Z., who is a resident of Mason City; Mrs. Henry Zimmerman, who lives at Ansley, and is the widow of him to whom this memoir is dedicated; Charles, who lives at Broken Bow at the present time; and Lyman, of Custer county. The father of Mrs. Zimmerman was a Democrat in politics. Her parents were members of the Missionary Baptist church.

A family of seven children was born to Mr. and Mrs. Zimmerman, as follows: Lewis Ray, who is a farmer twelve miles west of Ansley; Thomas E., who is operating his own farm, eight miles northeast of Ansley; Addie, who is the wife of Garfield Eggleston, a farmer; Lottie, who is the wife of Aaron Staab, a farmer; Frona E., who is the wife of J. W. Parkhurst, an expert electrician residing in Lincoln, Nebraska; and Mabel and Flora, both of whom reside with their mother, Flora being employed in the State Bank of Ansley.

In politics Mr. Zimmerman was a Republican and at times he was called upon to accept public office. For a number of years he served as a very useful member of the school board, his progressive ideas being particularly beneficial in the deliberations of this body. Fraternally he was identified with the order of Woodmen and he was somewhat prominent as a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he served as an official while living at Oskaloosa, Iowa. He was a man of Christian life and character, and belonged to the Baptist church.

JOHN MULVANY.—There are many reasons why John Mulvany, who is one of Custer county's best known residents, should be regarded with respect, interest, and esteem by his fellow citizens. He is a veteran of the great Civil war that, prior to the struggle in which the United States is now engaged, was second only to the Revolutionary war, the most tremendous military event of our national history. He is one of Custer county's oldest pioneers, and perhaps the oldest continuous-resident pioneer in the county. He is one of the wealthy men of the county, although he came here forty-one years ago with empty hands. He thus exemplifies patriotism, courage, enterprise, and that determination that made his industry worth while.

John Mulvany was born October 8, 1833, in Knox county, Tennessee. His parents were Henry and Sally Mulvany. The father was born in Ireland and the mother in Germany, and they came to Tennessee very early, married there and later moved to Indiana, where the father died during the Civil war. He was a strong Whig in early life but after the formation of the Republican party united with that organization. His business was farming. The mother died in Indiana and both parents were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Of their fourteen children four sons served in the Civil war, namely; Samuel, John, James, and Pleasant.

John Mulvany assisted his father on what was a pioneer farm in Indiana, the same being now situated in the midst of a highly cultivated section. He had opportunities to attend school and laid the foundation of a good education. When the call came for loyal men to come forward and fight to preserve the Union, he was one of the four brothers to respond. He enlisted in Company C, Sixty-sixth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and in his term of service, that covered almost three years, he took part in six regular battles, besides innumerable skirmishes. He survived all the hazards of war and returned home practically unharmed. He resumed farming in Indiana, but his progress was slow and he began to look about for a home for himself in one of the western states or territories, and this led to his deciding on Custer county, Nebraska, which he reached in 1877. He took up a homestead and a tree claim and as proof of his determination to succeed it can be stated that he has never parted with either—and both are now valuable properties.

Mr. Mulvany married Mrs. Elizabeth A. Taylor, a widow with one daughter, Henrietta Taylor, who married A. Davis, of Corydon,

Harrison county, Indiana. Mrs. Mulvany was born in Kentucky, September 16, 1832, and died in Nebraska, April 17, 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Mulvany the following children were born: Dorothea, who is the widow of Thomas Aikman, lives at Rulo, Nebraska, and has eleven children; John Henry is a resident of Mason City, Nebraska; Addie is the wife of Alfred Shrire, a farmer near Callaway, Nebraska; Harvey S. lives in Mason City, Nebraska; Hester Ann is the wife of Dennis Runyan, a farmer living near Haines, Oregon; Mollie J. is the wife of John Wright, a farmer near Mason City; Christina is the wife of James English, a farmer near Bushnell, Nebraska; and George W. farms his father's land. Mr. Mulvany is a Republican in politics. He belongs to the Grand Army post at Mason City and is held in high regard by his comrades. Since youth he has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

CLARIS TALBOT, one of Custer county's enthusiastic, capable, and progressive exponents of the vocation of agriculture, has followed this occupation throughout his active career, and is at this time a factor in the development of the farming and stock-raising interests of Custer county. He was born in Parke county, Indiana, November 13, 1873, and is a son of Dr. R. C. and Hattie (Warwick) Talbot, a sketch of the family history being found in the review of the life of Dr. Talbot, elsewhere in this work.

Clariss Talbot was about six years of age when the family came to Custer county, and here he received the advantages of the public schools of Broken Bow. He was reared to agricultural pursuits in Custer county, and during this country's war with Spain he enlisted in the United States Volunteers at Broken Bow, as lieutenant of Company M, First Nebraska Infantry. He was in the service for one year and four months, for one year of which time he was in the Philippines, where he saw active fighting, and was later transferred to Company C, from Geneva, Nebraska, and promoted captain, which rank he held when honorably discharged. He made an excellent record and was accounted a courageous and dutiful soldier, as well as a natural leader of his comrades.

In 1899 Captain Talbot was married, at Broken Bow, to Miss Eva M. Jewett, who was born at Chicago, Illinois, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Jewett, the former of whom is now deceased and the latter of whom is a resident of Broken Bow. Mr. and Mrs. Talbot

became the parents of four children—John J., Orin H., and Charles C., all residing at home; and Roberta, who died in 1916, at the age of thirteen years.

After his marriage Mr. Talbot settled on his father's homestead near Berwyn, where he now rents a large tract of land from his father. He is carrying on his operations in a progressive and capable manner, and as a stockman and farmer has gained an excellent reputation, as he has also as a citizen. In politics he is a Republican and he is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, in which he has received the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite, besides being a member of the Mystic Shrine.

THOMAS LAUGHRAN was one of the earliest settlers of Custer county. Here he arrived in 1874, and from that time until his death he was actively engaged in farming and stock-raising, the while he became one of the well-to-do men of the county.

Thomas Laughran was a native of Ireland and was born in County Tyrone. In his native land he was reared to the age of fifteen years, and he then accompanied his parents to America, the home being established in Canada. There he grew to manhood and there he married Elizabeth Morrow, who was a native of County Antrim, Ireland, and who came to Canada with her parents, in 1847. In Canada Thomas Laughran learned the blacksmith trade, which he followed in that country until 1862, when he came to the United States and established his home in Michigan. He resided in that state until 1869, when he came to Nebraska and located in Saunders county. In 1874 he came to Custer county and took a homestead in section 1, township 19, range 21. Pioneer conditions were in evidence on every hand. What is now Custer county was known as Kountze county and was unorganized territory. The first home of the family was a dugout on the bank of Victoria creek, near where the present home stands, the latter being one of the first frame houses in this part of the county. The nearest neighbor to the east was thirty-one miles away. The family endured all the pioneer hardships and privations, and Thomas Laughran engaged in the stock-raising business on an extensive scale. He was a man of good judgment, and at the time of his death he was the owner of over 1,000 acres of land. He was killed by a steer, in the yards on the farm, when he had reached the age of eighty-six years.

His wife also passed away on the old farm,

at the age of eighty-six. During the Indian scare of 1876 the settlers on Victoria creek left the neighborhood and went to Loup City. While they were on the way they met a mail-carrier from Loup City. Mrs. Laughran was one of the party, and suddenly changed her mind and returned to the settlement, she being the only woman of the neighborhood who stayed. The Indians did not come and the white people were unmolested, but it showed much bravery on the part of this pioneer woman, who proved her love for her husband by remaining with him.

Mr. and Mrs. Laughran became the parents of four children: James R., who owns and resides on the old homestead; Mary, who is the wife of W. H. McCowan, a resident of Furnas county, Nebraska; Alice, who is the widow of Louis Vinage, of Taylor, Nebraska; and Jennie, who is the widow of H. B. Andrews, and who is residing at Broken Bow.

Thomas Laughran and wife were faithful communicants of the Catholic church and were highly respected by all who knew them. They came to Custer county at a time when the work of development had hardly begun, and they lived to see this become one of the well developed sections of the state. They were not only witnesses of the vast changes, but also in the work of transformation they contributed their full share, which entitles them to honorable mention among the sterling pioneers of Custer county.

JOSEPH C. MOORE is one of the wide-awake business men of Anselmo and is a member of the firm of Moore Brothers, dealers in implements and automobiles.

Mr. Moore is a native of Iowa, and was born at Cedar Falls, Black Hawk county, January 12, 1871. His father William Moore, was a native of New York and was engaged in farming and mining in New York and Canada until he settled in Iowa, where he became a resident of Fort Dodge. In 1883 he came to Custer county, Nebraska, and took a homestead and tree claim in township 18, range 22. His first home was a sod house, and he passed through all the pioneer experiences incident to the early days in Custer county. He retired from his farm to Anselmo five years before his death. In Canada he married Mary Maroney, a native of Ireland, and she is still living at Anselmo. They were the parents of the following named children, all of whom are residents of Custer county: John, Thomas, Joseph C., George, and Mrs. J. H. Phillips.

Joseph C. Moore was a lad of twelve years

when the family came to Custer county. He was reared on the farm and was engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1897, when he and his brother George engaged in the implement business, later handling automobiles. The first car load of Ford automobiles brought to the county came to this firm, and they had the agency for several years. The first car load of Dodge Brothers' cars came to this firm, and they now have the agency for this car in four counties. They have a splendidly equipped establishment and are doing a hustling business.

At Eddyville, Mr. Moore was united in marriage to Miss Jennie Tucker, who was born in Wisconsin, a daughter of John and Joanna Tucker. Mrs. Moore was educated in Nebraska and at the time of marriage was a popular teacher in the Broken Bow schools. She is possessed of considerable literary talent and has assisted in gathering data for the history of Anselmo found elsewhere in this volume.

Mr. and Mrs. Moore are members of the Catholic church and are interested in all movements for the growth and development of their community.

ARCHIBALD H. SHEPARD, postmaster of Ansley, and for many years identified with mercantile pursuits at this place, is a representative of that class of men who have by their energy, public spirit, and careful management, reached positions which the struggles of the earlier years scarcely indicate, and who are known and respected for their sterling worth as citizens, having always in view the upbuilding and best interests of the communities in which they live. Of this class, central Nebraska has many representatives, none perhaps more worthy than Mr. Shepard, as is known by the people of the community among whom he has lived for thirty-two years.

Mr. Shepard was born at Ashtabula, Ohio, April 10, 1853, a son of Richard and Rowena (Stratton) Shepard, natives of Ohio. His paternal grandfather, Pelitiah Shepard, was born in Connecticut and was a pioneer of Ohio, where his death occurred; while on the maternal side his grandfather was James Stratton, a native of Ohio, who moved first to Wisconsin and later to Minnesota, where he died. Richard Shepard was born in 1829, in Ohio, where he grew to manhood and was educated. As a young man he began a career on the Great Lakes. For a time he was a captain on Lake Erie boats, and during the Civil war he enlisted in the Thirty-first Regiment of Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, for three years,

but the war closed after he had served eighteen months and he received his honorable discharge. He took part in many engagements, including those during General Sherman's great march to the sea, and finally was one of those who proudly marched through the streets of Washington, D. C., to the cheering of thousands of spectators, in the Grand Review. From Wisconsin he moved with his family to Minnesota, and in 1878 he went to California, where he and his wife passed the remaining years of their lives, Captain Shepard passing away December 31, 1899, aged seventy years, and Mrs. Shepard dying in March, 1915, when eighty-five years of age, she having held herself secure in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church. Captain Shepard had made a success of his life and was in comfortable financial circumstances before taking up his residence in California. He was a Democrat in politics. There were seven children in the family, of whom four are now living: Archibald H.; Mrs. Addie Carrington, a widow living in California; Alice, the wife of ex-Governor Lind of Minneapolis, Minnesota; and E. E., engaged in the practice of law at Los Angeles, California.

Archibald H. Shepard received his early education in the district schools of Minnesota, and after accompanying his parents to California supplemented this by a commercial course in Bryant & Stratton's Business College, at San Francisco. He took up telegraphy later and followed it for a time, but subsequently went to North Dakota, where he engaged in the mercantile business. After three years in that state, he sought a more populous community for demonstrating his business capacity and energy, and accordingly, in 1886, he came to Custer county and located at Ansley, which has since been his home and the stage of his activities and successes. At the time of his arrival he engaged in mercantile business in a modest way, and from the start his venture was a success. A man of excellent business and executive ability, sagacious, and far-seeing, by his earnest desire to please his customers and his courteous treatment and fair dealing, he soon secured a liberal patronage. He gave the business his personal attention for thirty years, but since 1916 he has devoted his entire time to the handling of the duties connected with his position as postmaster of Ansley, to which he was appointed, by President Wilson, in the year mentioned. The family, however, still own and conduct the store. Mr. Shepard is a staunch and uncompromising Democrat, and wields no small influence in his community. The best interests of the locality receive his support, and he withholds his co-

operation from no worthy undertaking tending to promote the general welfare. With his family, he belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Shepard is widely known in fraternal circles, being a Scottish Rite Mason, and a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

In 1885 Mr. Shepard married Miss Lottie Welch, who was born at Buffalo, New York, daughter of Sylvester Welch, at one time assistant jailer of the city of Buffalo. They have three children: Myrtle S. and Archibald H., Jr., who are conducting the store; and Roy E., who, in the hospital service of the United States army, was assigned to active duty in France.

GROVER A. HOLEMAN, cashier of the Farmers State Bank of Ansley, has been connected with this institution from the time that he completed his youthful education, and he has advanced to his present post through individual merit. His career has been an expression of well applied and well directed industry, and he has succeeded in building up for himself a reputation as an adherent of sound and conservative banking principles. He was born at Bedford, Iowa, June 4, 1887, a son of John H. and Mary (Elliott) Holeman.

Reuben A. Holeman, grandfather of Grover A., was born in Indiana, later moved to Warren county, Illinois, and after a career spent in agricultural pursuits he retired from active life, his death occurring at Ansley, Nebraska, in January, 1918. John H. Holeman was born in Warren county, Illinois, and as a young man moved to Iowa, where he was engaged in farming until 1892. In that year he came to Custer county and rented a farm, which he operated as a renter for two years. Subsequently he purchased this property and he continued its operation until his retirement, when he moved to his present home, at Ansley. He is a self-made man who has won success, and whose fellow citizens have on numerous occasions honored him by election to public office. His political affiliation is with the Democratic party. In Iowa Mr. Holeman married Miss Mary Elliott, a native of that state, and they are the parents of four children: Grover A.; H. E., principal of the Albert Lea Commercial College, at Albert Lea, Minnesota; Gladys, engaged in teaching school; and Alvin, attending the Ansley high school. Mrs. Holeman is a member of the Baptist church.

Grover A. Holeman attended the graded and high schools of Ansley, following which he took a business course at the Shenandoah Commercial Institute, Shenandoah, Iowa, in



MRS. JESSE F. NETH



JESSE F. NETH

which he was graduated in 1907, and he completed his training at the Gem City Business College, Quincy, Illinois, in 1908. At that time he returned to Nebraska and entered the Farmers State Bank of Ansley, in the capacity of bookkeeper, subsequently being made assistant cashier, a post which he retained for five years. He was elected cashier February 2, 1914, and has continued to act in that capacity to the present. This is the second oldest banking institution at Ansley and, as a reliable and sound banking house, it has gained and retained public confidence. Its growth has been steady and consistent, as will be noted in the fact that when Mr. Holeman entered the bank the average deposits were \$22,000, while to-day they are \$200,000. The bank has a capital of \$20,000, and its surplus and undivided profits amount to \$1,000. Mr. Holeman, in his official capacity, has contributed materially to the growth and prosperity of the institution, at the same time advancing his own standing in banking circles, as a capable and thoroughly informed banker.

On August 3, 1911, at Ansley, Mr. Holeman married Miss Myrtle E. Bristol, daughter of Rupert C. Bristol, a sketch of whose career appears elsewhere in this work. Four children have been born to them: Grover Garland, born in 1912; Myrtle Mildred, born in 1914; Lawrence, born in 1916; and John Orville, born in 1918. Mrs. Holeman is a member of the Baptist church, in the work of which she is actively interested, and to the movements of which Mr. Holeman is a contributor. He is a Mason of the thirty-second degree and is treasurer of his Masonic blue lodge. In politics a Democrat, he has been repeatedly urged to become a candidate for public office, and on one occasion was appointed deputy county clerk, but he refused the honor, preferring to devote his entire time and attention to his duties at the bank.

JESSE E. NETH. — The story of Jesse E. Neth reads a good deal like the stories of other Custer county pioneers. His advent into this world occurred April 22, 1872, and the place selected for the occasion was Livingston county, Illinois. His father, Jacob Neth, was a native of Wittenberg, Germany. His mother, whose maiden name was Mary Strunk, was a Pennsylvanian by birth. These were the parents of an estimable family in which were ten children; seven are still living. The living are as follows: William S. Neth, Franklin B. Neth, Katherine (Neth) Stewart, Jesse E. Neth, Jo-

seph L. Neth, Lucinda P. Neth, and Dora K. (Neth) Meyers.

Two denominations are represented in the family. The father was a Lutheran, and the mother a member of the Christian church. Jacob Neth, father of the subject of this narrative, went to Covington, Ohio, when but a small boy. During the Civil war he enlisted in the Fourteenth Ohio Infantry, and he served for the full duration of the war. He was with Sherman on his memorable expedition to the sea. By occupation he was always a farmer, and, withal, a very frugal, prosperous citizen.

Jesse E. Neth, reared on a farm, has always followed farming for a livelihood. When asked concerning the first money he earned, he replied that when seven years of age he carried water on horseback for harvest hands, for which he received ten cents a day. By the time he was eight years of age, by working at odd jobs, he had saved enough money to enable him to buy a suit of clothes. When he was fourteen years old his father and mother both died, within two weeks of each other. After the death of his parents, a cousin by the name of Mike Maier, of Covington, Ohio, took all the children home with him, and they were placed in different families, as opportunities were presented. Young Jesse was put to work and, being rather a wiry lad, made good at all kinds of farm work. For his first month's work he received a pair of moleskin pants, a box of paper collars, and fifty cents in money. Thinking that perhaps fortune would favor him better in the west, he came to Custer county in February, 1890, and here he worked on various farms, for different farmers, until 1903 when he homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 21, township 16, range 22.

In August of 1904 Mr. Neth married Katie M. Kelsey, who was at the time a resident of Broken Bow. Her father, Martin Kelsey, was a native of New York and the family name of her mother was Lutes.

Mr. and Mrs. Neth are the parents of three children — Walter S., Orrine E., and Helen. Mr. Neth owns 480 acres of good land, and has recently sold 480 acres. He is a prosperous, well known farmer and stock-raiser, a splendid citizen, and one of the leaders in the community where he resides.

On the home farm the Neths are building, at the time of this writing, a commodious farm home that will be one of the best in the community, and that will cost between three and four thousand dollars when completed. He has also a fine equipment of outbuildings on the farm, and has just installed a water system

that is equal to any farm water-plant in the state. With this water accessible, the new farm home will be thoroughly modern.

ADELBERT LOGAN THOMAS is one of the responsible, middle-aged farmers whose life activities have already been counted as a success, and he lives in the vicinity of Merna, where he conducts farming operations on what might be consistently be called a model farm.

Mr. Thomas was born September 27, 1879, in Murray, Iowa, and he is a son of Frank and Leila (Reed) Thomas. The father was a Vermont Yankee, and the mother a native of the Buckeye state. Born to the union of the parents were two sons, the subject of this sketch being the first born, and the other, Otho O., being well known in the vicinity of Merna. The Thomas family came to Custer county when A. Logan Thomas was but a lad of three years, and the father took a homestead and a timber claim one and one-half miles south of Merna. It was here that the boy grew up, and he still remembers that the country in those days was rather wild, roads being trails, and the fields, for the most part, being prairie. The main thoroughfare from Broken Bow to Merna passed through his father's farm.

Concerning those days Mr. Thomas relates that on one occasion several cowboys rode through the yard. A big yellow pumpkin lay in front of the house, and thinking that no one was at home, the boys rode their ponies several times around the house on a gallop, and each time they passed the pumpkin they gave it a shot. When they finished their sport the pumpkin was pretty well perforated. The mother was at home alone in the house, and one can imagine that she was badly frightened. The father was threshing for a neighbor, and, hearing the shots, he rushed home. The boys had just left, but seeing him put in an appearance so suddenly upon the scene, the leaders rode back and apologized. They said they did not know any one was at home and were just having a little gun practice.

Mr. Thomas says the first money that he earned was by riding a lead-horse on a binder, for twenty-five cents a day. He worked at home, secured a fair education in the common schools, and on November 9, 1902, at Merna, he married Josie Cory, a daughter of Daniel W. and Nancy (Fall) Cory.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas remain on the old homestead and have a splendid home, where farming operations are conducted in an ideal manner. They have two children, Franklin

W. and Earl A., both of whom are attending school. Rated as a progressive farmer and stock-raiser, Mr. Thomas maintains the father's farm, which now belongs to the widowed mother, and he deserves credit for the showing that he has made. His father died June 29, 1900. Mr. Thomas gives his attention to diversified agriculture, with stock-raising as a profitable side line. His wife does well her share and contributes to the family income with butter, cream, chickens, and eggs. During the last year the proceeds from the poultry-yard purchased fifty dollars of thrift stamps. In emergencies, Mrs. Thomas goes into the field and becomes a valuable assistant to her husband in caring for the crops. This she did in the summer of 1918, when other help could not be obtained, and thus they not only saved the crop, but also an expense of four dollars a day for a hired man who would have done little, if any, more work.

WILLIAM A. CRISS.—Fourteen miles west of Broken Bow the subject of this sketch plies his vocation. There he is a tiller of the soil, a raiser of stock and, in general, a producer of food stuffs, all of which renders him a valuable citizen and one with whom present-day conditions could not dispense.

William A. Criss hails from the Hoosier state, where he was born December 13, 1874. He is a son of Levi and Mary (Walker) Criss, both of whom were natives of Greene county, Indiana, the first county and state known to young William A., who is the eldest of the father's family, the others being Silas L., Ari J., Sciota A. Grounds, Jocie M. (deceased), and John E. The parents belonged to the Christian church and were farmers by occupation and residence. On the farm young William began his operations.

William A. Criss was but three years old when his parents came to Nebraska. The trip was made in a covered wagon, but such vivid impressions were made upon the child's memory that he remembers to this day that on one occasion he was lying in the back end of the wagon and that he kicked a feather bed and pair of pillows out of the wagon, these treasured household possessions never having been recovered. The first stop of the Criss family was in Valley county, where they resided five years. Then, in the fall of 1884, they moved into Custer county, and located a homestead fourteen miles northwest of Ansley, on Clear creek. On this claim William spent his boyhood days. The father died in 1892 and the

mother sold the claim for \$300 and went back to Indiana. The homestead is now very valuable.

William A. Criss and two of his brothers, Silas and Ari, remained in Custer county, where they worked by the month, wherever they could obtain employment, until they were able to establish themselves in independent operations.

The domestic life of William A. Criss dates from April, 1896, when, at Ansley, Nebraska, he led to the marriage altar Miss Ida O. Brooks, who was born in Davis county, Iowa, a daughter of George W. Brooks and Eliza (Niles) Brooks, the father having been born in Iowa, and the mother in Illinois. The Crisses have a good home, and until the last few years have had a hard time making a living, but industry and good management have finally brought to them definite independence and prosperity.

Following is a brief record concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Criss: Mrs. Anna B. Olson is a resident of Colorado, where her husband is a farmer, and the names of the other children are here entered in respective order — Harlan L., Grant W., Grace D., Nora O., Carle L.

Mr. Criss is the fortunate owner of 480 acres of land, well improved, and stocked for profitable operations. Careful management, good judgment, economical habits, and tireless efforts account for his accumulations. He tells a story of the early days, to the effect that six gold-seekers came through the Clear creek country in an early day and, being threatened by Indians, they separated, to evade pursuit. They came together at a point further east and one of them claimed that he had buried his sack of gold dust under a lone elm tree on the creek about twelve miles east of the present site of Mason City. Mr. Criss says that he and other neighbor boys put in many a day's work digging under elm trees in that vicinity, but so far the sack of gold has continued to elude the spade and mattock.

The Criss family are counted desirable citizens and kind and obliging neighbors.

HERBERT OXFORD is a young farmer living on Ash creek, southwest of Broken Bow, on eighty acres of land on which he is rearing a family of small children, operating his farm, milking cows, and laying the foundation of a competency which labor and management are sure to secure. He was born in Harrison county, Missouri, November 24, 1884, and is a son of John and Hannah (King) Oxford,

both natives of Kentucky. In the family were the following named children — Robert F., Wilda Noble, William T., Ora, Cornelius, Oscar, Lafayette, Rannick, Celia (deceased), Charles L., Herbert, Emma Wright, Mattie, and Francis. John Oxford was nineteen years of age when he went to California with the gold-seekers — in a wagon train in which were about fifteen wagons, hauled by ox teams. He was at that time in the employ of Glasscock & Taylor, who were freighting supplies to the gold fields. He stayed in California three years and upon receiving word that his father was very ill, he started for home. When he arrived at the home, the father was dead and buried. At the time of the Civil war John Oxford enlisted, and he served eight months.

Concerning the early years of young Herbert Oxford, it may be noted that he made himself generally useful on the farm, doing chores and such light work as a sturdy boy could do. When eight years of age he chopped wood for his mother and earned ten cents, which he saved for Fourth of July money. On the anniversary of the nation's independence he invested his money in fire-crackers. His celebration, however, came to a sudden end, as the fire-crackers were slow to ignite and, thinking that he could help matters by blowing into the lighted end, the explosion came rather suddenly and filled his face with powder-marks, with the result that to this day Herbert declares that he does not like fire-crackers. His early life was on the farm, and farming has been the occupation of his lifetime. He came to Custer county in the fall of 1904, with his brother Rannick. They came to an uncle, James Oxford, who was then living on Lillian creek. The uncle was one of the earliest pioneers of the Middle Loup country. Herbert went to work as foreman on the Albert Blessing ranch, and during the next three years he accumulated enough to start farming for himself, which he did.

On March 8, 1910, at Broken Bow, Mr. Oxford was united in marriage to Rosa Deal, a daughter of Charles and Marietta (Province) Deal, whose home was in Buffalo county. Mrs. Oxford has two sisters — Bertha Sexton, and Violet, the latter of whom is at home with her parents, who now live near Broken Bow.

Mr. and Mrs. Oxford have five children, all young, full of "pep" and promise, and they add much of cheerfulness to the household. They are: Mary, seven; Melva I., six; Ruby S., four; Clarence, two; Lawrence W., one. Mr. Oxford's home is located on eighty acres of fine land adjoining his father's land, which

he farms on shares, and he thus is enabled to conduct farming operations on a larger scale than would otherwise be possible. He has made a fine showing, and has proved himself to be an energetic, progressive farmer who is laying the foundation of a competency that will be well deserved. He has given considerable attention to dairying, milking cows, farming and raising stock, his good wife doing all the time her part — taking care of the chickens, butter and eggs, and doing everything possible to augment the efforts of her husband. They sustain a good name in the community and are rated substantial, dependable people. They are members of the Methodist church.

WILLIAM N. BRAY, who is numbered among the successful men of Custer county, and who is now living in comfortable retirement at his home at Mason City, is an example of the self-made type of manhood, for he commenced life in modest circumstances and worked his own way to independence and prosperity. Mr. Bray was born in Gallia county, Ohio, January 20, 1848, and is a son of Nathan and Sarah (Gooch) Bray.

The parents of Mr. Bray were natives of Ohio, the mother having been a daughter of James Gooch, a pioneer of that state and a lifelong agriculturist. From Ohio Mr. and Mrs. Bray moved to West Virginia, where the mother died and in 1861 Nathan Bray went with his family to Missouri, where he passed the rest of his life in farming, and where his death occurred. A man of industry and intelligence, he accumulated considerable property in politics, but took little interest in public affairs, save that of a good citizen. Both he and Mrs. Bray were members of the Baptist church. They were the parents of five children, of whom two are living: William N., of this review, and John, of Huntington, West Virginia.

William N. Bray received his education in the public schools of Ohio and West Virginia. Coming to Custer county in 1885, he filed on a homestead, but subsequently relinquished it and pre-empted the farm which he now owns, a tract of 200 acres lying four miles northeast of Mason City, in addition to which he owns considerable land nearer to that place. When he began his independent career, he was a poor youth with only ordinary advantages, and at the time that he came to Custer county he possessed little more than his personal ability, natural ambition, and profound self-confidence to aid him. These carried him

through the starting years, and have since contributed to aid him in the securing of a handsome competence. In 1910 he retired from the active pursuits of the farm and moved to Mason City, where for two years he was engaged in the dairy business. Since that time he has been living in retirement. Mr. Bray was originally a Republican, but in more recent years has been a supporter of the Democratic party. He has not engaged in public affairs, but has discharged the responsibilities of citizenship in a manner that well entitles him to the unqualified esteem and regard in which he is held by his fellow townspeople.

In 1870 Mr. Bray married Miss Frances Ogburn, who was born in West Virginia, and they became the parents of six children: Ida, who is the wife of John Walker, a farmer in Custer county; Sarah, who married Ludrick Jackson and resides on a farm near Mason City; Charles, who is an agriculturist near Sioux City, Iowa; Clella, who first married Charles Baker, and, second, Joseph Scott, and now resides at Broken Bow; John, who is a farmer in Sherman county; and Fred, who is at the time of this writing a member of the United States army, stationed in camp at Fort Presidio, California. Mrs. Bray died in 1884, and Mr. Bray was again married in 1890, to Melissa Wood, who was born in Missouri, a daughter of John and Amanda (Hillhouse) Wood, the former a native of Tennessee and the latter of Missouri. Mr. Wood died in Nebraska, and following his death his widow returned to her native state, where she passed away. Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Bray: Claude, who is conducting the operations on his father's farm; Jessie, who resides with her parents; Leonard, who is a member of Company B, Forty-eighth Engineers, American Expeditionary Forces, France; Ruby, who is attending business college at Lincoln; Harry, who is identified with a business enterprise at Minden, this state; Garnett, who is with the One Hundred and Tenth American Aviation Squadron, in France; and Marion and Melville, who remain with their parents. The members of the Bray family belong to the Baptist church.

REV. THOMAS F. MINOGUE. — The life work of a priest of the Holy Roman Catholic church is essentially one of self-sacrificing devotion to the needs of his people, his church, and the Divine Master whom he serves. The work demands years of preliminary study and preparation, for the highest of intellectual standards and the broadest of

practical humanitarianism are demanded, the while there can be no temporal rewards commensurate with the services to be rendered, save the satisfaction of having labored faithfully and well in the behalf of Christ and humanity. Father Minogue has measured up fully to the demands and exactions of his high calling, and is one of the representative members of the Catholic priesthood in this section of Nebraska. He is pastor of the church at Anselmo, is also serving the churches at Dale and Merna, and commands the high esteem and affectionate regard of the members of his parish, as well as the confidence and good will of the entire community.

Father Minogue was born near the River Shannon, in County Clare, Ireland, April 23, 1881. His parents, Patrick and Ellen (Malone) Minogue, were born and reared on the fair old Emerald Isle, where the mother still resides, the father having passed away.

Father Thomas F. Minogue was educated for the priesthood at All Hallows College, Dublin, Ireland, and was ordained June 24, 1909. He immediately came to the United States and was assigned to St. Bridget's church at South Omaha, where he remained ten months, and thereafter he was located at Sidney, Nebraska, for two months. For one year he was in charge of the church at Alliance, Box Butte county, and June 7, 1911, he came to Anselmo, where since that time he has been the zealous and devoted shepherd of this fold and has given earnestly of his time and talents to the furtherance of the spiritual and temporal wellbeing of his parish.

PHILIP G. HOUGHTON.—The true standard by which to judge a community is by the character of its prominent citizens, for progress is rarely, if ever, the result of chance but results from the execution of well laid plans, based upon a thorough comprehension of the laws of business. In this connection, as one whose business qualifications and personal character are of the best, Philip G. Houghton may be said to be fairly representative of the alert, progressive spirit that has brought the thriving community of Arnold to the forefront among Custer county towns during recent years.

Philip G. Houghton, of the real-estate, insurance, and loan firm of Houghton & Perkins, was born May 14, 1867, in Chenango county, New York, and he is a son of John and Sophia (Bartlett) Houghton. His parents, who were natives of England, immigrated to the United

States in 1865, and settled in New York state, where Philip the youngest child was born. John and Sophia (Bartlett) Houghton became the parents of two sons and four daughters, but only Philip G. and a sister, Mrs. Lizzie Banner, of Boone, Iowa, survive. The family continued to live in New York until 1879, in which year they came to the west and took up their abode on a farm fourteen miles east of the city of Lincoln, Nebraska, where they remained four years. In the year 1883 John Houghton came to Custer county, where he located on a homestead situated five miles southwest of Arnold, in the Yuca valley, where he continued to be energetically engaged in farming and stock-raising until his death, October 9, 1915. Mrs. Houghton still survives her husband and makes her home at Arnold.

The boyhood of Philip G. Houghton was passed in New York, where as a lad he earned his first money on a farm, being paid the sum of fifteen cents for topping a field of carrots. He attended the district schools and was twelve years old when he came with his parents to Nebraska, being still a youth upon his arrival in Custer county. He did not engage in farming on his own account until 1888, in which year he took a homestead three and one-half miles south of Arnold, and there he is now the owner of 480 acres of well improved land. Mr. Houghton was successfully engaged in farming and stock-raising on this property until 1908, when he changed his place of residence to the town of Arnold, and embarked in the real-estate, insurance, and loan business. He continued alone until 1917, when he formed a partnership with S. A. Perkins, adopting the firm name of Houghton & Perkins, and this business has continued to the present time, with constantly increasing prosperity. Messrs. Houghton and Perkins are the owners of the old Arnold Bank building and of other desirable property, both at Arnold and in the surrounding country, and as live and energetic business men they are handling Custer county land at attractive prices. Mr. Houghton possesses the necessary qualifications for a successful real-estate man and his reputation in the business circles of the community is of the best. He has done much to assist in materially building up the community and county of his adoption.

Mr. Houghton was united in marriage June 2, 1888, at Arnold, to Miss Mattie Collins, of Grundy county, Missouri, a daughter of Reuben and Elizabeth Collins. They have no children. Mr. Houghton has received the thirty-second degree of the Ancient Accepted Scottish



Philip G. Houghton

S. A. Perkins

Rite of Masonry, besides being a noble of the Mystic Shrine and a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

S. A. PERKINS.—Prominent among the vigorous real-estate dealers of Custer county, one who has been rewarded with marked success during the six years that he has followed this line of business is S. A. Perkins, member of the firm of Houghton & Perkins, of Arnold. Prior to his entrance upon the field of real estate, Mr. Perkins was engaged in farming, and in each of these connections with the soil, whether in Custer county or elsewhere, he has been able to make the most of his opportunities and to gain a satisfying share of prosperity through his transactions.

Mr. Perkins was born in Monroe county, Iowa, September 16, 1866, and is a son of Elisha M. and Sarah (Strickland) Perkins. He was but four years of age when brought by his father to Butler county, Nebraska, the father taking up a homestead ten miles north of David City, on the present site of Octavia. The youth grew up amid agricultural surroundings and was taught the routine business of the farm by a father who was industrious and who demanded that his son be also, so that the summer months usually found S. A. Perkins actively identified with the occupations of the farm, and when he was not attending the district school, during the winter terms, he was generally attending the school of hard work and sturdy experience, in the summers. He remained under the parental roof until shortly after he had attained his twenty-first birthday, and October 13, 1887, at Swan, Iowa, he was united in marriage to Miss Nina Palmer, who likewise was born in that state, a daughter of William and Martha (Thomas) Palmer, well known and highly respected people there. Mr. and Mrs. Perkins have one son, Glen O., who is one of the energetic young business men of Arnold, where he is cashier of the Arnold State Bank. Glen Perkins married Miss Ethel Collins, daughter of John W. and Jennie (Hoffman) Collins, and they are the parents of two daughters.

After his marriage Mr. Perkins settled down to farming in Butler county, and there he continued operations with increasing success until 1906, when he glimpsed an opportunity and, grasping it, came to Custer county and purchased 640 acres of land, situated three miles east of Arnold. There he continued to farm until 1912, his industry, experience, and good management gaining him marked success as

an agriculturist. In 1912 he left the farm and moved to Arnold, where he established himself in the real-estate, insurance, and loan business, continuing alone until 1917, when he formed a partnership with P. G. Houghton, under the firm name of Houghton & Perkins. This alliance has continued successfully to the present time, and is accounted a strong and important business combination, through which some important transactions have been brought to a successful and satisfactory conclusion. Mr. Perkins is well informed as to land values in this locality, having made a thorough study of the situation, and since entering the real-estate field he has done much to assist in the upbuilding of this part of Custer county. He has supreme faith in the future of the locality and his entire satisfaction with the soil here, is evidenced by his retaining ownership of his farming land and by the fact that he has made plans to continue in the real-estate business indefinitely. He is a stockholder and director of the Arnold State Bank, is a Republican in his political allegiance, and is prominently affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, in which he has received the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite and is also a noble of the Mystic Shrine.

REV. CHARLES A. SHOOK.—Of the supreme agencies which mold the tendencies and beckon most persistently to the mind of youth, few exceed in potency the example of those who have already fought their battles and reached success. The great lesson to be found in the life of a good and capable man, next to the intelligent application of the forces within him for the benefit of mankind in general, is the encouragement disseminated by his rise from obscurity to prominence. Such reflections are brought forcibly to mind in noting the career of Rev. Charles A. Shook, for twenty years a minister of the Advent Christian and Christian churches, and now engaged in his zealous labors at Ansley.

Rev. Charles A. Shook was born at Galien, Berrien county, Michigan, February 19, 1876, a son of John and Martha (Chandler) Shook, and he belongs to a family that has given representatives as participants in every American war. The family of Shook was founded in this county in 1740, by George Shook, a native of Amsterdam, Holland, and for a term of years the family was well known in Pennsylvania, of which state John Shook, the grandfather of Charles A., was a native. The maternal grandfather, Josiah Chandler, was

a native of New York, and migrated to Michigan about 1830. Subsequently he moved to Kansas, where his death occurred. John Shook, father of Rev. Charles A., was born at East Hanover, Pennsylvania, May 28, 1831, and as a youth learned the trade of shoemaker, which he followed both in Pennsylvania and Michigan. He was a resident of the latter state when the Civil war came on, and in August, 1864, he enlisted in Company E, First Michigan Light Artillery, with which he served until July, 1865, when he received his honorable discharge. Returning to his Michigan home, he resumed his trade, but later he became an extract manufacturer, a business in which his natural thrift, industry, and ability gained him marked success. He was a very religious man and a member of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Politically a Republican, he took a keen interest in local affairs, and he was city marshal of Buchanan, Michigan, for ten years. His fraternal connection was with the Odd Fellows. At Buchanan, on March 16, 1866, Mr. Shook married Martha Chandler, who was born at Walkerton, Indiana, March 16, 1835, and who died August 19, 1903, he surviving until March 14, 1911. Of their four children, Charles A. is the only survivor.

Charles A. Shook was graduated from the public schools of Buchanan, Michigan, June 13, 1895, following which he took a theological course at Mendota, Illinois, and subsequently spent one year in the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, at Louisville, Kentucky. His first charge as a minister of the Christian church was at Bangor, Michigan. Thereafter he held pastoral charges at Union Mills; Jefferson, Indiana; Buchanan, Michigan; and Palmer, Illinois. He then came to Nebraska, being first at Miller and later at Eddyville, and finally coming to Ansley. Mr. Shook is one of the most industrious of workers, laboring zealously from morning to night in behalf of his church. In addition he is not unknown to the lecture platform, where he has accomplished some excellent results, and he has gained somewhat more than a local reputation because of his talents as a writer, several of his works having gained widespread and favorable attention, among them: "Cumorah Revisited, or Book of Mormon, and the Claims of the Mormons Re-examined from the Viewpoint of American Archaeology and Ethnology," "The True Origin of Mormon Polygamy," "The True Origin of the Book of Mormon," and "The Gist of the Bible." A profound student, he has strong views in regard to prohibition, being a staunch supporter of

temperance, and he is also a Socialist. Fraternally he is a Mason, an Odd Fellow, and a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

November 30, 1898, at Bangor, Michigan, Rev. Charles A. Shook married Miss Nellie Baker, a daughter of Jacob D. and Elizabeth Baker, farming people of Michigan, and to this union there have been born four children: Helen, Ruth, Harold, and Donald, all at home.

JAMES B. JONES.—The life of James B. Jones, of Ansley, has been an expression of practical and diversified activity, and in its range has invaded the realms of agriculture, in which he has successfully accumulated a large and valuable property; the fields of real estate and auctioneering, where he has displayed the possession of marked commercial ability; and public life, in which he has established a splendid record for executive capacity and conscientiousness, which are distinctive features of his work and character.

Mr. Jones was born at Mexico, Missouri, July 23, 1861, and is a son of Martin and Martha (Wade) Jones. His paternal grandfather, James Jones, was born in Kentucky, as was also his wife, Rebecca, and soon after their marriage they moved to Missouri, where for a time Mr. Jones followed the vocation of veterinarian, but later he engaged in farming in Illinois, where he remained until his death. Reuben Wade, the maternal grandfather of James B. Jones, was a native of Kentucky and was a shoemaker by trade. He moved to the vicinity of Kirkwood, Illinois, where he engaged in farming, and he passed the remainder of his life in the pursuits of the soil. Martin Jones, father of James B., was born at Mexico, Missouri, where he married Martha Wade, a native of Logansport, Indiana, and there their only child was born. During the Civil war Mr. Jones' sympathies were with the Confederacy, and for several years he served as a member of the state militia. Some time after the close of the struggle he removed to Illinois, where he engaged in merchandising, and he was fairly successful therein. He passed the rest of his life in the Prairie state. He was a Democrat and was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which his wife also belonged, although later in life she transferred her membership to the Christian church.

James B. Jones was educated in the public schools of Warren county, Illinois, where he had been taken as a lad, and his early training was along agricultural lines, so that he naturally adopted the vocation of farming.

In 1884, when twenty-three years of age, he came to Custer county, Nebraska, and preempted a claim, which he proceeded to put under a high state of cultivation. He at once entered actively into local governmental affairs, and in 1890 he was elected sheriff of the county, a capacity in which he served two years. He then returned to his work on his farm, but was not permitted to remain long out of public life, for in 1898 he was elected state grain inspector, an office which he held also in 1899 and 1900. During the years 1895, 1896, and 1897, he had been deputy warden of the state penitentiary, and in 1901 was made jailer of Douglas county and acted in that capacity also in 1902. A man of marked courage, strong for discipline, but with ideals of humanitarianism, he made an excellent official record and served in many ways to better existing conditions in regard to the wards of the state whom it is necessary to confine. In 1917 Mr. Jones left the home farm, which he had increased to a half-section of land, and moved to Ansley, but he and his son still own the country property and carry on extensive operations in general farming and stock-raising. The land is under a high state of cultivation and is very productive, while its value has been enhanced by the erection of substantial buildings and the installing of modern equipment of all kinds. Since coming to Ansley Mr. Jones has engaged with a full measure of success in the real-estate business and has continued in auctioneering activities, in which he has been well known for the past twenty-eight years. Politically he is a Republican, with progressive views. His fraternal connections are with the Modern Woodmen of America, in which he is venerable counsel; the Fraternal Order of Eagles; and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He and the members of his family belong to the Baptist church.

September 28, 1882, Mr. Jones married Miss Allie Maus, who was born at Aledo, Illinois, daughter of Joseph and Emma Maus, natives of Pennsylvania, and early settlers of Illinois. Mr. Maus died in the latter state, following which Mrs. Maus came to Nebraska, and she passed away at Ansley. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Jones: Mamie, who is the wife of Ralph Bush, a Custer county farmer; Roy C., who also follows farming here; Flossie, who is the wife of Jacob Kulhanek, a farmer in Custer county; Gay, who is the wife of James Petrik, likewise a farmer here; Gladys, who is the wife of Frank Kulhanek, an agriculturist of Custer county; Vida, who is the wife of Louis Chris-

man, a Custer county farmer; and Dewey, who is carrying on operations on his father's farm.

GLEN O. PERKINS. — No list of the substantial and representative financial institutions of Custer county would be complete if there were failure to make mention of the Arnold State Bank. Strictly a home institution, it is backed by local men who have their capital and their reputations wrapped up in its welfare and whose ability, financial astuteness, and mature judgment are enlisted in thoroughly safeguarding the interests of the depositors. One of the stockholders and influential executives of this well ordered banking house in the village of Arnold is Glen O. Perkins, who is the incumbent of the position of cashier and who is building up for himself a high reputation in banking circles.

Mr. Perkins is a Nebraskan by birth and a Custer county man by education, inclination, and business training and association. He is indebted to the public schools of the county for his early educational discipline, and on the 11th of February, 1913, he became identified with the Arnold State Bank. At the same time Clarence E. Mills, who at the time of this writing is in the military service of the United States, became assistant cashier of the bank, he likewise being deserving of great credit for the service he rendered in connection with the development of the substantial business of the institution, while similar credit is due to the stockholders, whose personnel has remained unchanged since that time.

The Arnold State Bank was organized in 1909, with a capital stock of \$10,000, and it was not long before its able executive management and its general solidity had so far increased the scope of its business as to justify an increase in the capital stock, which is now \$50,000. The deposits have grown in proportionate rate, and in this have been shown forth the increasing prosperity of the community which the bank serves and also the confidence in which it is uniformly held. With the opening of the year 1919 the Arnold State Bank had deposits of nearly \$500,000. As previously noted, the officials of the bank are all local men of substantial civic and financial standing, with prominent interests either as business men or as farmers and stock-growers. The personnel of the executive corps is as here noted: President, John Finch; vice-president, Ira P. Mills; cashier, Glen O. Perkins. In addition to these officers the board of directors includes also Fay G. Finch, Alexander Delosh, P. S. Houghton, S. A. Perkins, C. E. Mills,

and Dr. F. A. Burnham. At the time when the great world war came to a close the Arnold State Bank displayed its service flag with four stars, these stars being representative of Clarence E. Mills, former assistant cashier, who was with Company A, Headquarters Brigade, General Headquarters of the American Expeditionary Forces, France; Lloyd S. Beltz and Hans Madison, in training at Camp Dodge, Iowa; and George Rath, in the radio branch of the service and in training at Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana.

JOHN H. WEVERKA, who is one of Custer county's substantial and respected citizens, owns a large acreage of land here and has a wide reputation as a successful breeder of fine stock of all kinds, making a specialty of Poland-China hogs. He is a self-made man, in that he has built up his fortune through his own industry, his start in life having been made with a half-section given him by his father.

John H. Weverka was born in the city of Omaha, Nebraska, February 8, 1883. His parents are Martin and Frances Weverka, who were born in Austria and who came from there to the United States in 1881. Their objective point was Nebraska, and for two years after reaching this state they lived at Omaha, where their son John H. was born. Two weeks after that event they came to Custer county and homesteaded, and they still live on their property. They became the parents of ten children, and the following are living: Joseph, who is a farmer living in Kansas, married Mary Tomes; Mary is the wife of James Kriss, a farmer north of Comstock; Albina is the wife of Joseph Moravec, a farmer north of Comstock; John H. is the immediate subject of this sketch; and Martin, who is a farmer living near Sargent, Nebraska, married Emma Polak.

Almost a native son of Custer county, John H. Weverka has from boyhood taken a son's interest in the affairs and development of the county. He obtained his education in the public schools and remained at home working for his father until he was twenty-five years of age, during this time becoming skilled in farm methods and the use of farm machinery. Although a young man, Mr. Weverka, through his natural aptitude and industry, has accomplished thus far in life much more than many have with many added years. He now owns 880 acres of land, gradually acquired, a large part of which he uses for pasture. The portion that he devotes to crop-raising has a four-

foot depth of soil and is unusually fertile. He has his farm well stocked, has substantial and adequate buildings of all kinds, and an air of thrift and comfort prevails. While he is known as an excellent farmer and intelligent stock-breeder, Mr. Weverka has proven himself still more and has done work on his place that would be creditable to an engineer. More than that, his work has benefited not only himself but the county as well. Finding that about fifty acres of his land was too marshy to be successfully cultivated, he set an example of improvement by digging a drain from seven to twenty feet deep and 700 feet in length, running tile the whole distance, thereby redeeming this and adjacent land and making it particularly well adapted for certain crops. Mr. Weverka is progressive in many ways in his farm undertakings and is so capable that they are usually very successful. He has skill with tools and does a large part of his own carpenter work. As may be imagined, he is one of the busy and cheerful men of his neighborhood. His property is located in section 11, township 18.

Mr. Weverka was married October 7, 1907, to Miss Pauline Moravec, whose parents came from Europe and settled as pioneers in Howard county, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Weverka have seven children, namely: Rosa, Minnie, John, Paul and Pauline (twins), Frances and Annie. In politics he is a Democrat and is very loyal to his party organization. With his family he belongs to the Catholic church.

C. B. LAURIDSON. — It would be hard to conceive of a more solid combination for the attainment of financial security than a bank founded upon the prosperity and landed values of such a rich agricultural county as Custer, and this fact is exemplified in the prosperity of the Farmers Bank of Mason City, of which C. B. Lauridson is president. Mr. Lauridson is one of the substantial stockholders in the bank and his status as a farmer and a citizen is typical of the material upon which it rests and which has made the institution illustrative of the best type of country bank in a farming community.

Mr. Lauridson, who has been an extensive farmer and stock-raiser of Custer county since 1893, was born in Denmark, in 1853, a son of L. and Lyda (Bietsch) Lauridson. His parents, who were farming people and devout members of the Lutheran church, never left their native Denmark, being content to round out their careers in the peaceful atmosphere of their happy and prosperous little country.

Of their seven children five are living, but none save the subject of this review ever came to the United States.

C. B. Lauridson was given a good education in his native land, first completing the curriculum of the public schools and then being given a good training in farming in one of the leading agricultural colleges of his country, from which he was duly graduated. He was twenty-seven years of age when he decided to come to the United States, and he arrived in Iowa in 1880. He realized that his lack of knowledge of the English language was a great handicap to the attainment of success, and accordingly, during the first winter, he attended a high school. He next secured employment on a farm, on which he worked until 1887, when he rented a farm in Lancaster county. In 1893 he came to Custer county, where he purchased a small farm, and since then he has continued to add to his holdings until he is the owner of one-quarter of a section of valuable and fertile property. This has all been developed under his management and direction, and has been improved with splendid buildings, including a beautiful home, and substantial barns and outbuildings. Mr. Lauridson is a practical farmer, but also a progressive one, and he takes advantage of modern facilities. In addition to carrying on general farming, he raises full-bred Short-horn cattle. In the capacity of president of the Farmers Bank of Mason City, a position which he has held since 1910, Mr. Lauridson has displayed financial ability of no mean character and has directed its policies so ably that it is accounted one of the county's strong and stable institutions—one founded on a rock that cannot be shaken by financial storms. While popular throughout his community, Mr. Lauridson has not sought political office, although it is probable that he could have the solid Republican vote for any office which he might desire. He and the members of his family belong to the Lutheran church.

In 1888 Mr. Lauridson married Marie Nelsen, who was born in Denmark, a daughter of Nels Nelsen, and to this union there have been born two children: Helga, a graduate of the Nebraska Agricultural College, at Lincoln, and now in partnership with his father in his agricultural operations; and Petra, a graduate of the domestic science department of the State University, at Lincoln, who is now a student at the State University Hospital, preparing to become a nurse, with expectations of following that profession in the great war, which came to a close ere she was permitted to engage in this patriotic and humane service.

THOMAS B. RUSSELL, who is now living retired at Anselmo, is one of the honored pioneers of Custer county, he and his wife arriving here when the work of development had hardly begun.

Thomas Baldwin Russell was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 27, 1842, and is a son of Eli and Lydia (Jackson) Russell, natives of Pennsylvania. Eli Russell was a farmer and when his son Thomas was a boy of twelve he took his family to a pioneer farm in Union county, Indiana, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives.

Thomas B. Russell was seventh in a family of thirteen children. His boyhood days were spent under the conditions and influences of the farm, in his native state and in Indiana. When a young man of twenty years he married and became a farmer. In 1877 he established his residence in Louisa county, Iowa, and two years later he came to Nebraska and settled in York county. In the fall of 1881 he came to Custer county and took a pre-emption claim of 160 acres—the southwest quarter of section 7, township 19, range 22. He also took a tree claim, the southeast quarter of section 12 of the adjoining township. His first home was a sod house, which served as shelter until a better one could be built. Neighbors were few and far between, hardships and privations were on every hand, and the nearest market place, Plum Creek, now Lexington, was sixty-five miles away, the trip requiring several days with a team. While there were numerous obstacles to be met and overcome, yet the wants were few and the thought of owning land and having a home where the children could be reared was a great source of satisfaction to Mr. and Mrs. Russell, who, with other early settlers, deserve great credit for the courage displayed and the good judgment exercised in paving the way for the transformation that has taken place, and making possible the prosperity that exists at the present day.

August 23, 1877, at Cincinnati, Ohio, Mr. Russell was united in marriage to Miss Della Huston, a native of Richland county, Ohio, and a daughter of Joseph McGill and Sarah (Heglin) Huston, both of whom were born in the Buckeye state. The father was a soldier in the Civil war, enlisting at Newport, Kentucky. After the war he became a painting contractor and his last days were spent in New York city. His wife passed away in Ohio.

By a former marriage, to Jennie Parvis, Mr. Russell had a family of five children: Nettie is the wife of C. B. F. Jones, of Ohio; Emma J. is the wife of Sidney Dennis, of Anselmo;

Florence W. married Squire White and resides at College Corner, Ohio; Minnie is deceased; G. E. owns the old farm and resides in Denver, Colorado.

For a number of years Mr. Russell engaged in farming and stock-raising, but for several years past he has lived retired in a comfortable home in Anselmo. Thirty-seven years have come and gone since Mr. and Mrs. Russell became residents of this pioneer section, and they have seen it change into a community of beautiful homes and farms, with thriving villages, and with schools and churches, and while these privileges are being enjoyed we should not fail to give due credit for those brave men and women who endured the hardships and privations and made possible the conditions that exist to-day.

JOSEPH J. MORAVEC, who is a prosperous farmer and stock-raiser of Custer county, owning a valuable, well stocked, and finely improved farm in section 12, township 18, in the neighborhood of Comstock, is not a native of Nebraska, but has spent almost his entire life in the state. He was born March 19, 1882, in Bohemia, and in the fall of the same year was brought to America by his parents, John and Annie (Sekot) Moravec, who also were natives of Bohemia, belonging to that large class that at that time had few opportunities in the way of advance in fortune in that country. Their very general prosperity in the United States has shown that they only needed a chance, and that they have had in the country of their adoption. It was the grandfather of Joseph J. Moravec who homesteaded in Howard county, Nebraska, and on that farm the parents settled. They had twelve children, but only two of the eight survivors live in Custer county, these being: Joseph J. and Pauline, who is the wife of John Weverka, a well known farmer and stock-breeder.

Joseph J. Moravec remained at home until he was twenty-one years of age, in the meantime acquiring a good common-school education in Howard county. He then started out for himself as a farmer, and through his energy, industry, and good judgment, he has acquired a large body of land, owning 720 acres, located in a particularly fertile part of the county, and to the natural value of his property he has added improvements in the way of substantial buildings. He carries on general farming, making use of improved machinery and using methods which insure success. While live stock of all kinds may be found on his farm, he makes a special fea-

ture of Herefords or White Face cattle. Mr. Moravec keeps well informed on agricultural matters and is counted one of the dependable men in the business at the present time, when unusual demands are made on the farmers and stock-raisers.

On February 20, 1906, at Poplin church, in Sherman county, Nebraska, Mr. Moravec was united in marriage with Miss Albina Weverka, who is a daughter of well known people, Martin and Frances Weverka, early settlers who still live on their homestead. Mr. and Mrs. Moravec have five children, namely: Edward, Henry, William, Emma, and Alice. The family belongs to the Catholic church.

CHRIS JUEL, a prosperous, enterprising, and prominent Custer county farmer who has pursued his vocation on an extensive scale in section 5, Broken Bow, since 1905, was born in Denmark, January 27, 1868, his parents being H. L. and Mary K. (Hansen) Juel.

The parents of Mr. Juel were born in Denmark and immigrated to the United States in 1882, settling in the western part of Iowa, where the father, a cooper by trade, found profitable employment as a carpenter in the railway shops. The parents both died in Iowa, in the faith of the Lutheran church. They had but two children, the daughter now being Mrs. Sine Jacobson, of Omaha.

The early education of Chris Juel was obtained in the schools of his native land, and after his arrival in America, at the age of fourteen years, he was variously employed until he settled down to permanent farming. He had no monetary assistance or influential friends to help him to a start, and it was necessary for him to rely wholly upon his own ability and industry, but these proved sufficient to gain him the necessary foothold, and through the medium of farming and stock-raising he became the owner of 160 acres of good Iowa land. Disposing of this property in 1905, he came to Custer county and bought a farm of one-half section, which, through wise investment and capable management, he has since increased to 750 acres. Mr. Juel has an attractive and comfortable country residence, built since his arrival, as well as commodious and substantial buildings for the housing of his stock, grain, and equipment, and his standing in the community is that of a skilled agriculturist and a man of integrity—one who has made his own way and has done so in an honorable manner. He carries on mixed farming and raises a high grade of Hereford cattle and Poland-China hogs. Mr. Juel is a Demo-



MR. AND MRS. CHRIS JUEL

crat, but has found no time for politics, although he is a loyal and public-spirited citizen.

In 1893 Mr. Juel married Miss Mary Fagan, who was born in Iowa, and whose father, William Fagan, is still a farmer of that state. Mr. and Mrs. Juel are the parents of six children, all residing at home—Almor, Mae, Pearl, Rita, Teresa, and Ellen.

CORTEZ E. LANG.—A native son of Custer county who has spent his entire life in this vicinity, Cortez E. Lang has been extensively engaged in farming and stock-raising and prominently identified with business affairs. He is at present the owner of a large farm in Sherman county, just across the Custer county line; is president of the Farmers Co-operative Company of Litchfield; and is connected with the civic affairs through his incumbency of the office of township treasurer.

Mr. Lang was born on a homestead farm in Custer county, May 19, 1876, and is a son of James R. and Rovilla Jane (Foster) Lang. His father was the first man to file on a homestead in Custer county, the one on which Cortez E. Lang was born, this filing taking place June 8, 1874. A review of the family history will be found in the sketch of James R. Lang, elsewhere in this work. Cortez E. Lang grew up amid pioneer surroundings, knowing in his boyhood little of the comforts or conveniences of civilization and securing his education in sod schoolhouses and dugouts. He early learned the value of industry, for in his boyhood and youth nothing was to be gained save by the hardest kind of work, and conditions were such as to develop a man's natural resources and tax his ingenuity to the limit. This did much, probably, to bring out his natural talents and abilities, and practically from the start of his career he has been successful in his undertakings. With the exception of five years, when he was engaged in the hardware and implement business at Litchfield, he has devoted himself to farming, and his present property in Sherman county, a tract of 320 acres, was purchased by him in 1904. Here he carries on general farming, while during the winter months he does a large business in feeding cattle and hogs. He has splendid improvements on his property, made by himself, these including a commodious and attractive residence, substantial barns, and good outbuildings for the housing of his grain, machinery and stock. He is progressive and aggressive in character, and his property bears all the evidence of the capable management that ever conserves prosperity. As a business man of

ability and a citizen of well known integrity, Mr. Lang was chosen president of the Farmers Co-operative Company of Litchfield, the interests of which he had advanced in no uncertain way. Fraternally he is affiliated with the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and has numerous friends therein, as he has also in business and public life. In his political views Mr. Lang is independent, owning allegiance to no party, but endeavoring to secure the passage of good legislation and the election of worthy and capable officials. The high esteem and confidence in which he is held is shown in the fact that his fellow citizens have entrusted him with the duties connected with the office of township treasurer, and his friendship for education is evidenced in the service he has rendered and is rendering as a member of the school board.

In 1896 Mr. Lang was united in marriage with Miss Henrietta Habenstein, who was born in Germany, a daughter of Carl Habenstein. Mr. Habenstein came to Custer county in 1893, and after here living on a farm for three years he moved to Iowa. Ten years later he returned to Nebraska and located on a farm in Sherman county, where his death occurred in September, 1912. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Lang—Lena, who is the wife of Mervin Halbison, a farmer of Sherman county; and Carl Riley, Trene, and Ernest, who remain at the parental home.

EDWARD J. FOLEY, the efficient assistant cashier of the Anselmo State Bank, was born in County Kilkenny, Ireland, August 16, 1874, and in the same county were born his parents, Edward B. and Margaret (White) Foley, who came to America in the year 1890 and established their home on a farm northwest of Merna, Custer county, in township 18, range 22. It was an unimproved tract and their home for many years was a sod house. Here the father successfully carried on agricultural pursuits until about three years ago, when he and his wife moved to Sioux City, Iowa, where they now live retired. They are the parents of ten children and are members of the Catholic church.

Edward J. Foley was a boy of sixteen years when the home was established in Custer county. When a young man of twenty-two he became a farmer, and he followed that occupation until 1902, when he removed to Anselmo and engaged in buying grain for Jacquot & Son. Later he became a partner with Frank Jacquot in the grain, coal and stock business. In 1917 they sold out to the Farmers Grain Company, and for one year Mr. Foley was

manager of the concern. On the 1st of March, 1918, he accepted his present position, that of assistant cashier of the Anselmo State Bank, and here he has further proved his ability as a business man.

Mr. Foley was united in marriage to Miss Josephine Jacquot, a native of Pennsylvania, and a daughter of the late Nicholas Jacquot, a record of whom will be found on other pages of this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Foley are the parents of three children — Eugene, Elmer and Francis.

The family are communicants of the Catholic church and Mr. Foley's political beliefs make him a Democrat. He has been successful in his business ventures and is the owner of a well improved farm of 200 acres, near Anselmo. He and his family are held in high esteem by all who know them.

EDWARD SMITH.—It has often been said that Smith was a name hard to distinguish, yet it seems that the possessor of the name written above his succeeded, at least in a modest way, in distinguishing his cognomen in the realm of ordinary citizenship and practical, profitable farming. This is an ordinary story that has been duplicated perhaps a thousand times in western Nebraska, but it nevertheless becomes interesting when narrowed down to an individual whose achievements are worthy of being published to the world.

Smith should be charged up to Ireland. It was there, in County Wicklow, in April, 1856, that he first saw the light of day. There his parents lived before him, for he was the son of John and Catherine (Collins) Smith, excellent people of the Emerald Isle, who lived their plain, unpretentious lives and gave to the world a family of nine children, of whom Terrence, John, Edward, Mary Redmond, and Catharine Hernon are the only ones living at the present time.

During his early life in Ireland, Edward Smith received the customary educational advantages, assisted his parents in the matter of livelihood, and earned his first money by trapping rabbits and catching them with dogs. In this manner he got together enough money to buy a sheep, and he kept the sheep on grass furnished by the father until he had ten head, then he sold them and bought twelve sheep and three goats, for which his father continued to furnish pasture until the flock increased to twenty-four sheep, when the father broke the news to young Edward that he would be expected from that time to furnish his own pasture for the sheep, which he did. He

worked at home in the summer time, went to school in the winter time, ran the gamut of young life under the conditions of his native land, and in 1880, he started his bark for the New World, in which place he already had two brothers, — one in Chicago and one in Cass county, Nebraska. He continued his journey until he reached Cass county. It was his intention when leaving home to land in Australia, but he stopped off to make the boys in America a visit. His brother prevailed on him to stay in Nebraska and work a year, which he did, working the first four months for a farmer, for fifteen dollars a month. He then demanded more wages, which were refused. He then worked a year for eighteen dollars a month, and he has been working ever since, although his remuneration has far exceeded the stipend just mentioned. In 1884 he came farther west, and this time he settled in Custer county, where he took a tree claim on Stock Table, eleven miles southwest of Callaway, and at the same time bought 320 acres of railroad land in the same section, for \$2.50 an acre. This was early in the month of October, and the next morning two feet of snow covered the ground. He went back to Cass county, but he returned the next spring, with Robert Gordon, and took a homestead five miles west of Callaway, where he still resides. Here he spent a number of years in cultivating and improving his place, maintaining the while bachelor headquarters. Growing tired of this, he was married in September, 1889, in Chicago, to Elizabeth Dolan, who was born in Wisconsin, a daughter of Patrick and Mary (O'Rourke) Dolan. In the home of Mr. and Mrs. Smith are four children: John, eighteen years of age, registered under the draft, awaiting call to service in the world war, now brought to a close; Edward P., James, and Catherine are at home under the parental roof and are pursuing their studies in the public schools.

Mr. Smith owns 880 acres of good Custer county land, is a devoted communicant of the Catholic church, is affiliated with the Knights of Columbus, and usually votes the Democratic ticket. He has made his money and accumulated his property by farming and stock-raising. He and his good wife are highly respected in the community and their friends are hoping that they may have a long and prosperous time in which to enjoy the fruits of their toil.

CHARLES E. RARDEN.—The title line of this sketch bears the name of a progressive farmer who has come down the pike of varied

experiences and is now making a very creditable showing in Custer county agriculture, and who maintains a standing as one of the young, reliable and substantial farmers of Custer county—a man who must be reckoned as one of the county's assets.

Charles E. Rarden was born in Brown county, Indiana, January 4, 1881, and is a son of Thomas and Martha (Stepp) Rarden, both likewise natives of the fine old Hoosier state. This story, so far as it relates to the family of Thomas Rarden, must record the names of seven living children and add that two of the circle of nine are deceased. Those living are William, Charles E., Walter, Minnie Bowers, Etta Carpenter, Rosa Jerrel, and Lola Carpenter.

Concerning his boyhood days, Charles E. Rarden relates many reminiscences and states that the first money he remembers of handling himself was earned by plowing corn for a neighbor, with a span of mules. This money was spent for a suit of clothes, of which he was very proud, and he believes to this day that when he had that suit on, "Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed" as he was. He worked on the Indiana farm until he was fifteen years of age and then went out to make his own way in a world where there is a good deal of up-hill to "go down." His first employer was a railroad contractor, named Perkins, and for this contractor he worked seven years, constructing railway lines between Cincinnati and Chicago. After quitting this job, he went to Orange county, Indiana, where he farmed for his uncle, for two years. Later, in company with a friend named Claude Earl, he started for Sheridan, Wyoming. They became stranded at Horton, Kansas, and a careful search in the lining of his pocketbook could disclose but fifty cents. This somewhat dampened their ardor for the west and cooled off the Wyoming fever. Mr. Rarden declares that if he had had the price of a ticket "it would have been him for old Indiana again." As it was, he secured work in a saw mill, and finally he made his way to Fairbury, Nebraska, in which vicinity he stayed one year, and worked on a farm. From that locality he made his way to Broken Bow, in 1908. Since that time he has been a resident of Custer county.

In the new county Mr. Rarden soon succumbed to the charms of one of its fair daughters, and when the roses bloomed in the June time of the next year, 1909, he led Miss Lela Cox to the marriage altar. Mrs. Rarden is a daughter of Adelbert and Mae (Laurence) Cox, both of whom were born in Indiana, and thus the offsprings of two Hoosier homes

blended in the far west to build another home, under conditions of western thrift and freedom.

Into the Rarden home six children have made their advent—Ellis C., Esther, Clifford, Mildred, Helen and Marshall. All are bright, promising children and as they come up to manhood and womanhood they will be of great assistance in connection with the efforts of their parents.

After his marriage, Mr. Rarden worked for three years by the month, after which he rented a place and farmed for himself six years. He accumulated money, and eight and one-half miles northwest of Callaway he has recently bought a tract of 400 acres, which is now the Rarden home. He milks eight cows and from their profits secures on an average, forty dollars a month. He is raising hogs and cattle, and from what might be considered a good start he is climbing rapidly toward the top. He is an Odd Fellow, and a Woodman, and he votes the Republican ticket. He and his wife have a good standing in their home community.

CHARLES E. BASS is one of the business men of Custer county who has made a success of his undertakings, and his sound judgment and keen business ability have been potent factors in the building up of the several enterprises in which he is interested.

Mr. Bass was born in Gibson county, Indiana, January 19, 1870, and is a son of Alexander and Elmira (Holcomb) Bass, of whom extended mention is made on other pages of this volume, in a sketch written for Dr. T. W. Bass, of Broken Bow.

Charles E. Bass was a lad of fourteen years when the family home was established in Nebraska. At the age of nineteen years he found employment on a farm. Later he became a barber in Broken Bow, and he also followed the barber's trade for five years at Grand Island. In 1900 he came to Anselmo, where, with W. E. Warren, he embarked in the mercantile business, also buying and shipping stock. This partnership continued twelve years, when Mr. Bass bought his partner's interest. The firm is now Moulton & Bass, and they handle a full line of general merchandise. Mr. Bass and his brother W. W. own a hardware business in Anselmo and with his brother J. G. he conducts a similar enterprise at Mason City, both these store buildings having been erected and owned by Charles E. Mr. Bass has been extensively engaged in the cattle business for several years and is the

owner of 2,500 acres of land in Custer county, as well as half a section of land in Keith county, the Custer county ranch being operated by his brother C. R. Mr. Bass is loud in his praises of his adopted county, and by industry, good judgment, and wise use of opportunities he has builded wisely and well, with the result that he is to-day one of the eminently successful business men and public-spirited citizens of the county.

At Broken Bow, Mr. Bass was united in marriage to Miss Norna M. Fenner, a native of Wisconsin, and they are the parents of three children — Clare, Opal, and Lawrence.

Mr. Bass is a member of the Anselmo Lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons and has taken both York and Scottish Rite degrees, being a member of the commandery of Knights Templars at Broken Bow, and also a member of the temple of the Mystic Shrine at Omaha. He belongs also to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Order of the Eastern Star. In politics he is Republican, and he has served as a member of the city council and also on the school board. Mr. Bass may truly be called a self-made man, as his success is the result of his own efforts, and he is held in the highest of esteem by all who know him.

FRANK VISEK, who is engaged in farming five miles north of Comstock, is one of the men of Custer county who has made good use of his opportunities, and his life record illustrates what may be accomplished by one who is industrious and has an ambition to succeed.

Mr. Visek was born in Bohemia, January 1, 1867, and is a son of John and Katie (Severa) Visek, who spent their entire lives in their native land. They were farming people and were the parents of eight children, all of whom are living. Two sons, John and James, live near their brother Frank, and a sister, Mrs. Mary Drobny, is a resident of Valley county.

Mr. Visek was a young man of thirty years when he sought a home in the United States. He found employment on a farm in Valley county, and he continued to work for others for three years. He carefully saved his earnings and was enabled to become a farmer on his own account. The first year his crop was almost ruined by hail, and the second year his harvests were short, owing to the drouth, but he was not discouraged to the point of giving up, and the succeeding years brought prosperity. To-day he is the owner of three well improved farms, with a total area of 1,240 acres.

February 6, 1893, Mr. Visek was united in

marriage to Miss Frances Bartu, a daughter of Joe and Mary Bartu, early settlers of Custer county. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Visek has been made happy by the arrival of thirteen children, eight of whom are living — Frank, Jr., James, Rudolph, Ludwig, Joseph, Louis, Charlie and Emma. The eldest son, Frank, Jr., was born in Valley county, November 29, 1893. October 31, 1916, he married Miss Rosie Kokes, a daughter of John and Antonia (Badalik) Kokes, residents of Valley county. Frank Visek, Jr., is successfully engaged in farming. He and his wife have one child, Frank, born November 21, 1917.

RUPERT CLARENCE BRISTOL. — Among the homesteaders of Custer county who passed through many privations and hardships, courageously persevered in the face of discouraging situations, overcame seemingly unsurmountable obstacles, and eventually won their way to well deserved success, was the late Rupert C. Bristol, who, from the time of his arrival, in 1884, until his death, October 19, 1916, was one of his community's most reliable and highly esteemed citizens.

Mr. Bristol was born at Port Jersey, New York, August 25, 1855, the youngest of the three children of Horace and Anna (French) Bristol. His mother died when he was but three years of age and his father, who was a veteran of the Civil war, in which he served three years as captain of Company B, First New Jersey Volunteer Cavalry, married again, and in 1869 moved to Iowa, where he died in 1869. Rupert C. Bristol was educated in the public schools of New Jersey and Iowa, and in the latter state he married Miss Nancy A. Patrick, a daughter of George and Emily (Hurndon) Patrick, the former born in Kentucky and the latter in Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Patrick removed to Custer county in 1890 and here followed agricultural pursuits until their death.

After his marriage Mr. Bristol continued to be engaged in farming in Iowa for a number of years, but in 1884 he decided to try his fortunes in Nebraska. He accordingly packed his household effects in a wagon and, with his wife and their four children, started on the trip overland from Monona county, Iowa, in October, the journey consuming eight days. Securing a homestead in the vicinity of Ansley, he started farming under the most discouraging conditions. Conveniences of even the most meagre kind were not to be had; the bare necessities of life were difficult to secure; and for several years the family fuel during

the winter months consisted of brush and weeds that had been gathered during the foregoing summer and then dried and put away for use. Mr. Bristol was making good progress when, in 1890, the drouth killed his crops, and he had hardly recovered from this when a terrific hail storm wiped out his 1893 farm crops. In the following year he was again visited by a devastating drouth, but in the face of these discouragements he kept perseveringly and doggedly on, and his persistence and courage were eventually rewarded by success, as shown by the fact that at the time of his death his landed estate consisted of 480 acres of land in a good state of cultivation, and numerous modern improvements. Mr. Bristol became one of the influential and greatly respected members of his community, and took an active and helpful part in all good movements. He was particularly active in the work of the Baptist church, of which he and Mrs. Bristol were lifelong members. He taught a Bible class in the Sunday school, both in Iowa and Nebraska, and was a leader otherwise in church and Sunday school work. Originally a Democrat in politics, when the Progressive party came into being he transferred his allegiance to that organization. His death removed from his community a helpful and constructive citizen and an honorable man.

Mr. and Mrs. Bristol were the parents of eleven children: Bertha is the wife of George F. Dewey, a Custer county farmer; Belle is the wife of Earl Hiser, of Custer county; Mrs. Clara Dobesh is the wife of a farmer of this county; Clarence R. and Ernest are engaged in agricultural pursuits in Custer county; George is likewise a resident of this county; Myrtle E. is the wife of Grover A. Holeman, cashier of the Farmers State Bank of Ansley, a sketch of whose career appears elsewhere in this work; Clyde and Cleo are twins and Clyde is on the home farm with his mother, Cleo being the wife of H. Guy Marsh, of Ansley; Lawrence is now in the navy, at San Francisco, California; and Emma died at the age of fifteen months.

LEWIS KIMBERLING, police judge and village clerk of Arnold, has been a prominent citizen of the county for many years and an influential factor in Republican political circles. He is a man of sterling character, enjoys the respect and confidence of his fellow citizens, and has served faithfully and with superior judgment in many public offices in the county. Although not a continuous resident, Judge Kimberling has maintained a steady interest in

Custer county ever since he came here first, in 1883.

Lewis Kimberling was born February 13, 1855, in Mason county, West Virginia, one of a family of twelve children born to Nathaniel and Miriam (Craig) Kimberling, the former a native of Bath county, Virginia and a farmer by vocation, and the latter born in Mason county, West Virginia, a daughter of John Craig. The surviving children are: William, who lives in West Virginia and who is a veteran of the Civil war; Hannah A., who lives in West Virginia; Mrs. Nancy Williams, who lives at Jackson, Ohio; Lewis, whose name introduces this review; and Joseph N., who lives on the old homestead in Mason county, West Virginia, where the mother died in 1890 and where the father passed away in September, 1896, at the age of eighty-six years.

Until he was twenty-two years old, Lewis Kimberling remained at home, attending school through boyhood and later cultivating quite successfully a piece of ground given him by his father. On this plot of ground he raised a crop of tobacco, and he found no trouble in disposing of it. Being gifted with a fine voice and a natural ear for music, he paid some attention to this talent and became an acceptable teacher of vocal music. Singing schools were a very popular form of amusement in those days and a great encourager of innocent sociability, and Lewis Kimberling has many pleasant memories of the gatherings when his dictum on "harmony and voice culture," was as much law as is that of the present-day Maestro with an unpronounceable foreign name. In 1877, however, Mr. Kimberling left the old home and its pleasant associations and started out for himself, making his first stop in Indiana. He worked very hard that winter, splitting rails for fifty cents a hundred, and in the spring of 1878 he pushed farther west and spent the summer working on a farm in Grundy county, Missouri, where he remained until the fall of the same year when he came to the eastern part of Nebraska. In 1883 he located a claim three miles east of what is now the prosperous town of Arnold, Custer county, and he lived on his claim five years. In the meanwhile his parents had grown feeble, and he returned home to assist in caring for them, and he remained as long as they survived. Mr. Kimberling then returned to Custer county and bought a farm situated one and one-half miles northeast of Arnold. There he continued to live until 1912, when he moved into Arnold, where he is very comfortably situated.

September 26, 1878, Judge Kimberling married Miss Mary M. Gamble, who was born in

Iowa, a daughter of Amos and Malinda A. (Craig) Gamble. Mr. Gamble was born in Indiana and was a veteran of the Civil war. Judge and Mrs. Kimberling have six children: Odus F., who is a farmer near Gothenburg, Dawson county, Nebraska, is an Odd Fellow and a Republican. He married Josephine, daughter of James Tucker, and they have three sons. He and his wife belong to the Christian church. Ora A. is the wife of Charles Rimpley, a farmer near Logan, Nebraska, and they have three children. They attend the Baptist church. Millie F. is the wife of John Starr, of Arnold, Nebraska, and they have three children. Eva P. is the wife of William O. Hill, a carpenter at Summit, Oregon, and they have three children. They belong to the Methodist Episcopal church. Elbert C., who is a salesman in the Mills implement store at Arnold, is an Odd Fellow and a Republican. He married Lillie P. Blowers, a daughter of Charles M. Blowers, and they have five daughters. He and his wife attend the Baptist church. Malinda A. is the wife of Arthur E. Butler, a farmer near Stapleton, Nebraska, and they have two children.

For the past seventeen years Judge Kimberling has been a justice of the peace and also has been assessor of Arnold precinct. He has taken a great deal of interest in educational matters and in all else that pertains to the general welfare. He is very prominent in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and has twice passed its official chairs. He is a member of the Baptist church and is a liberal supporter of its benevolent objects.

JOHN E. WILSON, who is a representative citizen and prosperous general farmer, owns, in the neighborhood of Lomax Station, one of the best improved estates that can be found in the county. He is a member of one of the old pioneer families of the state—in fact his father came before the state was organized—and it is interesting to note that through all the revolutionary changes that have taken place in the state's affairs, the Wilson family have kept the old homestead property intact. John E. Wilson was born near Dunbar, Otoe county, Nebraska, September 15, 1865. His parents were Thomas H. and Isabella (Garrow) Wilson, the latter of whom was born in Scotland and was a daughter of Alexander Garrow. The father of Mr. Wilson was born in Canada and from there he came across the border into the United States, looking for a desirable situation in which to settle. He established him home in the terri-

tory of Nebraska in 1856, eleven years before it became a state of the Union, and he spent the rest of his life on his homestead, situated one mile north of where Dunbar now stands. Of his thirteen children the following survive: John E., Charles H., Edward T., Mrs. Jennie M. Hall, Mrs. Jessie B. Goodrich, Edith, Carl H., and Frank. Miss Edith Wilson is a graduate of the Peru Normal School and is a popular teacher.

John E. Wilson was reared on the old homestead in Otoe county and well remembers many boyhood adventures that came his way as he herded cattle and stock, and especially during the year that the grasshoppers destroyed every green growth, when he had forty-two head of hogs to herd. He attended the common schools during the winter seasons and thus laid a fair educational foundation. Later he spent one year as a student in the Nebraska State Normal School at Peru, in Nemaha county. Farming has been his main occupation all his life, and before coming to Custer county, in 1903, he followed farm industry very successfully in Otoe county. Mr. Wilson owns a farm of 160 acres, which is admirably situated three-fourths of a mile north of Lomax. He has put many substantial improvements here, including a handsome residence, and has brought his land to a high state of cultivation, and that without any patriotic urging in these recent days of the nation's need.

Mr. Wilson was married June 24, 1891, to Matilda Hanson, who was born in Sweden, a daughter of Hans and Anna (Pierson) Anderson, natives of Sweden. Mrs. Wilson came to the United States in the '80s. Concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson brief record is here given: Dora B., an efficient teacher in Custer county, resides at home; Alta is the wife of Alexander Lindholm, a farmer living in Dawson county, not far from Eddyville, and they have one son: they attend the Christian church; Jennie E., who is a teacher, lives with her parents; Anna is deceased; and Thomas H. and John L. are yet in school. Mr. Wilson is a member of the United Evangelical church. In politics he has always given his support to the candidates of the Republican party, as does his son-in-law, Mr. Lindholm.

WILLIAM M. DICKSON is one of Custer county's self-made men and has the distinction of being one of its earliest settlers.

A native of Missouri, William Marion Dickson was born in Putnam county, October 15, 1861. His father, Calvin Dickson, was born



Mrs. Henry A. Kepler



Henry A. Kepler

in Ohio, July 19, 1841, and married Elizabeth Cox, a native of Jasper county, Iowa. Calvin Dickson was a successful farmer of Jasper county, Iowa, for many years and now resides at Newburg, that state, where he is serving as postmaster.

Our subject was one of two children and his sister resides in Iowa. Reared on a farm in Iowa until he reached his majority, he came to Custer county in 1882 and secured a homestead of 160 acres, in section 24, township 19, range 23, and amid the pioneer conditions he erected a little sod house and began the task of conquering the wilderness. When the first "soddy" wore out he built another, which is still standing. Agriculture and stock-raising have claimed his attention from that day to this. When asked what has been the secret of his success, he answered "Hung on—hung on through the hard times, and hung on to what I made." Mr. Dickson was the possessor of a team of mules and a wagon when he came to Custer county, and to-day he is the owner of 1,100 acres of valuable land. The old homestead was his home until about one year ago, when he moved to his present place of abode, one mile from Anselmo.

Mr. Dickinson has been thrice married. His first union was with Miss Jessie Bell Gillespie, who was a native of Iowa and who died leaving one child, Jessie, the wife of Paul Hugh, of Minnesota. For a second wife Mr. Dickson chose Mrs. Mary Lehmanowsky, a native of Ohio, who became the mother of two children, Mildred and Leah. The present Mrs. Dickson was Miss Cora Scott, who for twenty years was a trained nurse. Her father, Walter Scott, was an early settler of the Anselmo neighborhood, where he established his residence in 1885. He has now passed his seventy-second birthday anniversary and for twelve years has been an invalid, tenderly cared for by his daughter, Mrs. Dickson.

The life record of William M. Dickson shows what can be accomplished by persistent effort and laudable ambition. From the humble position in which he found himself when he came to Custer county he has reached the goal of success, and is one of the substantial men of his community.

HENRY A. KEPLER—The life record of Henry A. Kepler is one of varied activities, and as manager of the Central Granaries Company and secretary of the Farmers Mercantile Company he is at once placed among the influential business men of the thriving village of Anselmo.

Mr. Kepler is a native of the neighboring state of Iowa, where he was born near Mt. Vernon, Linn county, July 15, 1857. His parents were Henry and Emma (Willitts) Kepler, the former born near Hagerstown, Maryland, the latter a native of Ohio. Henry Kepler was an early settler of Linn county, Iowa, where he became a prosperous farmer, later retiring to Mt. Vernon where he and his wife passed away. They were members of the Methodist church and they reared a family of nine children: L. M. died at Dorchester, Saline county, Nebraska, in 1916, at the age of seventy-eight years; M. W. resides at Dorchester; Ira is a resident of Big Spring, Deuel county, Nebraska; Mrs. William Jordan lives at Jamestown, Minnesota; J. P. is living at Bellevue, Nebraska; J. W. resides at Omaha; Henry A. is the subject of this sketch; Mrs. W. B. Slaughter resides in California; and Mrs. C. H. Hoover passed away at Dorchester, Nebraska.

Henry Allison Kepler spent his boyhood days on a farm in his native county, where he divided his time between his duties in the schoolroom and his tasks about the farm. He was nineteen years of age when he took the management of the home farm, upon the retirement of his father, and he continued to conduct the place until 1880, when he came to Nebraska and settled at Dorchester, Saline county. There for several years he was at different times engaged in farming, the livery business, the buying and shipping of stock, clerking in general stores, assistant cashier in the Citizens Bank, and identified with the lumber business. In 1892 he went to Fleming, Colorado, and engaged in the lumber and coal business, but, owing to his wife's health, he returned to Nebraska, and in 1895 he became a resident of Lincoln, where he engaged in the grocery business, later spending one year as a traveling salesman. In 1902 he went to Sheridan county, Kansas, and for the next four years he conducted a ranch. In 1906 he came to Custer county and took a homestead, as did three of his children, under the Kinkaid law, and he was successfully engaged in stock-raising for several years. The family own 2,563 acres of grazing land in Custer county.

In 1908 Mr. Kepler became manager of the Anselmo branch for the Central Granaries Company, which position he still holds. For the past three years he has been secretary of the Farmers Mercantile Company of Anselmo.

In Linn county, Iowa, Mr. Kepler was united in marriage to Miss Laura Travis, who was born in that county and who is a daughter

ter of Daniel and Malissa (Wilson) Travis. Mr. and Mrs. Kepler became the parents of five children: Nellie is the wife of James Boyce and they reside in Chicago; Jay died in 1916; Gertrude and D. T. are unmarried and remain at the parental home; and Lawrence is deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Kepler are members of the Methodist church and fraternally Mr. Kepler is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America, while his political views make him a Republican.

Mr. Kepler is one of the progressive business men and public-spirited men of Custer county, and he is held in the highest of esteem by all with whom he comes in contact.

JAMES H. HISER, who, after a somewhat diversified career, is now successfully engaged in the implement business at Ansley, has been the architect of his own fortunes and through his unaided efforts has reared a structure of creditable business success. He has been a resident of Custer county since 1882 and was formerly engaged in farming, but during the greater part of his career he has been identified with the line of business which now occupies his attention.

Mr. Hiser was born near Richmond, Wayne county, Indiana, March 23, 1855, and is a son of Jacob H. and Mary (Salters) Hiser, who were born near Dayton, Ohio, but whose marriage occurred in Wayne county, Indiana where they were early settlers. Jacob H. Hiser was a farmer in the Hoosier state until the fall of 1855, at which time he went to Illinois, where his family joined him in the following year. He continued to be engaged in farming until 1862, when he enlisted in the Union army for service in the Civil war, becoming a member of the Sixteenth Illinois Cavalry. With that organization he made a record for bravery and fidelity to duty, and he participated in all the battles of his regiment until he was severely wounded, being shot in the left temple, and also being captured by the enemy. For two months he was confined at Belle Isle, and he was then transferred to the awful Andersonville stockade, but after nine months he made his escape from that death-hole, and after indescribable sufferings and wanderings finally reached the Union lines. At the expiration of his three years of service he was honorably discharged and returned to his family. He then became a blacksmith, following that business in McLean county, Illinois, until he retired. His death occurred there, and his widow passed away in Califor-

nia. They were the parents of four children: James H.; William P., who has been street commissioned at Lexington, McLean county, Illinois, for several years; Alice, who is the wife of John Peck, a farmer of Lexington, Illinois; and Mary, who is the widow of Sam Phillips, and is a resident of Louisville, Arkansas. The parents were members of the Baptist church, and Mr. Hiser was a Democrat in politics.

James H. Hiser received his education in the public schools of Illinois and began life there on his father's McLean county farm. His marriage occurred in 1875 and thereafter he continued to farm in Illinois until December, 1882, when he came to Custer county, Nebraska, and purchased a relinquishment claim, his family joining him here in the spring. Mr. Hiser remained on his farm from 1883 until 1893, in which latter year he decided to turn his attention to mercantile pursuits and accordingly disposed of his agricultural interests and came to Ansley. For a time he was the representative at Ansley of an Omaha implement firm, but after two years, in partnership with a Mr. Butler, he engaged in this business on his own account. He conducted an establishment until February, 1902, when he sold out. Mr. Hiser was next employed by the International Harvester Company, during 1902, 1903 and 1904, but in the fall of 1905 he returned to Ansley, settled permanently, and clerked for W. S. Matley. Again, in March, 1914, he engaged in business on his own account, and in his present establishment he has achieved a decided success, so that his store is accounted a desirable and necessary community asset. He has a complete line of goods, carefully chosen, attractively displayed and moderately priced, and his patronage now extends over a wide territory, while his personal status is that of a business man of capability and integrity.

Mr. Hiser was married in Illinois, in 1875, to Miss Josephine Popejoy, who was born in McLean county, that state, and they became the parents of four children, of whom two are living: E. G., who is engaged in farming four miles southwest of Ansley, and Marie, who is her father's assistant in conducting the implement business. The family belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Hiser is well known in Odd Fellowship, having passed through the chairs of his lodge three times, and is also a popular member of the Royal Highlanders. A Republican in politics, at various times he has served in township offices, and has rendered the cause of education efficient service by his work as a member of the school board.

MRS. SUSIE HELMUTH, who came to Custer county, Nebraska, with her parents thirty-three years ago, has lived here ever since and is well known and highly esteemed. She was born September 28, 1877, in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, and is a daughter of Ernest and Johanna (Kape) Schneider, both of whom were born in Germany. The father of Mrs. Helmuth came to the United States in 1861 and located in Jo Daviess county, where he worked on a farm until 1864, when he enlisted, on October 12th of that year, for service in the Civil war. He became a member of Company K, Thirty-second Illinois Infantry, and he took part in many skirmishes and marches, as well as one important engagement, the battle of Kingston, North Carolina, in March, 1865. He was mustered out of the service at Leavenworth, Kansas, September 16, 1865. Mr. Schneider then returned to Jo Daviess county and bought a farm, and in 1866 he married Miss Johanna Kape. They had the following children: Ernst, Lillie, Barbara, George, John, Lawrence, Maggie and Susie (twins), Anna and Louise.

In 1885 Ernest Schneider came with his family to Custer county, Nebraska, and located on Redfern Table, eight miles west of the present town of Oconto. The daughter Susie continued to reside at the parental home until the time of her marriage to William Helmuth, which took place September 11, 1899. Mr. Helmuth was born in Germany, November 24, 1853. His first marriage took place there and when his first wife died she left six children. He came to the United States and reared the children in Nebraska, where all are now married and have children of their own. They are as follows: Anna is the wife of William C. Pierce, and they have four children; Barbara is the wife of Troy Brown, and they have one child; Tena is the wife of T. Owen, and they have eight children; Elizabeth is the wife of Clarence Preston, and they have five children; Lena is the wife of Albert Aldridge, and they have six children; and William J. married Isabel McGuigan, their children being two sons.

At the time of his second marriage, Mr. Helmuth was living on his claim situated about four miles southwest of Oconto, and there Mr. and Mrs. Helmuth went to housekeeping. They continued to live there about four years, when he sold his claim and bought a fine farm of 160 acres on Redfern Table, about eight miles west of Oconto. Here a beautiful country residence was built, and comfort, content and happiness prevailed until Mr. Helmuth's health failed. About six years ago he was

stricken with paralysis and, although he has the kind and loving care of a devoted wife and their two daughters, the affliction is grievous for a man once so active and vigorous. The two living children of Mr. and Mrs. Helmuth are Fay J. and Dorothy L., both of whom are completing their educational course in the Oconto high school. Although Mr. Helmuth has been entirely helpless since he was stricken, on August 23, 1912, his farm industries are all continued very successfully, as Mrs. Helmuth has proved resourceful and exceedingly competent. She oversees the work and is assisted by her brother, Ernst Schneider, who resides here and has been a farmer for many years.

EARL O. MORRIS.—Belonging to that class of workers whose practical education, quick perceptions and extensive capacity for painstaking industry have advanced them to positions of business and public prominence formerly occupied by men many years their seniors, Earl O. Morris, while reprehending the vigorous and forceful present of the west, gives promise of participating in its more enlightened future, more especially Ansley, Custer county, where he is serving in the capacity of assistant cashier of the Bank of Ansley, as well as in the offices of village and township treasurer and member of the school board. He is a native of this place and was born June 5, 1888, a son of Dr. C. H. and Lavina (Varney) Morris.

Dr. C. H. Morris was born near Indianapolis, Indiana, of English descent, and as a young man he adopted the profession of medicine, which he followed throughout his career. After coming to Custer county, Nebraska, he was for a time engaged in practice at Westerville, and later at Broken Bow, and he was fast establishing a reputation when his career was cut short by his early death, an event which caused sorrow among a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. Eventually his widow, who was a native of New York, married Anthony Wilkinson, an early settler of Custer county, and they now live at Grand Island, Hall county, where Mr. Wilkinson is a wealthy and highly respected citizen, practically retired from active affairs. Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson are members of the Episcopal church.

The only child of his parents, Earl O. Morris was given a good education in the graded and high schools of Ansley, following which he pursued a course in the Grand Island Business College. His career was started upon a ranch, later he was employed in a lumber yard,

and thereafter was for some time a clerk in the postoffice. In 1908 he became assistant cashier of the Bank of Ansley, and he has remained in this capacity ever since. This is a strong and conservative financial institution of Ansley, and one which has the confidence and patronage of the people in the surrounding country. This faith and friendship have been largely attracted by Mr. Morris, whose courtesy and gentlemanly bearing at all times have served to generate good feeling and whose evident knowledge of the banking business is being continually demonstrated in no uncertain manner.

September 15, 1909, Mr. Morris married Miss May Hare, daughter of Charles Hare, who was one of the early druggists of Ansley, and who died at this place. Mr. and Mrs. Morris have three children: Earl Charles, who was born September 18, 1910, is now attending the Ansley public school; Leeta was born September 18, 1912; and Wayne Roger was born on July 27, 1914. Mr. and Mrs. Morris are attendants of the Methodist Episcopal church, although Mrs. Morris belongs to the Presbyterian church. He is fraternally a thirty-second degree Mason and a member of the Mystic Shrine. He was secretary of his Masonic blue lodge four years, senior deacon one year, junior warden for a like period, and is now (1918) senior warden. He is a Republican and has been called upon to fill several offices. At present he is handling the township and village finances in a highly acceptable manner, in the capacity of treasurer. He is also greatly interested in war work and is chairman of the Liberty Loan committee of Custer county.

DANIEL W. PREDMORE.—This title line begins the story of a Broken Bow merchant. The name has a prominent place on the roster of pioneers. In the northern half of the county there are few names more widely known than Predmore. The records of the family always relate honorable achievements, and for that reason the name is one much respected and highly esteemed.

William H. Predmore, father of Daniel W., is a native of Ohio, and the mother, Bertha E. (Coslar) Predmore, was born in Germany. These estimable people have lived in Custer county since 1884 and are well and favorably known to a very wide circle of friends. William H. Predmore was, prior to this time, a merchant in Fremont, and after locating in Custer county the call of the counter and the showcase loomed large in his dreams. Ac-

cordingly, he started a new town called Walworth, located on his own homestead. The growth of the proposed town rivalled Jonah's gourd. In a few weeks buildings were going up on every hand and the new town was booming. But, again like Jonah's gourd, it was destined to a brief existence. The buildings were put on wheels and distributed up and down the Middle Loup valley, some going to West Union and some to Sargent. The Predmore store building was moved to the Walworth bridge and the Walworth postoffice established in the fall of 1885. This building and stock were afterward destroyed by fire. In the family of William H. Predmore were three children: Adaline Hall; James W.; and Daniel W.

Daniel W. Predmore was born March 20, 1872, at Brushcreek, Iowa. He was but four years old when his parents moved to Fremont, Nebraska, and but twelve years old when they moved to Custer county. Accordingly it will be seen that his education was received in the public schools of Nebraska. He was not more than seven years old when he began helping in his father's store, and there he laid the foundation of a business career. Merchandising has always been to Daniel an attractive occupation. When twenty years of age he purchased a hardware store in West Union, from Wilde & Squires, and after operating it during the summer he moved the stock to Broken Bow. Later the hardware stock was disposed of and he and his brother James resorted to mining in the Black Hills. They seemed to strike it lucky in the mining camp of Rockerville. Fortune lavished upon them her golden smiles, and then, alas, she frowned. They invested their accumulations of the summer in a stock of merchandise and the first night after they took possession, the stock and building went up in flames. The brothers barely escaped from the building and saved nothing but the clothes they had on and thirty-five dollars in money. A small calamity of this kind, however, had no power to dampen the ardor of the intrepid spirits. They went to work at the mines again and in a short time established a postoffice at Rockerville, besides starting another store. James acted as merchant while Dan operated as miner, and together they succeeded. They continued the Rockerville business until 1894, when Dan went to Alliance, Nebraska, where for a time he worked as clerk in a clothing store. In 1896 he returned to Rockerville and resumed operations on his mining claim. There he continued his activities for two years, and he then disposed of the claim and returned to Custer county, where he

rented one of his father's farms, near Broken Bow. Up until this time Daniel posed as a bachelor, but on November 10, 1889, he returned to Rockerville and remained long enough to claim in marriage Edna M. Carter, a daughter of John C. and Mary Carter. To this union the years have brought two children, and the daughter Gladys is the wife of John Reed, a son of the well known farmer Frank S. Reed.

For thirteen years Daniel W. Predmore, the miner and the merchant, demonstrated his ability as a farmer on one of his father's farms. Then he purchased a farm of his own, six miles northwest of Broken Bow, upon which he built a beautiful residence and provided other improvements. He made this place his residence for five years, when failing health and the scarcity of farm help caused him to leave the farm. He bought a splendid home in Broken Bow, and a little later he purchased the grocery stock of W. F. Forest, located in the Dierks block, on the south side of the public square. Mr. Predmore possesses business acumen, and will succeed in this later venture.

JOHN R. RHODES.— Since he began the practice of his profession at Ansley, in 1903, John R. Rhodes has lent dignity and stability to professional affairs in his part of Custer county, and thus has maintained and even added to a reputation for ability and resourcefulness established during his residence in the state of Pennsylvania.

Judge Rhodes is a native of the Keystone state, as he was born in Blair county, Pennsylvania, July 28, 1859, a son of John and Matilda (Forshey) Rhodes. His paternal grandfather, Abraham Rhodes, who was born in Virginia and owned a large plantation there, adopted the cause of Abolition and freed his slaves, following which he went to Pennsylvania. Henry Forshey, the maternal grandfather, was a soldier of Napoleon and was one of those who went on the ill-fated expedition to storm Moscow, and after his return to France he immigrated to the United States. He was a man of superior intellectual and educational attainments, and when he came to America he brought with him a large and comprehensive library, his home being on the present site of Altoona, Blair county, Pennsylvania.

John Rhodes was born in 1812, in Virginia, and was eight years of age when taken by his parents to Pennsylvania. There he grew to manhood and became a prosperous farmer, and he was a man widely known for his ability and integrity. He was a Republi-

can in politics. He died May 6, 1864, in the faith of the Lutheran church, of which his wife also was a member. She was born in September, 1825, in Pennsylvania, and died in October, 1904. Their marriage was solemnized in 1855, and they became the parents of three children—Sarah is the wife of Thomas Grove, a farmer of Blair county, Pennsylvania; John R. is the subject of this sketch; and Kezziah, of Pennsylvania, is the widow of the late John Callahan, who for many years was an engineer on the Pennsylvania Central Lines.

After attending the public schools of Blair county, John R. Rhodes became a student at Juniata College, Martinsburg, Pennsylvania, being graduated from that institution in 1877. He next began the study of his chosen profession, in a law office, and he was admitted to the bar of Pennsylvania in 1882, continuing to practice in his native state until 1890. In that year he came to Nebraska and bought land, and in 1903 he began the practice of law at Ansley, since which time he has devoted himself chiefly to his calling, his practice having been materially extended with the passing years. He is a broad-minded and progressive practitioner, a careful observer of the courtesies and amenities of his profession, at all times seeking its most intelligent and praiseworthy compensations, and is a member of the various bodies of the calling. He has been called upon to serve in several local offices of a public character, and from 1894 to 1898 was county judge of Custer county. While he has engaged to a considerable extent in farming during his career, the law has had his main interest, and to it he gives the most of his attention. Judge Rhodes in his political support subscribes to the principles of the Republican party.

In March, 1881, Judge Rhodes married Miss Dora Patrick, who was born in Indiana, a daughter of George and Emma (Herndon) Patrick, early settlers of Indiana, who spent their last years in Nebraska. Judge and Mrs. Rhodes are the parents of eight children: Emma Kezziah is the wife of Leslie R. Clay, a civil engineer of Craig, Colorado; Orlando Ross is a farmer of Bushnell, Nebraska; Laura Belle is the wife of Timothy Hanley, a painter of Ansley; Marcellus Roy, who is a farmer of Ansley, married Elsa Hyatt; Roscoe Bryan is at the time of this writing with Company A, Three Hundred and Forty-second Machine Gun Brigade, Sixty-eighth Division, American Expeditionary Forces in France; Edith, a graduate of Ansley high school, class of 1918, remains with her parents, as do also Maude and John R., Jr., who

are still attending school. Mrs. Rhodes is a consistent member of the Baptist church.

JOHN M. SAMUELSON.—One of the genial and dependable spirits of Arnold and one who has made a success of both farming and business is John M. Samuelson, who was born April 18, 1863, in the province of Halland, Sweden. He is a son of John B. and Johanna (Magmason) Samuelson, both of whom came of that sturdy Scandanavian stock which has contributed so many thrifty citizens to the western hemisphere. In the family of John B. Samuelson were three sons, all of whom are living — John M., Sander A., and Barnard A. John B. Samuelson came to the United States in 1870 and landed at Castle Garden, New York. From the national metropolis he worked his way west and found a location in Carroll county, Iowa, where he remained four years. He then removed with his family to Crawford county, that state, where they remained another four years, after which he purchased a farm in Ida county, where he still resides, having retired from active business.

John M. Samuelson relates many amusing experiences concerning his first years in this country. When he had been here but a few months he hired out to a man to help pull beans. He was then but eight years of age. Other boys working in the same field were double his age and as each boy took a row it was not long until they had left young John far behind. This so discouraged him that when night came, he threw up the job. The farmer for whom he was working gave him ten cents and a watermelon. He took the melon home but as none of the family had never seen one before, they did not know what to do with it. A young lady came to their rescue and showed them that melons were supposed to be eaten. She cut the melon and John started in by eating the rind. He found out, however, that the red part was better than the green and suited better both his complexion and his digestion. Things have changed since then. Nobody has to show John to-day how to eat watermelons. When twelve years of age he went to work, and his wages were contributed to the family living. When twenty years of age he found his way into Custer county, Nebraska, and the following year, 1884, he reached his majority and located a pre-emption claim, five miles east of Arnold. After proving up on the land he returned to Iowa, but one year there was enough and he returned to Custer county, where he has made his home ever since. March 22, 1888, he

married Mary E. McGuire, a daughter of John and Mary (Wingo) McGuire. Mrs. Samuelson lived but two years, and she left a little girl babe, which survived her but six months. Mr. Samuelson remarried December 22, 1908. At this time he led to the marriage altar the present Mrs. Samuelson, who was then Miss Iva M. Anson. The following, clipped from an Arnold paper, gives a brief sketch of Mrs. Samuelson. "Iva M., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Franklin P. Anson, was born August 29, 1883, near Springfield, Sarpy county, Nebraska. With her parents she came to Custer county at the age of one year. After living near Mills Valley for nine years they moved to the eastern part of the state, where they resided for a year, going to Missouri in the fall of 1894, by means of covered wagon. There they lived five years, when they returned to Arnold, to remain only two years. They then went to Missouri Valley, Iowa, where they resided until 1905, when they returned to Arnold for the third time. On December 22, 1908, she was united in marriage to John M. Samuelson."

Concerning Mr. Samuelson's farming and business operations the following extract, clipped from a boom edition of the Arnold *Sentinel*, gives an epitome of his career. "John M. Samuelson arrived in this country from Ida county, Iowa, in January, 1884, and when old enough appropriated a portion of Uncle Sam's domain for his own individual use, on which he lived about a year. He then returned to Iowa, where he remained about a year before returning to Custer county. This locality has been his home since and he expects that it will continue to be in the future, as it is just as good as any place for a man with moderate means. He farmed his place in Powell Canyon for several years and in 1904 disposed of his land and moved to Arnold, where he has since been engaged in the well, windmill, pump and plumbing business, with a fair degree of success. When first coming to this country he experienced all the disadvantages common to a new country. His nearest neighbor was two miles away. Settlers were few and far between. The nearest railroad trading point was Cozad, fifty miles away, and three days were generally consumed in making the trip. He has seen this country develop from almost a wilderness to a moderately settled community of as well behaved and intelligent people as can be found anywhere in the United States."

The Samuelsons live in a splendid home, modernly equipped and provided with all the comforts of the better days that have come since the pioneering period has passed. They



Albert Rohde

are congenial, popular people, members of the Christian church, and Mr. Samuelson enjoys the distinction of being a thirty-second-degree Mason. Politically he affiliates with the Democratic party.

Mr. Samuelson relates an interesting incident that occurred in 1887, while he was residing on his place in Powell Canyon. He and his family went to Arnold to attend the Fourth of July celebration of that year. A Mexican and a white man, who had been in the neighborhood several days, made themselves very busy while the various settlers were away from home and participating in the celebration mentioned. The two miscreants went to the home of Ben Lansing, where they cooked a meal and appropriated clean clothing for the habiliments they were wearing—in short, they helped themselves to everything they wanted about the premises. Several other places were subjected to similar inspection and depredations, and at the home of Mr. Samuelson they traded running-gears on wagons, leaving their old wagon in place of a far better outfit. When the settlers arrived at their respective homes and discovered what had been done, a number of the men, including Mr. Samuelson, set out in pursuit of the outlaws. Late the next day these settlers, with others who were searching for the same malfactors, found the two men six miles north of Broken Bow. The outlaws, when thus brought to bay, resisted arrest, and in the conflict that ensued, the Mexican was killed, his companion making his escape. Reference is made to this event in Butcher's history of Custer county.

ALBERT ROHDE.—Practical industry, wisely and vigorously applied, seldom fails of attaining success, and the career of Albert Rohde, now one of the leading farmers of Custer county, is but another proof of this statement. When he started out in life he had but few advantages to assist him along the road to success, but his diligence and judicious management have brought him ample success as a reward for his labors.

Mr. Rohde was born in Germany, a son of Chris and Henrietta (Rickow) Rohde, who passed the greater part of their lives in Germany, where they were people of modest means but highly respected by their neighbors. The father died here on the homestead in Custer county, when eighty-two years of age, and the mother is still living. Albert Rohde received only the advantages of a common-school education, and he remained under the home roof until he was sixteen years of age, when he be-

gan to shift for himself. Coming to the United States, he made his way to Nebraska, and for four years he was a resident of Grand Island, but in 1887 he came to Custer county. He had been married to Minnie Sherman, of Mecklenburg, Germany, who died, and in 1888 he was again married, being united with Anna Busem, also a native of Germany. They settled on a homestead farm, where they met and overcame the usual obstacles which appeared in the paths of the early settlers, and gradually they forced their way to a position where they found firm footing on the ladder of success. From that time forward Mr. Rohde's progress was rapid, and he eventually became recognized as one of the capable and industrious men of his locality—an enterprising, pushing man of integrity who transacted business in an honorable way. Mr. Rohde is now the owner of 800 acres of good land, his home being situated in section 4, township 71, where he has a modern residence, good outbuildings, and the latest and most highly improved equipment. He follows general farming and has also been successful as a raiser of pure-blood Polled cattle, fine horses and mules, and a good grade of hogs, principally of the Poland-China breed. He has given his entire attention to farming and stock-raising, but has good investments as well, and has never been attracted to public life or to active participation in political affairs. His support of worthy movements, however, has shown his good citizenship. Mr. and Mrs. Rohde are members of the Evangelical church, and attend the church of this denomination south of Mason City.

Mr. Rohde had the following brothers and sisters: Fred, August, and Otto, all of whom are engaged in farming in Custer county, where they are the owners of valuable land and good live stock; Herman, whose death occurred in Buffalo county, where he was engaged in farming; Mrs. Amelia Paske, residing on a farm in Custer county; and Elizabeth Maliage, a resident of Kansas. Mr. Rohde is the father of the following children: Mrs. Alvina Clamp, who is the wife of a Wisconsin railroad man; Herman, who is one of the operators of the home farm; Frank, who is with the American Expeditionary Forces in France at the time of this writing; Roland, who is engaged in cultivating a part of his father's property in Custer county; Mary, who resides with her parents; and Dora, who lives in Wisconsin. Frank, Herman, and Roland are in partnership in operating the home farm and the two last mentioned are carrying on Frank's work while he is in the service as a soldier.

JAMES WHITEHEAD is an honored Custer county pioneer who is specially entitled to recognition in this history of the county. It was his to do well his part in connection with the initial development of the county, and also to wield influence in the furthering of material and civic advancement in later years. Though he is now a resident of the city of Emporia, Kansas, he makes annual visits to the old home in Custer county, where he renews and vitalizes old acquaintanceships and also cements new friendships in the community that was the stage of his pioneer experiences.

James Whitehead was born at Yorkville, Racine county, Wisconsin, on the 27th of August, 1846, and his parents, as well as all of his ancestors, so far as known, were natives of fine old Yorkshire, England, whence his father immigrated to the United States in 1842. Mr. Whitehead is a son of Benjamin and Sarah (Smith) Whitehead, and upon coming to America the father settled as a pioneer in the vicinity of Racine, Wisconsin. He was a blacksmith by trade and as a skilled artisan he found much demand for his services in the pioneer community, the while he also gave his careful attention to the development and improvement of his farm. For fifty-five years he gave faithful service as a local preacher of the Methodist Episcopal church, and his life was guided and governed by lofty principles. In April, 1855, after having sold his farm in Racine county, he removed with his family to Marquette county, Wisconsin, where he passed the remainder of his life. He was summoned to the life eternal in December 1884, his devoted wife having passed away fifteen years previously. Of their ten children James, subject of this review, is now the only survivor.

Owing to the exigencies and conditions of time and place, James Whitehead received but meager educational advantages in his youth. After he was eleven years old he was able to attend the district school only three months during the year and when the Civil war was precipitated, his youthful patriotism was quickened to action. On the 4th of July, 1862, somewhat more than a month prior to his sixteenth birthday anniversary, Mr. Whitehead enlisted, at Portage, Wisconsin, as a private in Company H, Twenty-seventh Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, subsequently he was transferred to the Thirteenth Regulars, from which organization he was later discharged on account of "permanent disease of the heart." He was sent home, supposedly to die, but fortunately it proved that the dictum of the surgeons was not infallible, for the gallant youth eventually recuperated his physical

wellbeing. In the stress of conflict and the consequent demand for men, Mr. Whitehead re-enlisted as soon as he could show himself again physically eligible, and January 23, 1864, recorded his enrollment as a member of Company D, Nineteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, with which he continued in service until the close of the war.

Upon his return to civil life Mr. Whitehead resumed work on the home farm, and later he purchased the homestead on which the father of John Muir, the eminent naturalist, had settled on coming to America and which John, the future scientist, assisted in reclaiming and preparing for the plow, this farm being in Marquette county, Wisconsin.

In the Badger state Mr. Whitehead continued his association with agricultural industry until he numbered himself among the pioneer settlers of Custer county, Nebraska. In the winter of 1883-4 he came to this county and entered claim to a homestead twelve miles south of the present village of Callaway, in the district now known as Redfern Table. On the 24th of July of the same year he established his residence on this homestead, upon which he constructed a sod house, and in the following December his family joined him in this pioneer home.

In the fall of 1888 Mr. Whitehead was elected to the Nebraska legislature, and upon the close of the legislative session he returned to his homestead, in 1889. In July of the same year he received notice that he had been appointed deputy collector of internal revenue, and he forthwith entered upon the duties of this office. A new land district having been created, with its office at Broken Bow, to be opened July 1, 1890, Mr. Whitehead received information that he had been appointed receiver of this new land office, with Hon. John Reese as register. Having thus exerted large and benignant influence in connection with public affairs in this part of the state, in 1892 Mr. Whitehead was made the Republican nominee for representative in congress from his district. The Populist party was then in the zenith of its strength in the district, and after a spirited campaign Mr. Whitehead met defeat at the polls — purely as a matter of political exigency. At the expiration of his term as receiver of the land office, he removed to Callaway, in October, 1894, in order to be near his farm, which had been leased. A year later he was informed by the Nebraska board of lands and buildings that he had been appointed state agent of the Nebraska penitentiary, the duties of which office he at once assumed, and in due time his family joined him in the city of Lin-

coln. At the end of one year he resigned this office, but he continued his residence in the capital city, in order to permit his daughter to continue her studies in the University of Nebraska.

In June, 1898, while visiting in Wisconsin, Mr. Whitehead received notice that he had been appointed register of the United States land office at Broken Bow, with Frank Young as receiver, and, entering upon his duties July 1st, he continued the incumbent of this office eight years, under the administrations of Presidents McKinley and Roosevelt. At the expiration of his second term, upon receiving from physicians the advice that he must seek a lower altitude, Mr. Whitehead reluctantly left Nebraska and established his residence at Emporia, Kansas, where he has maintained his home since July 6, 1907.

Mr. Whitehead still owns the Custer county homestead which he obtained thirty-four years ago and to which he has added, by purchase, an adjacent tract of 640 acres. To this fine rural estate he returns each successive summer and here he remains from one to three months. He recalls vividly the trials and early struggles which the pioneers here encountered in contending for victory over the untried forces of a new land, and, notwithstanding the anxiety and arduous toil imposed, he looks back to those days as among the happiest of his life—a view that is fully shared by the other members of his family. But few of his old neighbors now remain, but, instead, he meets their children, now middle-aged, and they in turn introduce him to their children, to whom he and the “early days” are almost as a tradition. Referring to those stirring times, Mr. Whitehead compares them with the radical conditions that obtain at the present time. Thus he makes comparison between the present high price of farm labor—amounting at times to from three to five dollars a day—with the seventy-five cents that he, as a lad of fourteen years, received for service in the harvest fields of Wisconsin. The farm hand of the early days worked with primitive implements. To-day are in evidence the tractors and the gang plows, and the “hired man” frequently is discovered driving about in his own automobile. In the realm of such retrospection, Mr. Whitehead is duly impressed with the fact that “the world do move,” as the negro philosopher expressed it.

In conclusion is made brief record concerning the felicitous domestic chapter in the life history of the sterling Custer county pioneer to whom this review is dedicated: On the 30th of December, 1867, was solemnized the

marriage of Mr. Whitehead to Miss Hannah M. Eagleston, and their only child, Sadie E., still remains at the parental home.

CHARLES S. CHRISMAN, who is one of the most favorably known and most comfortably situated of the retired farmers of Custer county, has achieved unequivocal success and prosperity through his former years of active association with the great fundamental industries of agriculture and stock-growing, and his indefatigable and well ordered activities in past years have brought to him the merited rewards of contentment, good health, freedom from exacting cares and a gracious knowledge of work well done and service earnestly rendered in connection with the duties and responsibilities that canopy every life.

Mr. Chrisman was born in Lafayette county, Missouri, on the 6th of April, 1849, and is a son of Joseph and Jane (Chrisman) Chrisman. The genealogy traces back to staunch German origin, but Mr. Chrisman has pride in the fact that he is a scion of a family whose name has been worthily linked with American history since the colonial era. From a most interesting family record prepared by George Chrisman, a cousin of him whose name introduces this article, may consistently be taken certain data that properly find place in this review. At some time in the decade between 1720 and 1730 three brothers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob Chrisman, left their native province of Bavaria, Germany, and immigrated to America. Landing in Philadelphia, they thence made their way to the town of York, Pennsylvania, and they figure as the founders of a now numerous and honored American family. Of the three original American immigrants, Jacob figures as the ancestor of Charles S. Chrisman, of this sketch. At York, Pennsylvania, Jacob Chrisman met and married Mary Madaline Hite, a daughter of Jost Hite, who was a wealthy nobleman who left his fatherland on account of religious persecution and came to America in 1910, the voyage being made on a ship which he owned, as did he also a second ship which crossed the Atlantic at the same time, one of the ships being laden with goods and the other affording transportation to this distinguished ancestor and his people. Concerning him the following record has been given: “He settled in New York, but soon moved from there to York, Pennsylvania. There he became acquainted with William Penn, who told him of the rich land of the south branch of the Potomac

river. He, with three partners, Williams, Duff, and Green, bought 60,000 acres of this land, from Lord Fairfax, who, under a grant from the king of England, owned all of Virginia north of a line running east and west on the south line of Shenandoah county from Chesapeake Bay to the headwaters of the Potomac. He also bought 54,000 acres in the Shenandoah valley, extending from near Winchester up to Edom. In 1732 he moved to this last purchase, cutting a wagon road through the timber and brush from York to the Potomac, a short way above Harper's Ferry. Jacob Chrisman came with him and settled on a tract of 800 acres of fine land, on the road leading from Winchester to Staunton and just south of Stephen City, at a fine spring known to this day as "Chrisman Spring." Jacob Chrisman became the father of seven sons and three daughters, and of the sons John was the next in line of descent to him whose name introduces this Custer county review. John Chrisman became a soldier and distinguished officer of the Continental forces in the war of the Revolution, in which he held the rank of colonel. He married Elizabeth McDowell, daughter of General Joseph McDowell and Margaret (O'Neal) McDowell, the latter having been a daughter of Lord O'Neal, a most powerful Irish nobleman who left a great estate. John Chrisman left one son, Isaac, who lived on the old home estate near Stephen City. Isaac, son of John, inherited this ancestral home. Of the five daughters of Isaac Chrisman, one was Jane, who became the wife of Joseph Chrisman, and this couple figure on record as the parents of Charles S. Chrisman, to whom this review is dedicated. The above record pertains to the lineage of Mr. Chrisman on the maternal side. In the agnatic, or paternal line, he traces his ancestry back to the same original American progenitor, Jacob Chrisman, whose son George was a captain of the Continental Line in the Revolutionary war. George Chrisman married Hannah McDowell and they settled near Edom, Virginia. Their son John married Ann Harrison, and they had three children, — Joseph, George H., and Margaret. Joseph first married Elizabeth Lincoln, and after her death he wedded Jane Chrisman. Joseph and Jane Chrisman, parents of the subject of this sketch, removed to Missouri about the year 1837, both having been born and reared in the historic Old Dominion state, as the forgoing record duly indicates.

Upon their removal to Missouri Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Chrisman became pioneer settlers in Lafayette county, where Mr. Chris-

man reclaimed and improved a farm and devoted the remainder of his life to agricultural pursuits. In Virginia he had served as a colonel in the state militia, and while the Civil war found him too advanced in years to render military service, he was profoundly loyal to the cause which gained his allegiance in that climacteric period of our national history. He never manifested any desire to become active in public affairs in the state of his adoption. His political support was given to the Democratic party and he and his wife were earnest members of the Presbyterian church. Of their twelve children only two are living at the beginning of the year 1919 — Virginia, who resides in the city of Chicago, she being the widow of Lee Cooper, who was a soldier of the Confederacy during the Civil war; and Charles S., whose name initiates this record.

Charles S. Chrisman acquired his early education in the common schools at Lexington, Missouri, and as a youth he gave effective aid in connection with the work of the home farm. On this homestead he eventually conducted independent operations, and there he remained until 1883, when, at the age of thirty-four years, he came to Nebraska and numbered himself among the pioneers of Custer county. Here he entered claim to a homestead and began his career as a sheep-raiser in the new country, after having brought a herd of sheep from Missouri. Soon afterward, however, he sold his sheep and turned his attention to the raising of cattle, hogs, and horses, in which field of enterprise he made rapid and satisfactory progress. Mr. Chrisman was so determined and persevering that he permitted no discouragements to affect him, and he was aggressive enough to overcome the obstacles which appeared in his path. While many of his neighbors were bewailing the lack of timber and the necessity of living in makeshift homes, mostly of sod, the while they sheltered their stock, grain and machinery as best they could — Mr. Chrisman hitched up his team and made numerous trips to Kearney, whence he hauled lumber to his homestead, where he erected a comfortable house and also built good structures for the protection of his live stock and farm products, implements, etc. As his finances permitted, he added to his land holdings from time to time, and he is to-day the owner of 800 acres of valuable Custer county land — all accumulated through his own efforts. This estate includes his original pioneer homestead, situated twelve miles south of Ansley, in which pleasant little village he is now living virtually retired. As a man of inflexible in-

tegrity in all of the relations of life, and as a sterling pioneer of the county, he is accounted one of the best and most honored citizens of Ansley. He gives his allegiance to the Democratic party, is affiliated with the local camp of the Modern Woodmen of America, and both he and his wife are earnest members of the Presbyterian church.

In 1875 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Chrisman to Miss Bettie Brooks, who was born at Fayette, Howard county, Missouri, and of their five children three are living: Joseph conducts a well equipped barber shop at Mason City, this county; Irene is the wife of Floyd Waite, a prosperous farmer of this county; and Charles L., who is successfully conducting operations on his father's old homestead, is well upholding the industrial and civic prestige of the family name.

WILLIAM M. WAGNER is one of the substantial farmers of Custer county and also one of its earliest settlers.

Mr. Wagner was born in Auglaize county, Ohio, December 20, 1856. His parents were natives respectively of Ohio and New Jersey. It was in 1873 that they started for Nebraska, spending the winter at Loup City and arriving in Custer county in the spring of 1874. Samuel Wagner secured a homestead in sections 9 and 10 and here he spent the remainder of his life. In the early days he and his son supplied the early settlers with fresh meat, as deer and antelope were plentiful. Mr. Wagner remembers when he and father were out hunting, the son had shot a deer and broken its horn. While holding the deer and waiting for the father to cut its throat the deer made a struggle to get away and the broken end of the horn caught the father's leg, tearing the flesh from the knee to the hip. Had it not been a broken horn the injury would have been much worse.

William Wagner was reared amid the pioneer conditions that existed at the time and upon reaching manhood he became a farmer. From 1894 till 1912 Mr. Wagner resided in Cherry county, but he now maintains his home on a farm which he owns near Comstock.

March 20, 1886, Mr. Wagner was united in marriage to Miss Clara Miller, who was born in Van Wert county, Ohio, a daughter of Tobias and Melissa (Cook) Miller. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Wagner has been made happy by the coming of seven children: Tobias Miller, deceased, married Ella De Wolt; Roy H. is serving in the United States Navy; Samuel L. is a member of the national

army, "somewhere in France" at the time of this writing; Charles A. is in military training at Camp Dodge, Des Moines, Iowa; Miss Grace P. is a teacher in the Custer county schools; and Frank and Harland are at home.

Mr. Wagner has a vivid recollection of pioneer conditions and recalls many interesting happenings of the early days. Once when corn was scarce and hogs were plentiful he traded a load of corn to a Mr. Carr for a very fine brood sow and ten pigs. The trade was very beneficial to Mr. Wagner, as it gave him a start in the hog business with an almost pure-bred stock—a strain which was noticeable in his herd for many years. He remembers a very severe hail storm which occurred on the 4th of July, 1878 or 1879. A picnic party had been arranged, and while on the way they saw the storm approaching. They unhitched the horses and sought shelter under the wagon. The hail-stones were so large and came down with such force that in the ground were made holes as large as a man's double fist. On their way home, in crossing a draw which had been filled with hail-stones, they had to unhitch the team. In trying to extricate the wagon one of the party, Charles Baker, froze his feet quite badly. A Mrs. Safford contracted a cold and died from the effects.

Forty-four years have passed since the Wagner family settled in Custer county and during all these years its representatives have been influential factors in the development and upbuilding of the country.

STUART B. McKENTY. — Since December, 1914, the real-estate and insurance interests of Ansley have had an able and progressive representative in the person of Stuart B. McKenty, who, prior to entering this field, had been one of the successful farmers of Custer county. Mr. McKenty was born in the Province of Quebec, Canada, August 18, 1862, and is a son of Nicholas S. and Elizabeth (Bayes) McKenty.

Nicholas S. McKenty was born in Vermont and was a tailor by trade, his work as a journeyman taking him to Quebec, where he met and married Elizabeth Bayes, who was born in Canada, a daughter of Dr. George Bayes, a veterinary surgeon of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Some time after the birth of his only son and child, Nicholas S. McKenty returned to the United States, and the remainder of his life was passed in following his vocation in New England, his death occurring at Gorham, New Hampshire. He was an indus-

trious man, intelligent, hard-working and capable, and through good management made a success of his affairs, while he won trust and friendship through his display of qualities of honesty and integrity. Mrs. McKenty was a member of the Presbyterian church.

The early education of Stuart B. McKenty was acquired in the public schools of the New England states, and as a youth he adopted the vocation of farming for his life work. The soil of New England did not appeal to him, and in 1882, he came to the west in search of his first fortune, settling first near Lincoln, but coming soon afterward, in 1883, to Custer county. Here he homesteaded a tract of land and settled down on his claim, to make his property a valuable and productive one. During almost thirty years he continued to be engaged in agricultural pursuits, and when he retired from the cultivation of the soil he was the owner of a full section of land, all accumulated through his own efforts. His rise has been steady and continuous and he has had to depend upon no resources other than his own in climbing up the ladder of success. In the neighborhood of his farm, Mr. McKenty built up a splendid and lasting reputation for fair dealing and honorable transactions, and to this he has added since coming to Ansley, in December, 1914. Upon his arrival here he established himself in the real-estate and general insurance business, a field for which his talents seem to specially fit him, he having since engineered some of the most important real-estate deals in this section. He is shrewd and far-sighted, has a thorough knowledge of city and town land values and is well posted as to the resources and advantages at the disposal of people contemplating settlement or change of location in Ansley and its vicinity.

March 13, 1898, Mr. McKenty married Miss Minnie R. Guthrie, who was born in Iowa, a daughter of S. S. and Nancy Guthrie. Her parents were born in New York state and became early residents of Custer county, where Mr. Guthrie died and where his widow still resides. Mr. and Mrs. McKenty have two children — Gordon S., who is gaining knowledge of practical pharmacy by his employment in an Ansley drug store; and Orrin H., who is a resident of Antioch, Nebraska. Mrs. McKenty is a member of the Christian church. Fraternally, Mr. McKenty belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which latter he has passed the various official chairs. His business and social success has been materially aided by that spirit of kindness which makes the whole world kin, which appreciates

merit in others, and which recognizes the value of tact and consideration in dealing with all the problems of life.

WILLIAM L. McCANDLESS. — The entire career of William L. McCandless, cashier of the Berwyn State Bank and treasurer of Custer county, has been passed in activities connected with financial affairs, and as a result he is one of the best known men in banking circles in Custer county. It has been his fortune to have been connected with two institutions which have held the confidence of the people, and his identification with them has been of two-fold benefit — to himself and to the banks.

A native son of Broken Bow, Nebraska, Mr. McCandless was born November 30, 1885, his parents being Lucian and Amanda E. (Gandy) McCandless, concerning whom more specific mention is made on other pages, in the individual review of the career of Lucian McCandless. The early education of William L. McCandless was acquired at Broken Bow, where he was a member of the high-school graduating class of 1903, following which he entered the Wesleyan University at Lincoln. He attended that well known institution from 1903 to 1906. His studies completed, he secured a position as bookkeeper in the Security State Bank, acting in that capacity from June 1, 1906, to December 26, 1906. At the organization of the Berwyn State Bank, on the latter date, he was offered and accepted the cashiership, and this position he has since retained. This institution, which started with a capital of \$5,000, now has a \$15,000 capital, with surplus and undivided profits of \$3,000, the deposits averaging \$200,000. This is considered a sound, and substantial, safe and conservative institution, and Mr. McCandless has established himself firmly in the confidence of the bank's patrons and that of its stockholders and his fellow officials. He is conceded to be a man of much knowledge of the banking business and his personal characteristics are of a kind to inspire faith and friendship.

Mr. McCandless was married November 20, 1912, to Miss Charlotte E. Waterbury, who was born at Westerville, Custer county, and who is a daughter of H. S. and Carrie Waterbury. To this union there have been born three children, of whom two are living: William L., Jr., and Harrison S., the first-born child, Raymond W., having died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. McCandless are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is a Mason of high rank, having attained the thirty-second



WILLIAM L. McCANDLESS

ond degree of the Scottish Rite, besides which he is a noble of the Mystic Shrine and a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which latter he has passed the various official chairs. A Republican in his political allegiance, he has been too busy with his banking interests and duties to be a politician, but a desire to be of service to his community persuaded him to allow his name to be used as that of the Republican candidate for the office of county treasurer in the primaries of 1918. In the ensuing election he was victorious at the polls and he assumed his official duties in January, 1919.

CHARLES H. F. STEINMEIER.—Of the merchants who have assisted in sustaining the business integrity of Custer county, Charles H. F. Steinmeier, is worthy of special recognition as one of the most progressive and enterprising of the men who have conducted ventures here during recent years. Still a young man, he has been the founder of several establishments, in the drug line, which have reflected his untiring zeal and innate energy, and from a small beginning he has advanced himself to recognized place among the business citizens of Ansley and the vicinity.

Mr. Steinmeier was born at St. Paul, Minnesota, November 10, 1883, a son of C. H. and Bertha (Pankratz) Steinmeier, natives of Germany who came to the United States as young people and were married in Minnesota. His father was a cigarmaker by trade, and later became a manufacturer of several well known brands, having his factory in St. Paul for five years. From that city he moved to Grand Island, Nebraska, became well known in business circles and as a secretary of his district in the National Cigar Makers' Union. He was beginning to make a decided success of his ventures when his death occurred. He was a Democrat in politics. Mrs. Steinmeier, who survives him and makes her home at Grand Island, is a member of the Lutheran church. They were the parents of two children: Charles H. F., and William E., the latter having died in 1916, at the age of thirty-one years.

The early educational advantages of Charles H. F. Steinmeier were confined to his attendance in the public schools of Grand Island, and he was still a youth when he secured employment in a drug store there. It would seem as though he were possessed with inherent ability for the drug business, for he soon mastered the mysteries of pharmacy, made rapid advancement, and within seven years was the owner of an establishment of his own.

In 1905 he left Grand Island and came to Ansley, where he bought a drug store, and he has since been engaged in business with constantly increasing success. Later he bought an establishment at Ravenna, in Buffalo county, one at Poole, in the same county, and one at Berwyn, in Custer county, but he has since disposed of all of these, and now confines himself to the conducting of his store at Ansley and one at Chappell. Through his own efforts Mr. Steinmeier has forced his way to a place where he is one of the best known men in the retail drug trade of central Nebraska. He was for some time president of the State Rexall Club, and has numerous friends in and outside of the various druggists' organizations. Fraternally he is a blue-lodge, chapter and thirty-second-degree Mason and a Noble of the Mystic Shrine, and he has passed the official chairs in the blue lodge. He gives his political support to the Democratic party.

In 1911 Mr. Steinmeier was united in marriage with Miss Cora E. Harris, who was born in Illinois, a daughter of Edward E. Harris. Mr. Harris, a contractor, came to Ansley in 1903. Mr. and Mrs. Steinmeier are the parents of one daughter: Imo, who was born July 18, 1912. Mrs. Steinmeier is a consistent member of the Christian church and is much interested in its work.

AUGUSTUS C. VAN HORNE is one of the young financiers of Custer county who, within the short period of his connection with monetary affairs, has impressed himself favorably upon his associates as one of ability and conservative views. He is assistant cashier of the Farmers State Bank of Ansley. From the time that he left school he has been connected with banking matters, and has also engaged with a degree of success in the insurance business. Mr. Van Horne was born in Pawnee county, Nebraska, March 5, 1894, and is a son of Hugh C. and Ella (Peckham) Van Horne.

Hugh C. Van Horne, now a resident of Pawnee City, has been engaged in banking since he was eighteen years of age, and at the present time is cashier of the Farmers State Bank of Pawnee City. He is widely and favorably known in banking circles, and has at various times been connected with institutions in several parts of the state, where his ability, judgment and counsel have been highly valued. He is a Knight Templar Mason, in politics a Democrat, and in religion an Episcopalian, while his wife holds membership in the Methodist Episcopal church. They became the parents of nine children, of whom seven

are living: Lucy is the wife of George Sawyer, a clothing merchant at Pawnee City; Virgil, an invalid, lives at Pawnee City; Edwin is engaged in the banking business at St. Joseph, Missouri; May is the wife of John Bennett, D. D. S., in the United States service at Camp Pike, Arkansas, as a dental officer, with the rank of first lieutenant; Augustus C., of this sketch, was the next in order of birth; Myron is a banker at Pawnee City, Nebraska; and Maurice is attending school in that city.

The public schools of Pawnee City furnished Augustus C. Van Horne with his early educational training, and after his graduation in the high school, in 1914, he entered a bank at St. Joseph, Missouri, where he gained his first insight into the intricacies of the vocation which he had chosen for his life work. His experience in several positions there prepared him for the office of assistant cashier of the Farmers State Bank of Ansley, the duties of which position he assumed in 1915, and which he still performs. Mr. Van Horne, a young man of pleasing personality, has made numerous friends at Ansley and has retained them, particularly among the patrons of the bank. While the greater part of his attention is given to his duties at the institution which he represents, he has found the opportunity to engage also in the insurance business, a difficult field in which he has been successful, representing some of the leading companies. While he has not thought of political office, he is nevertheless well informed as to matters of local governmental import, and is a staunch supporter of the principles of the Democratic party. Fraternally he is identified with the Knights of Columbus, and he and his wife are members of Sacred Heart Roman Catholic church.

In May, 1917, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Van Horne to Miss Mabel Harris, who was born at Linn Creek, Camden county, Missouri. She is a daughter of Sam and Agnes (Ryan) Harris, who came to Custer county at an early day, Mr. Harris now being a mail carrier out of Ansley. Mr. and Mrs. Van Horne have one child, Lavelle.

DR. JOHN H. MORROW is one of the leading physicians of Custer county and enjoys an enviable reputation both as a physician and as a citizen. Dr. Morrow was born in La Salle county, Illinois, August 13, 1872, and is a son of Augustus and Esther (Robinson) Morrow, who became pioneer settlers of Custer county and of whom further mention is made on other pages of this volume.

Dr. Morrow was a boy of eleven years when the home was established in Custer county, and he is quite familiar with events and conditions that existed in that pioneer period. He was reared on a farm and attended the public schools in the acquirement of his early education. Later he became a student in the University of Nebraska and he also attended Cotner University, where he graduated in the medical department. He located at Arnold, where he formed a partnership with Dr. Robinson, and he continued in practice there until August, 1902, when he came to Merna. Here he has proven his ability and has won his way into the hearts and homes of the community to such an extent as only a physician can realize.

In 1903 Dr. Morrow was united in marriage to Miss Marie Walsh, who was born in Lee county, Iowa, a daughter of William and Ann (Nolan) Walsh, pioneer settlers in the Merna neighborhood. More specific mention is made of the Walsh family on other pages of this volume. Dr. and Mrs. Morrow are the parents of eight children: Charles A., William G., Esther E., Arthur J., Harry W., Mary Wilson, Martha A., and Kathleen.

Dr. Morrow is a Republican in politics and served two terms as county coroner. His name is found on the list of membership in the lodges of the Masonic fraternity, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Royal Highlanders, and the Woodmen of the World.

Dr. and Mrs. Morrow take an active interest in all affairs pertaining to the welfare of the community and are highly esteemed by all who know them.

PERRY M. DADY, whose residence in Custer county covers a period of more than thirty-six years, is now classed among the well-to-do men of the Mason City community. This fact shows him to be another one of Custer county's agriculturists who in their careers have exemplified with force the true western spirit of self-made manhood, for when he came to this state, in 1882, his worldly possessions amounted to next to nothing and throughout his career he has been called upon to depend wholly upon his own abilities and energies.

Mr. Dady was born on a farm in Mason county, Illinois, March 9, 1859, and is a son of Spencer and Adelaide (Wible) Dady. His father, a native of Pennsylvania, was born in 1835, and as a young man went to Mason county, Illinois, where he started life without assets save those represented by his inherent qualities, and where he gained some

small success. He there married Adelaide Wible, who was born in Illinois, in 1840, and several years later they moved to Iowa, where Mr. Dady became the owner of a farm. He continued to reside in the Hawkeye state until 1884, when he followed his eldest son to Custer county and took up a homestead. Here he continued to be engaged in farming and stock-raising operations until his death, in 1890, at which time he was considered a fairly successful man. He was industrious and honest and had the respect of his neighbors, and as to community affairs he was public-spirited. Originally a Republican, with the birth of the Populist party he transferred his allegiance to the new organization. Mrs. Dady survived him until 1904 and died in the faith of the Baptist church. Three of their four sons survive: Perry M., who is the subject of this review; Quintus J., who is engaged in farming not far from Mason City; and L. L., who follows farming in Ringgold county, Iowa. The other son, N. C., died September 19, 1917, at Mason City, where he had for some years been engaged in the implement business.

Perry M. Dady received his education in the public schools of Illinois and Iowa, and was reared to farming, a vocation which he adopted for his life work. He was twenty-three years old when he came to Custer county, in 1882, and pre-empted a homestead, which forms a part of his present farm. At that time the property was destitute of improvements of any kind, and Mr. Dady lived at first in a dug-out and later in a "soddy," experiencing at the same time all the other inconveniences and hardships which the early settlers were called upon to face. As the years passed, however, and he began to secure results from his hard labor, he added to his equipment and gradually began to erect buildings, of which he now has a full set, modern, well constructed, attractive and in perfect repair. In every way his property shows the presence of industry and good management. Mr. Dady carries on general farming and raises thoroughbred Red Polled cattle and Poland-China hogs. He has been successful in both departments of his farm enterprise. He has accumulated 440 acres of valuable land and in so doing has at all times maintained his reputation as a man of sterling integrity and business straightforwardness.

In 1882 Mr. Dady was united in marriage to Miss Ellen J. Beard, who was born in Marion county, Iowa, a daughter of Adam Beard, who died while serving as a Union soldier during the Civil war. Mr. and Mrs. Dady are the parents of eight children: Pearl S., who

has a claim in the sand hills of Cherry county, Nebraska; Jennie, who is the wife of Oscar Ruyan, a clerk in Mason City, Nebraska; Otis M., who assists his father in operating part of the home farm; Guy W., who is in the national army and in service in France at the time of this writing; and Monna R., Harry L., Myrtle G., and Lorene J., who are all residing with their parents. The family belongs to the Baptist church, which they attend at Mason City. Mr. Dady maintains an independent stand as to political questions and has not been an active politician, although on several occasions he has served efficiently in the capacity of town clerk.

FREDERICK A. REED.—If consecutively following the same line of endeavor tends to make one efficient and if there is any truth in the old saying that "practice makes perfect," to have been a salesman in the same line for thirty-nine years surely has made an expert of the man. To have been in the employ of the same firm all those years is conclusive evidence that satisfactory service has been rendered; and when the article sold is one so necessary in a home, namely, a sewing machine, at once proves that thousands of housewives are ready to sound the praises of that man, not alone because he has supplied them with something indispensable but also because he has taught them how to operate and care for the most useful article in the home. The gentleman whose name introduces this biography entered the employ of the Singer Manufacturing Company in 1881, and for thirty-nine years he has been continually in that company's employ—for thirty-one years in Nebraska.

For five years previously to taking up the line of work at which he has devoted considerably more than half of a lifetime Mr. Reed had the honor of serving as a soldier in the United States regular army, having enlisted in 1876, at Albany, New York, and having become a member of Company G, Eighth United States Infantry, which command was assigned to duty at Camp Lowell, at Tucson, Arizona, during the Indian disturbances. Mr. Reed was a brave and fearless soldier, always found at his post of duty, and was present at the fight with the Indians at Pine Spring, in 1877. He received an honorable discharge at Fort Halleck, Nevada, in 1881, and from there he went to Ogden, Utah, where he found employment with the Singer Manufacturing Company, whose products he sold in Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado for eight years. He then established himself at O'Neill, Holt

county, Nebraska, where he successfully conducted business for twenty-four years. Nine years ago he came to Broken Bow, and since that time he has enjoyed a liberal patronage from the people of this vicinity.

Mr. Reed is a native of the Empire state and was born at Gay Head, Greene county, New York, December 3, 1852. His parents were John and Susan (Blaisdell) Reed, natives of Albany county, New York, and both passed away in Greene county, that state, where the father followed the occupation of blacksmith and shoemaker. They were members of the Methodist church, and they had a family of nine children. Levi B., who resides at Woodstock, Greene county, New York, and Frederick A. are the only surviving members of the family.

Frederick A. Reed spent his boyhood days in his native county, amid the picturesque scenery of the Catskill mountains. When asked how he earned his first money, he told of how when a boy he hired out to pump water from the hold of a hay barge plying on the Hudson river between Catskill and New York city. With the money thus earned he bought an old-fashioned, patent-lever watch and a ticket for Robinson's circus. While attending the circus a sneak thief relieved him of his watch. His next venture was to run away from home and hire out to work on the Hudson and Delaware canal. But here he had an unpleasant experience, as his employer was an unscrupulous fellow who was given to drinking, and young Reed, after receiving a beating from his boss, was obliged to run away without receiving his pay. His next venture was to become a soldier, and of this he can always feel proud.

At Ogden, Utah, January 27, 1882, Mr. Reed was united in marriage to Miss Mamie E. Shaw, who was born in Stratfordshire, England, a daughter of Elijah and Elizabeth Shaw. Mr. and Mrs. Reed have become the parents of nine children: Levi, Harry, Ernest, Emil, Theodore, Claire, Ethel, Laura, and Bell.

Though he has reached the age of sixty-seven years Mr. Reed appears much younger, due, no doubt, to having lived an out-door, active life and to his having a cheerful, sunny disposition. He is possessed of those qualities which assist in making and retaining friends and which also inspire confidence on the part of those with whom he has business transactions.

ALLEN L. BUTLER.—During the last twenty-one years the jewelry business of Allen L. Butler has proved a substantial force in

the rising institutions of Ansley, where the proprietor is known as a solid and substantial business man. Perhaps no branch of merchandising is more deliberate in its growth than the jewelry business. The reason for this lies principally in non-fluctuating values, and it follows that the men engaged in this business are as a rule of calm and non-speculative mind, reliable as to morals, definite in their purpose and not easily led from accustomed grooves. No exception to this conclusion is found in Mr. Butler, who, in addition to jewelry, handles pianos and other musical instruments, is the owner of a valuable Custer county farm, and for several years has been a member of the city council.

Mr. Butler was born in Knox county, Illinois, January 4, 1868, and is a member of a well known family of that section which later came to Nebraska, and a complete review of which will be found in the sketch of E. A. Butler, elsewhere in this work. Allen L. Butler was but a lad when he was brought to Nebraska, and his education was acquired in the public schools of Seward and Lincoln, in which latter city he also pursued a course in a business college. His first occupation was in general merchandising at Seward, but in 1886, he came to Ansley, where, with his brothers, W. E. and E. A., he opened a general store and continued in business for some time. Disposing of his interests, he opened a restaurant, which he conducted for four or five years. He then turned his attention to an entirely new field, organizing and installing the first telephone for the Central Telephone Company at Ansley, and for five years thereafter managing the Ansley office. Mr. Butler engaged in the jewelry business in 1897, and this has grown steadily until it now assumes large proportions. A full and up-to-date stock of watches, rings, precious stones, silverware, etc., is kept on hand, as well as a modern and attractive display of pianos and other musical instruments. In business circles Mr. Butler is known as a man of the strictest integrity, faithful to his engagements and observant of the highest business ethics. He has faith in the future of Custer county, and has invested some of his capital in farming land, being the owner of 160 acres of valuable property, on which well ordered operations are being carried on in the line of general farming and stock-raising.

January 4, 1898, recorded the marriage of Mr. Butler to Miss Louise Harris, who was born at Brighton, Indiana, a daughter of Thomas Harris. Mr. Harris, who was a farmer by vocation, followed that occupation in Custer county from the time of his arrival, in November, 1895, until his death. He

was the father of five children: Sid and Fred, now residents of Brighton, Indiana; Frank and Charles of Custer county; and Mrs. Butler. Mr. and Mrs. Butler are the parents of four children: Elsa, who was a member of the Ansley high school graduating class of 1918; and Thomas, Paul, and Robert, who are attending school. Mr. and Mrs. Butler are members of the Presbyterian church, and he is fraternally affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Royal Highlanders. A Republican in politics, he has taken an active, helpful, and constructive part in local affairs, and for the past five years he has rendered excellent service as a member of the city council.

WILLIAM B. SADLER.—Here is presented a biographical sketch of a man who came to Custer county after the pioneer days were over but who contributed to the present-day status of farming, a full measure of thrift, shrewd business ability, and keen executive skill.

Mr. Sadler was born in Will county, Illinois, November 24, 1856. His father, Thomas J. Sadler, was a western Canadian, and his mother, whose maiden name was Eliza Johnston, was a lady of fine culture and high standing, in whose character predominated the sterling trait of the best Irish blood.

In the family of Thomas J. Sadler were nine children—Oliver B., William B., Mrs. Ella (Sadler) Weese, Henry R., Frederick E., Joseph F., Edward T., Mrs. Sadie (Sadler) Deline, and Rupert J. Together they made a strong family of seven characteristic men and two women—a family contribution to the state that any father or mother might well feel pardonable pride in mentioning. By occupation the father was an undertaker, and in his profession he was counted proficient, the while he was generally popular. He and his wife were devoted adherents of the Methodist church.

William B. Sadler states that the first money he earned was by helping his neighbors put in their spring gardens in the small village in which he lived and where he attended the public school. At sixteen years of age young Sadler took a position in a butcher shop in Ninooka, Illinois, and he has followed that line of business for the major part of his life.

He was married October 2, 1884, in Braceville, Illinois, to Kate E. Varley, who was born at Jackson, Michigan, a daughter of Joseph Varley, who was from Nottingham, England, and who belonged to a sterling old English family. The maiden name of Mrs.

Sadler's mother was Charlotte Green, and she was a very estimable woman. Both parents, while connected with the Methodist Episcopal church in America, were members of the established Church of England.

In the family of Mr. and Mrs. William B. Sadler are six children: Joseph V., who is a farmer by occupation, lives on his father's farm south of Lodi; Mabel O. is the wife of Einer Klint, a young business man in a national bank in Lincoln, Nebraska, where he has a position at the teller's window; Walter B. is a sergeant in Company L, One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Infantry, and was in line for service in France when the great war came to a close; Addie N. is a graduate of the Callaway high school and attended the State Normal School at Kearney, Nebraska, besides which she is a graduated nurse from the Silver Cross Hospital of Joliet, Illinois; Fred T., who is in the service of his country at the time of this writing, is attached to Company C, One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Infantry, American Expeditionary Forces, and is "somewhere in France"; Lois is still at home, and has not yet finished her course in the public school.

Mr. Sadler came to Custer County in 1909 and bought a half-section of good land, three-fourths of a mile south of Lodi. This is a splendid farm, in a high state of cultivation. Mr. Sadler's eldest son, Joseph V., lives on the place and conducts a successful farming and stock-raising business. Mr. Sadler himself has his home in Callaway, where he is engaged in the business to which he has long given his attention. In connection with his meat market he buys and sells live stock, and he does a lucrative business.

The Sadler family is connected with the Protestant Episcopal church. In fraternal circles Mr. Sadler is a Royal Arch Mason and Knight Templar. His political affiliations are generally Democratic, although, being a man of keen discernment and good judgment, he persists in voting for the man rather than the party. The Sadlers are representative citizens—a family of whom Custer county makes distinguished recognition.

WILLIAM BAALHORN.—A frugal and thrifty farmer, of German extraction, who has attested his loyalty to the United States by contributing two stalwart sons to the army service, and who in other ways has done everything possible to forward the interests of his adopted country, William Baalhorn lives in a splendid farm home in the vicinity of Ansley.

William Baalhorn was born May 21, 1860, in Germany. He is a son of Ludwig Baalhorn, a sturdy German sire who transmitted the characteristic traits of thrift and frugality to his offspring, both he and his wife having passed their entire lives in Germany. They were the parents of six children, all of whom are living at the present time. Two of these children came to America — William, who is the subject of this sketch, and Fritz, engaged in the nursery business in Los Angeles, California.

William Baalhorn lived in Germany until he was twenty-three years of age, at which time the call of America lured him across the water and the year 1883 recorded his arrival at Grand Island, Nebraska. At the time of his arrival he had just eighteen dollars with which to commence life and operations in the new country. Grand Island held him but one year, after which he came up to Custer county and located a homestead. On this pioneer farm he built the regulation sod house, and the same figured as his home for a number of years.

A most important event of the life of Mr. Baalhorn occurred in March, 1892, at which time he led to the marriage altar Miss Maggie Harris, who was born in Illinois, and who is a daughter of George Harris, now a prominent citizen of Cherry county, Nebraska.

As the years passed by, ten children, nine of whom are still living, were born into the Baalhorn home: Fritz, who is at the time of this writing "somewhere in France," serving his country, has been in the service since March, 1918. John, who had the patriotic disposition of his brother, entered the service, anxious to do his bit, but he has recently been discharged on account of physical disability. Otto, Ernest, and Clarence are at home under the parental roof. Anna is the wife of Theodore Harmon, and they reside on a farm near Thedford, Nebraska. Three daughters, Tillie, Mary, and Gracie, are inmates of the parental home and are pursuing their studies in the district school. The Baalhorn family is connected with the Lutheran church. Mr. Baalhorn is independent in politics. He votes for the best man and affiliates with no political party. Some years ago he bought the place where he now lives, and erected a splendid farm residence. He owns 480 acres of good land and conducts a general farming and stock-raising business. His stock-raising operations include all kinds of live stock.

The Baalhorns are a family of fine people, highly respected by their neighbors and other friends. They maintain a home that does

credit to the county in which they live, and of whose history their lives have become a part.

WILLIAM N. ROSSO. — Prominent among the energetic and progressive agriculturists and business men of the younger generation whose activities have been centered in Custer county, one deserving of more than passing mention is William N. Rosso, who has now established his residence in Buffalo county. During his comparatively short career he has been identified with a number of pursuits and vocations, and in each has demonstrated the possession of sound ability and practical knowledge, qualities developed through experience and training. He is a Nebraskan by nativity, having been born on his father's farm in Furnas county, Nebraska, December 19, 1884, and is a son of Fred C. and Athera (Newberry) Rosso.

Fred C. Rosso was born in Germany and was still a young man when he immigrated to the United States, taking up his home in Furnas county, Nebraska. He was a man of industry, made a good home for his family, and well merited his fellow citizens' esteem and regard. His wife was a daughter of Norman Newberry, and they were the parents of two sons: William N.; and John C., the latter also a Buffalo county farmer.

William N. Rosso was reared on the home farm and secured his early education in the public schools of his native community, subsequently graduating from the high school at Kearney. His first employment was at Alliance, Nebraska, where he worked for his uncle, C. H. Newberry, and learned the plumber's and tinner's trades, the mastery of which was not difficult for him, as he is a natural mechanic. Becoming an expert along these lines, he also learned the trade of blacksmith and naturally developed the ability necessary for automobile repairing, and he has followed both lines to some extent, with excellent success. For several years he was engaged in the operation of his father's farm, but more recently has decided to secure a property of his own, his various activities having enabled him to accumulate sufficient means to entertain such a project. He is thoroughly familiar with all manner of agricultural work, having operated a corn-sheller and threshing machine outfit for about fifteen years, and in addition is a good judge of live stock and well informed in the various other matters essential to success in farming.

Mr. Rosso was married October 15, 1905, at Kearney, Nebraska, to Miss Madge H.



GEORGE W. MCKINNEY AND FAMILY

Butcher, who was born in Custer county, a daughter of Solomon D. and Lillie M. (Barber) Butcher, natives respectively of Wetzel county, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Rosso have one daughter: Olive F., born July 3, 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Rosso are members of the Highlanders and of the Christian church.

GEORGE W. MCKINNEY, who is a prosperous business man of Oconto, where he is engaged in selling real estate, owns a valuable farm that adjoins the town and is his own manager and farmer. Mr. McKinney has been an independent and self-supporting individual since he was sixteen years of age, and naturally he has little sympathy with those who excuse their entire lack of capital because of want of business opportunity. Mr. McKinney was born near Jacksonville, Illinois, January 7, 1874. He was one of a large family born to his parents, John and Euphemia (Baird) McKinney. His father was born in Kentucky and his mother in Illinois. They were members of the Baptist church. They had children as follows: John H., Charles I., George W., Mrs. Millie A. Cox., Mrs. Harriet Six, Mrs. Mary Christenson, Gilbert, Mrs. Clara B. Messinger, and William. William died at the age of sixteen years, and all of the other children are still living.

George W. McKinney attended the public schools and assisted on the home farm until he was sixteen years old, when he started out for himself. He can look back over an honorable record, for he satisfied his employers well and worked for one man continuously for three years, in all that time losing but thirteen days from any cause. Until he was twenty-one years of age he held rigorously to the old family custom of paying into the family treasury, and gave one-half of his wages to his father, although he did not live at home. Farming has been his main occupation all his life, and the success which has attended his efforts is largely the result of the intelligent interest he takes in his agricultural operations. He came to Nebraska in 1903 and has seen many sections of the state, but none impressed him so favorably as a location for a permanent home as did Custer county, to which he came in 1914. He shortly afterward bought 189 acres of choice land that adjoins Oconto on the southeast, and this land has since been greatly increased in value because of its being so highly cultivated and improved. His real-estate business is really a side line,

farming and stock-raising being the industries that most completely engage his attention.

At Bluffs, Scott county, Illinois, on March 3, 1897, Mr. McKinney married Miss Adella A. Baker, who was born near Louisville, Missouri, and is a daughter of Albert and Emily (Davis) Baker, the former born in Missouri, and the latter at Griggsville, Pike county, Illinois. Mrs. McKinney was one of a family of eight children, only three of whom survive, her two sisters being Mrs. Sadie Atkinson and Mrs. Catherine Vannier. Mr. and Mrs. McKinney have four children—Vera E., Edna A., George V., and John G.—their ages, in 1918, ranging from seventeen to six years and all but the youngest being in school and making excellent records. In politics Mr. McKinney has long been identified with the Democratic party, and he remains loyal in his adherence to its principles. With his family he belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church.

BEN HARDIN.—Formerly a merchant and now a farmer of Custer county, Ben Hardin has been a resident of this county since the '80s, and in his range of experiences he has known poverty and affluence, obscurity and prominence. It has been his fortune to have attained many of his ambitions, and hard and conscientious work has eventually resulted in the securing of the awards which compensate for former hardship and struggle. Mr. Hardin was born July 20, 1854, in Noble county, Ohio, a son of Nestor and Susan (Baker) Hardin.

The parents of Mr. Hardin were natives respectively of Virginia and Pittsburgh, and settled in Ohio as young people, their marriage taking place in that state, where their eleven children were born. Of the children eight are living: Mrs. Emily Dyer, John, Mrs. Mary Mincks, Absalom, Mrs. Minerva Taylor, Mrs. Susan Raney and George and Ben. All of these children reside either in Noble or Washington counties, Ohio, with the exception of Ben and a sister who lives at Scio, Harrison county. The parents were faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and the father, who was a farmer by vocation, supported the Republican party at elections. Ben Hardin was reared on his father's farm, and his boyhood was passed amid the exciting times of the Civil war period. The youth of all the land was at that time enthused with patriotic sentiment, and the lads of young Hardin's neighborhood were no exception. They accordingly formed a company and started drilling, but the matter of uniforms bothered

them until they struck upon the idea of picking wild grapes and from the result of their sale buying sufficient red calico for their mothers to fashion into uniform trousers and coats. Mr. Hardin still has in his possession his own little red jacket, which is now nearly sixty years old, and which he retains as one of his dearest possessions.

While he was being brought up on the home farm, Mr. Hardin obtained his education in the public schools of Noble county, and he remained under the parental roof until long after he had attained to his majority. He was married May 9, 1880, to Miss Edna L. Sprague, of Beverly, Ohio, who was born February 21, 1858, at Coal Run, Washington county, that state, a daughter of Joseph S. Sprague. Mr. Sprague was born May 1, 1831, at Jacobsport, Ohio, and was married November 7, 1852, at Coal Run, to Henrietta Mason Laughery, who was born December 22, 1830, at Centerville, Ohio, a daughter of Joseph and Edna (Penny) Laughery. Mr. Sprague died August 25, 1885, at Eddyville, Iowa, and Mrs. Sprague passed away December 11, 1915, at Ottumwa, Iowa. They were the parents of four children: Dr. Manly H., James A., Edna L., and Edwin C.

Not long after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Hardin left Ohio and came to Nebraska, where Mr. Hardin entered upon a career in merchandising. His original venture was a modest and unassuming one, as he was possessed of only a small capital, and for a time it was a hard struggle to make his business pay. However, in the end he succeeded in the development of a worthy commercial enterprise that had the patronage and good will of the people of Arnold and the surrounding country and that brought him handsome returns. He became one of the prominent and influential business men of his adopted place, and stood high in the esteem of those with whom he was associated in business transactions. In the spring of 1918 Mr. Hardin decided he had followed commercial lines long enough, and accordingly he disposed of his mercantile interests and moved to a farm one and one-fourth miles south of Arnold. Here he has a new and modern house on his fine tract of 480 acres, besides which he has fifty acres of splendid alfalfa, and the finest thirteen-acre cottonwood grove in western Nebraska. His property is free from indebtedness of all kinds, and Mr. and Mrs. Hardin are now passing their evening of life in comfort and contentment, and in the knowledge that the things that are theirs have been gained honestly and honorably. During his long and active career Mr. Hardin has at various times been called

to posts of responsibility and trust, but he has never been an office-seeker nor a politician in the generally accepted use of the word. He has supported his community's best interests as a citizen, but aside from that the greater part of his time and attention has been devoted to his business and his home. Mr. and Mrs. Hardin are the parents of two children: Homer R., who is still a bachelor, is a farmer near Arnold, and is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and of the Christian church. He is a Republican in politics. Edna Leora is the wife of Jay O. Walker, a well known business man and banker of Alliance, Nebraska. Mr. Walker is a prominent Mason and Shriner, belongs to the Elks and the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and is a Republican. He and his wife belong to the Christian church.

GEORGE E. PAINE, who is one of the capable and progressive representatives of the farming and stock-raising industry of Custer county, came here thirty-four years ago, and has since kept pace with the steady advancement that has marked this section. Mr. Paine was born in central Wisconsin, March 27, 1862, a son of George F. and Lydia (Ridland) Paine.

George Paine, the paternal grandfather of Mr. Paine, was born in England and in young manhood immigrated to the United States and settled in Maine. There he married a Miss Lamb and there he settled down to agricultural pursuits, and rounded out an honorable career. His son, George F. Paine, was born in Maine, where he was educated, grew to manhood and was married, and in February, 1862, he went to Wisconsin, where he purchased land and engaged in farming. He remained as a resident of that state until 1879, when he came to Custer county, Nebraska, and took up a homestead in section 10, township 16, which continued to be his home until his death. He was a man of industry, had the respect and esteem of those in whose midst he made his home, and from small beginning, as a poor man, he raised himself to be well-to-do and to a place of influence in his adopted community. He was a Democrat in politics, and he and his wife were Spiritualists in religion. They both passed over while residents of the old homestead. Mr. and Mrs. Paine were the parents of eight children, of whom four are living: Mettie, who is the widow of Samuel Guile, of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin; Emma, who is the wife of Sylvester Hathaway, a retired farmer of Lincoln, Nebraska; W. V., who resided in Custer county

for a number of years but has recently moved to the south; and George E., whose name initiates this review.

George E. Paine was born the month following his parents' arrival in Wisconsin, and there his education was acquired in the public schools, while in his boyhood he was not unfamiliar with hard work, but early learned the value of industry, thrift and enterprise. He was about seventeen years of age when his parents came to Custer county, and much of the work of developing the new pioneer homestead and of making it ready for the planting of crops fell upon his strong young shoulders. He remained at home until after he had attained his majority, but a few days before his twenty-second birthday, March 4, 1884, he secured a homestead. Previously to this, and for some time thereafter, he was engaged in freighting from Kearney to Grand Island, and to Broken Bow from both points. After he secured his homestead, he "batched it" for a time, living in a sod house and caring for his own wants, but February 24, 1886, he married Alice (Cheesebrough) Hodge, who was born in New York and who accompanied her parents to Wisconsin, where they died. Mr. and Mrs. Paine have eight children: Dr. J. Lee Paine, a graduate of the Cleveland Medical College, is now a practicing physician and surgeon at Oconto, Nebraska; Lynn is a clerk in the store of C. J. Stevens, of Ansley; and Sam, Richard, Elsie, Clifford, Helen, and Elwin are all at home and attending school. By a former marriage, to a Mr. Hodge, Mrs. Paine has one son, William Hodge, who is now engaged in farming near Westerville.

Mr. Paine has always made his home on the old homestead, where the sod house has long since given way to a pleasant modern residence, surrounded by good barns and out-buildings and the other improvements of an up-to-date country property. His acreage has increased from time to time until he now has a half-section of land, gained through his industry and good management, and on this land he has applied himself to general farming and the raising of stock, in both of which lines he has been distinctively successful. In politics Mr. Paine is a Democrat. He is one of his community's public-spirited men and one who has won confidence and esteem because of his high ideals of integrity.

WILLIAM C. PIERCE, who is a well known resident of the Oconto district, where he is engaged in business as a farmer, has been a resident of this state for thirty-five years and during the greater part of this time has

been interested in agricultural development. Mr. Pierce, like many of the other substantial and dependable men of Custer county, is a native of the Hawkeye state. He was born near Valley Junction, Polk county, Iowa, September 15, 1878. His parents were John M. and Mary E. (Middleswart) Pierce, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Illinois. Of the family of five children three sons are living: Alfred R., James F., and William C. The father was a farmer all his life. He was an independent voter and was a member of the Knights of Pythias.

William C. Pierce was seven years old when he accompanied his parents to Nebraska, his father locating at Coffman Siding, fifteen miles north of Omaha, which place was named for Victor Coffman, who owned much land, including the Coffman ranch in Custer county, situated seven miles north of Oconto, which was operated for eighteen years by R. C. Chumbley. The boy attended school when opportunity was afforded, but Mr. Pierce never had the advantages that he has been able to give his own children. He was sturdy and industrious even in childhood, and when only eight years old was employed as driver of the horse that operated the derrick when the great business of stacking hay was in progress. He remembers one occasion when he was about the most important member of the whole outfit. While driving the derrick horse a sudden electrical storm came up, making it necessary to get the hay stacked expeditiously, but when one of the haymakers facetiously assured the little driver that from the appearance of the cloud they would all be blown away, they immediately found themselves without a driver, Willie having known of former storms of this kind and having promptly decided that the shelter of the house at such a time was only wise precaution. In 1890, when fourteen years old, Mr. Pierce came to Custer county and started to work on a salary basis on the Coffman ranch, where he remained eighteen years. After retiring from the ranch he came to Oconto, where he continues to reside.

Mr. Pierce was married March 16, 1898, at Oconto, Nebraska, to Anna S. Helmuth, who was born in Germany, a daughter of William Helmuth, and they have five children—Robert C., Sadie M., William C., Wilna E., and Juanita M.—all of whom live at home except Sadie M. Mr. Pierce and his family belong to the Christian church. Although never an office-seeker, Mr. Pierce has many times proved himself a useful and public-spirited citizen and he has always been faithful to the principles of the Democratic party.

LYMAN E. AMSBERRY is one of the citizens of Custer county who has devoted his entire energies to farming and stock-raising and who through his own efforts has worked his way from modest beginnings to prominence and prosperity. While not born here, he was a small lad when he began life within the county's borders, and his entire training, educational and otherwise, has been given him in the locality in which he now makes his home.

Mr. Amsberry was born in Marion county, Iowa, June 1, 1873, and is a son of L. Norton Amsberry and Jane Ann (Coffman) Amsberry, natives of Virginia. He is a grandson of Zachariah Coffman, a Virginian. Soon after their marriage, in their native state, the parents removed to Iowa, where the father purchased land and continued to be engaged in farming during the remainder of his life. He was a Democrat, but never an office-seeker. As a farmer, he was industrious and energetic, but he did not live long enough to acquire marked success, as his death occurred in 1876, when he was still in the prime of life. There were twelve children in the family, of whom six are living: Florentine, a resident of Butler county, Kansas, is the widow of the late Thomas J. Mossman, who was a farmer; William Zachariah, for years a farmer of Custer county, is now living in retirement at Mason City, this county; Nola, of Ansley, is the widow of Henry Zimmermann, who was a farmer; Norton is the proprietor of a feed store at Ansley; Charles is engaged in farming near Broken Bow; and Lyman E. is the subject of this sketch. Mrs. Amsberry, in 1914, died at the home of her youngest son, and in the faith of the Baptist church, of which she had been a life-long member.

Lyman Edwin Amsberry was six years of age when brought to Custer county, where his mother, in 1879, bought the right on a farm. There he grew to manhood, assisting his mother and brothers, and when he attained to his legal majority he secured eighty acres of the home property, on which he began agricultural operations. He has gradually increased his acreage, and at present he owns and operates a quarter-section, which he devotes to general farming and stock-raising. He has been decidedly successful in his work, in which he has used modern methods and the latest improved machinery and other equipment. He has a pleasant country home, with all modern conveniences, his barns are large and commodious, and his outbuildings suitable for the shelter of his equipment, grain and stock. The property throughout evi-

dences the fact that he is a good manager and an energetic worker.

In 1897 Mr. Amsberry married Miss Mary Luella Wayne, who was born in Wisconsin, and to this union there have been born six children: Lyman Ray, who resides at home and is his father's chief assistant in the operation of the farm; Rhoda Jane, who is employed away from home; Lewis Norton, who died when he was between three and four months of age; and Alice, Charles, and Arthur, who remain at home and are attending school. Mr. and Mrs. Amsberry and their children are members of the Baptist church at Ansley. He is a Democrat, with leanings toward Socialism, and has served as a member of the school board, of which body he is now treasurer. In his community he is known as a man of sound integrity and as a citizen of public spirit.

QUINTUS J. DADY.—When he first came to Custer county, in the fall of 1882, Quintus J. Dady was not far past his majority—a young man of energy, spirit and ambition, but without other capital. Only the strong and persevering among the early settlers of this locality were able to stand the strain of the few years that directly followed, but Mr. Dady belonged to that class, and his industry and good management have since been exercised to such good effect that he is to-day one of the substantial men of the Mason City community.

Mr. Dady was born on his father's farm in Mason county, Illinois, February 25, 1861, his parents being Spencer and Adelaide (Wible) Dady, the former born in Pennsylvania in 1835, and the latter in Illinois, in 1840. They were married in Mason county, Illinois, where the father, a poor but industrious man, farmed for several years. Subsequently he went to Iowa, which was the family home until 1884. In that year Spencer Dady followed the example of his sons and came to Custer county, where he took up a homestead and where he continued to be engaged in farming and stock-raising until his death, in 1890. He was successful in his operations and was known as a man of sterling integrity. He was first a Republican and later a Populist in politics, but never looked for public honors. Mrs. Dady, who survived him until 1904, was a member of the Baptist church. They were the parents of four sons: Perry M., who is engaged in farming in the vicinity of Mason City; Quintus J., who is the subject of this review; L. L., who is engaged in agriculture in Ringgold

county, Iowa; and N. C., who was for some years engaged in the implement business at Mason City, where his death occurred September 19, 1917.

Quintus J. Dady was still a lad when the family removed to Iowa, and in the public schools of that state his youthful education was acquired. Brought up to farming, he naturally adopted that vocation when he reached years of discretion, and when he was twenty-one he decided that he would try his fortunes in Nebraska, reports having come from Custer county to the effect that opportunities were splendid for young men of ambition, energy and industry. Accordingly, in the fall of 1882, he came, as the first of the Dady family, to the locality of Mason City, and forthwith settled on a homestead, which formed the nucleus for his present splendid property of 520 acres. Like others who took up life here during that time, Mr. Dady was forced to face numerous hardships before he was well started upon his career, but he eventually overcame all obstacles in his path, and set about to gain his present enviable position as one of the locality's successful self-made men. His property is now one of the well cultivated tracts of this part of Custer county, and Mr. Dady has enhanced its value by the erection of modern and substantial buildings, and the installation of up-to-date improvements of every kind. He devotes himself largely to general farming operations, but also has made a decided success in his specialty of raising thoroughbred Red Polled cattle.

In 1886 Mr. Dady was united in marriage to Miss Sadie Burns, who was born near Quincy, Illinois, a daughter of Thomas and Nancy (Fender) Burns, the former born in Ireland and the latter in Virginia. Mr. Burns, who was a farmer by vocation, died in Iowa, where he owned a property, and his widow, who survives him, is a resident of Kellerton, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Dady have four children: Frank, who is farming eighty acres of his father's land, married Hazel King and has two children—Eunice and Irma May; Walter, single, is assisting his father in the operation of the home farm; Bert, of Kearney, who is engaged in farming, married Mabel Boker, and they have two children—Iola and Winland; and Flossie, the wife of Ralph Ming, a farmer of Custer county, has one child—Beulah May. Mr. Dady is independent in politics; he is a member of the local Grange and is interested actively in all progressive and public-spirited enterprises.

LEWIS S. NEWCOMB. — An instance of the call of the country rising superior to the

attractions of the city, and of agriculture gaining a devotee at the expense of professional and business life, is found in the career of Lewis S. Newcomb, who gave up professional opportunities and financial chances, in 1909, to engage in farming. He has had no reason to regret his choice, for his work has proved not only congenial but also profitable, and he is rapidly becoming one of the substantial men of the Ansley community of Custer county.

Mr. Newcomb was born at Windham, New York, September 4, 1880, and is a son of M. L. and Hattie B. (Steele) Newcomb, both of English descent. Mr. Newcomb's paternal grandfather, Captain Elijah Newcomb, gained his title through service in the old New York state militia, and was a well known citizen and business man. The maternal grandfather, Addison Steele, was likewise well known and honored in New York. M. L. Newcomb was born in the Empire state, March 24, 1836, and there married Miss Hattie B. Steele, who was born October 23, 1856. He was a merchant by vocation and gained some success in commercial life, in addition to which he was a man of prominence and influence and served as supervisor and school commissioner of Greene county, New York. He was a Mason and a Democrat and his religious affiliation was with the Methodist Episcopal church, in the faith of which he died, in 1900. Mrs. Newcomb, who was a Presbyterian, passed away September 15, 1913. Of their six children, two are living: Lewis S., whose name introduces this review; and Bessie, who is a graduate of Mount Holyoke College, and is connected in an official capacity with the New York public library. Another son, the late Walter E. Newcomb, was graduated with high honors in Brown University and became the first president of the Farmers State Bank of Ansley, Nebraska, an institution of which his brother Lewis S., of this sketch, is now vice-president.

Lewis S. Newcomb attended the public schools of New York state, where he was graduated in the Catskill high school as a member of the class of 1902. He had decided upon a professional career, and for two years he studied dentistry at Buffalo, New York, but in 1905 he came to the west and settled at Ansley, where he accepted a position with the Farmers State Bank, as assistant cashier. After two years in that capacity, he turned his attention to farming, and in 1909 he purchased his present property, a splendid farm of 240 acres, upon which he carries on operations in diversified agriculture and hog and cattle raising. In all departments of farm enterprise he has met with the most encouraging success, and his prosperity is all the

more remarkable when it is recalled that his early training had been along entirely different lines. He is a student of his adopted vocation and keeps fully abreast of its various advancing movements; his methods are modern and progressive, his equipment is of the most up-to-date character, and his improvements and buildings are the best of order and in excellent repair. In his work he has proved that the city man can achieve success on the farm if he applies himself industriously and intelligently and if he possesses a due amount of business ability.

In 1907 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Newcomb to Miss Abbie Geeseman, who was born at Ansley, and who is a daughter of Orrin Martin Geeseman and Elizabeth (Talbot) Geeseman. The parents of Mrs. Newcomb were pioneers who came to Custer county in 1881 and settled on a homestead near Berwyn. In 1887 they changed their residence to Ansley, where Mr. Geeseman died ten years later, and where his widow still maintains her home. Mr. Geeseman, in addition to his agricultural operations, was a carpenter whose services were much in demand, and many specimens of his capable workmanship can still be found in the earlier buildings and residences of Ansley and vicinity. It is worthy of note in this connection that a part of the present residence of Mr. and Mrs. Newcomb was erected by the latter's father, the late Orrin M. Geeseman, who was one of the pioneer carpenters and builders of Custer county and who could have had no thought that the building would later become the home of his daughter. He was a Republican in politics and for a number of years served in the capacity of justice of the peace, his fellow citizens knowing him as a man of mature judgment and absolute integrity. Fraternally he belonged to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America, and he was popular in both of these organizations. His religious connection was with the Methodist Episcopal church, of which his widow is an earnest member. Mr. and Mrs. Newcomb are the parents of one son, Walter Martin, who was born in 1908, and who is now attending the public schools.

In politics Mr. Newcomb gives his allegiance to the Republican party, and he is well fortified in his opinions concerning governmental policies. He is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and he and his wife are zealous members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Ansley, of which he is serving as treasurer, as well as superintendent of its Sunday school. He has been specially influential in Sunday-school work and is at the present

time president of the Southeastern District Sunday School Association of Custer county. His deep interest in the communal welfare is further indicated by the fact that he is secretary of the Ansley township library.

AUGUST H. MILLER. — A striking illustration of the value of determination, persistence, and industry in the achievement of success is found in the career of August H. Miller, who, starting life in Custer county without capital, has risen to a place of affluence and independence, so that in 1906 he was able to retire from active life and take up his residence near Litchfield, Sherman county, where he is the owner of a comfortable home. Mr. Miller, who is one of the highly respected men of his community, was born near Hinckley, DeKalb county, Illinois, May 22, 1859, and is a son of John and Catherine (Krumm) Miller.

The parents of Mr. Miller, who were natives of Dillenberg, Saxe-Altenburg, Germany, were married at Bremen, and on immigrating to the United States, in 1852, settled near Plano, Illinois. Subsequently, the father purchased what was known as Squaw Grove Farm, near Hinckley, Illinois, and he continued to operate this for a number of years, his industry and native ability enabling him to rise from modest circumstances to the possession of a comfortable competence. In the summer of 1884 he came to Nebraska, and later pre-empted land, but he died in 1896, before he had it proved up, and his widow subsequently homesteaded the property, residing thereon until her death, in 1901. They were members of the Evangelical church and Mr. Miller was a Republican in his political adherence. Of the seven children in the family, four are living: Rev. John is a Methodist minister, with a charge at Kankakee, Illinois, and is the leading minister of his conference; Lizzie is the wife of George Davis, now living near Garden City, Missouri, although Mrs. Davis was formerly a pre-emptor in Custer county; August H. is the immediate subject of this sketch; and E. C. lived in Custer county for a number of years but now is a resident of Oregon.

August H. Miller received his education in the country schools of Illinois, and began work on his own account when still young, always having been a man of great energy and industry. He farmed for himself one year in Illinois, in which state he married. In February, 1883, he came to Custer county and filed on a homestead, and in that year he built his first house, which was made of sod, and



MRS. AUGUST H. MILLER



AUGUST H. MILLER

which cost seven dollars. There were but one or two other families in the neighborhood, and as Mr. Miller was in very poor financial circumstances when he started his career, he had numerous hardships and privations to face and many obstacles to overcome, but he was sturdy, persevering, and self-reliant, and gradually made progress where many others failed. During the threshing seasons he would leave his worthy and industrious wife in charge of the home place and join the threshing crews, and in this way would add to his income, as he did also in accepting various other forms of honorable employment which helped him to carry on his operations of development through the dark days. He had his share of disappointments and discouragements, as well as of successes, and gradually the latter began to become more numerous than the former and he saw himself slowly but surely advancing to success. Through his intelligent and well managed general farming and stock-raising operations, he began to make money, and this he invested in more land, until he became recognized as one of the well-to-do citizens of his community. He now is the owner of 1,015 acres, all of which land has been secured through his own efforts and in an honorable and strictly legitimate manner. In 1906 Mr. Miller decided that he had done his share of the hard work of development, and accordingly retired from active agricultural life and moved near Litchfield, buying a tract of eighty acres not far from that town and another of seventeen acres in the corporation limits. He still owns much of the property on which he made his initial success and this is improved with good buildings. Mr. Miller is a Republican and has served as a member of the school board. He has also served in church offices, having always been active in the work and movements of the United Brethren church, while Mrs. Miller, who died in the faith of the Free Methodist church, April 17, 1917, was likewise a church worker.

Mr. Miller was united in marriage February 5, 1883, to Miss Lizzie J. Hennies, who was born near Steinfeldt, Germany, and came with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ludwig H. Hennies, to the United States about 1857, the family first settling in Illinois. They came to Nebraska in 1887, and settled in Custer county, where the father died in 1903 and the mother in 1914. Mr. and Mrs. Miller became the parents of six children, as follows: William H. resides with his father, and is his associate in his farming operations; George A., who is a traveling salesman for Rumely & Company, with headquarters at Sidney, Nebraska, en-

listed in the United States service; Laurel B. is the wife of Fred Gier, who is employed in a railroad roundhouse at Ravenna, Nebraska; Ellen B. is the wife of Arthur Betts, the owner of a farm near Wolcott, New York; Fred C., a railway man at Casper, Wyoming, enlisted and entered service as a soldier in connection with the world war; and Frank A. likewise enlisted in the United States service.

JOHN BACKES, SR.—The record of Custer county's retired farmers will not be complete unless the name in this title line is located somewhere close to the top. The name is one familiarly known in the Arnold locality. It comes down from pioneer days and is connected always with honorable traditions.

Mr. Backes was born September 21, 1852, across the water in the frugal land of Germany, where habits of thrift and industry are inherited as well as cultivated. He is a son of Peter and Mary C. (Will) Backes, native Germans of staunch characteristics, in whose family were eight children—Elizabeth Priester, Peter, John, Catherine Keisel, Henry, Louisa Goosman, Mary (deceased), and Charles. All were members of the Lutheran church. The parents immigrated to America in 1853 and located in Clayton county, Iowa, where they bought government land for one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre. It was here that the father died, in 1889. When John Backes was a mere lad he helped to earn the living for the family and found considerable profit and amusement in trapping rabbits and quail. He worked for the neighbors oftentimes, but his money always went into the family pocket-book. He remembers no money which he had to spend upon himself prior to the time when he became of age. But his father was a good provider and the wants of the family were well supplied, even if money were scarce. After reaching his majority, by the practice of rigid economy John Backes managed to earn and save about \$225 a year. As he was doing pretty well himself, he imagined he could do better if he had someone to help him. Accordingly on March 18, 1880, at the home of the bride's parents, in Delaware county, Iowa, he claimed in marriage the hand of Lydia Clendennen, an excellent young lady who was born in Dubuque, Iowa, and who is a daughter of William Clendennen, said to be a second cousin of Robert Fulton, of steamboat fame. Her mother was Ann J. (Boone) Clendennen, a second cousin of Daniel Boone, the Indian fighter and pioneer spirit of Kentucky. The Clendennen family was composed

of seven children, Mary J. Cornwell; Jessie Clendennen; Joseph; Lydia Backes; Sarah E. Brown; Lucy M. Way, and Emma F. Clute. This family was connected with the Christian church.

Mr. and Mrs. John Backes came to Arnold, Custer county, Nebraska, in 1886 and located a claim of 160 acres two and one-half miles southeast of Arnold. This property Mr. Backes still owns as the home farm, and to the same another quarter-section has been added. Every foot of this place is good land and under a high state of cultivation, with good improvements and all necessary equipment for the pursuit of agriculture.

In addition to the farm home, Mr. and Mrs. Backes maintain a fine residence in Arnold. This attractive home they have occupied for ten years. Mr. Backes is retired from active life, after twenty-two years on the farm. Mr. and Mrs. Backes are the parents of six children: John W. Backes, who married Mary McCants, owns his own farm but lives in Arnold and is working in a garage. He and his wife are members of the Methodist church, and he is a Woodman and Oddfellow; Charles H. owns a farm, but lives on a farm of his father, near Arnold. He belongs to the Masons and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and both he and his wife, whose maiden name was Elma B. Parsons, are members of the Christian church. They have two daughters. Thomas E. married Jennie Marsh, and they live at Arnold, where he is following the carpenter's trade for occupation, although he owns a farm of his own. He is a member of the Odd Fellows and of the Christian church, his wife belonging to the Methodist church. Andrew J. married Etta Brummett. He is in the service of Uncle Sam at the time of this writing, being a member of Company 39, Tenth B. N., One Hundred and Sixty-third Depot Brigade, at Camp Dodge, Iowa. He is a Woodman and he and his wife are members of the Christian church. George A. is single, is a graduate of the Arnold high school and works at the carpenter trade in Arnold. He is a member of the Christian church. Leona M. is a graduate of the Arnold high school and for two years has been bookkeeper for a mercantile company in Arnold. She makes her home with her parents and is a member of the Christian church.

Mr. and Mrs. Backes are devoted members of the Christian church and are well and favorably known in the community. They look back over the past and express gratitude for the blessings that have come to them, feeling that, while many hardships and trials have

been endured, their lines have fallen to them in pleasant places.

AUGUSTUS MORROW, an honored veteran of the Civil war and a pioneer settler of Custer county, was for many years actively engaged in agricultural pursuits but is now living retired in Arnold.

Mr. Morrow is a native of the Keystone state, born at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, June 8, 1835, and he is a son of Wilson J. and Barbara (Metz) Morrow, likewise natives of Pennsylvania. In 1855 the family settled at Peru, Illinois, and there the parents both passed away. Augustus Morrow as a young man found employment on Illinois and Mississippi river boats, having charge of ice barges being shipped to southern states and also being employed as watchman on steamboats, as well as in other capacities of similar order.

When the Civil war came on, Mr. Morrow enlisted, at Chicago, in June, 1862, as a member of Company A, Sixty-ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He served on gunboats and transports during most of his term of service and also was on detached guard duty. He was mustered out in the fall of 1864 and returned to Peru, Illinois, where he again found employment on the river.

In January, 1870, Mr. Morrow married Miss Esther Robinson, a native of Ireland, and they established their home on land Mr. Morrow owned near the village of Peru. There he carried on farming in the summer and he continued to work on the river in the winter season. In the fall of 1883 he came to Custer county, Nebraska, to look over the country, and he took as a homestead the southwest quarter of section 22, township 17, range 25. He then returned to Illinois, where he spent the winter. In the spring of 1884 he came to Nebraska, bringing a car of household goods, three horses and a cow. The journey was made by rail to Cozad and from that point the family drove to their new home. All of the usual experiences fell to the lot of this pioneer family, but they weathered all storms and contributed in every way to the upbuilding of this section of the state. When the Kinkaid law was passed, Mr. Morrow again became a homesteader, and he proved up on a farm in Logan county. He still owns his old homestead, but for several years he has lived retired in the village of Arnold. Mrs. Morrow, who was one of the pioneer women of Custer county, passed away February 4, 1904, and of her seven children six are living, all being residents of Custer county—Miss

Martha, residing with her father; Dr. John H., of Merna; and George W., Augustus J., Charles R., and Wilson E., all residing in the Arnold neighborhood.

JOHN H. CAROTHERS, D. V. S.—In the career of Dr. John H. Carothers, of Ansley, there has entered none of that monotony that comes from the constant following of one vocation or occupation. Few men have been so versatile in their accomplishments and attainments and few have followed so many divergent lines of activity. The law, medicine, farming, and stock-raising, all have attracted his interest and all have brought him success, but at the present time he is devoting his energies entirely to the practice of veterinary surgery, a field in which he has few, if any, superiors in Custer county.

Dr. Carothers was born at Chicago, Illinois, January 3, 1851, and is a son of Henry and Mary (Buck) Carothers. His paternal grandfather was Henry Carothers, who was married in Scotland, where two of his children were born, following which he moved to Ireland where six more children were born. One of his elder children was Henry Carothers, who was born in Scotland, in 1821, and who came to the United States about the time of attaining his majority, he being a resident of Chicago, from 1842 to 1869. There he married, and there he conducted a small farm, was engaged in the stock business and also operated a meat market. During the Civil war he served the Union as a member of the secret service. He was also a prominent Republican of his day and was a delegate to the convention which nominated Abraham Lincoln for president. He and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Upon leaving Chicago he went to Guthrie county, Iowa, where he had purchased a farm, and there he continued to be engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death, in 1885. There his wife, a native of New York state, also passed away. They were the parents of seven children, of whom five are living—Alexander, who is engaged in farming near the old home place in Iowa; Miss Mary Etta, who is a resident of Des Moines; Dr. John H., whose name introduces this sketch; Frances, who is the wife of Charles Blanchard, president of Wheatland (Illinois) College; and George Robert, who has conducted several colleges and is now a resident of Yardley, Pennsylvania.

John H. Carothers gained his early education in the public schools of the city of Chicago and those of the state of Iowa, to which

he went with his parents as a youth of eighteen years. When he made a choice of vocation, the law appealed to him, with the result that he prepared for that profession and was duly admitted to practice at the Iowa bar. Later he took up the study of medicine, at the Iowa Medical College, and at various times, up to 1902, he practiced medicine in connection with his other vocations. In 1885 Dr. Carothers came to Custer county, where he settled on a homestead and improved a farm, and it was about this time that he became deeply interested in the subject of veterinary surgery. He found that his knowledge of medicine enabled him to effect cures, and this made his services greatly in demand among the early settlers, while his reputation extended all over this part of the county. His business finally became so large that he was forced to give his entire attention to it, and since 1892, when he moved to Ansley, he has devoted almost all his energies to the treatment of all kinds of animal diseases. In this special field he has been most successful, and his ability and skill are generally recognized, so that by painstaking and diligent attention to his work he has built up a large and remunerative practice.

In 1879 Dr. Carothers married Miss Mary W. Wallar, who was born in Ohio, and to this union there have been born six children: May is the wife of George Llewellyn, of Chicago, a music dealer and a vocalist of note; Paul H., who was educated at Lincoln, Nebraska, is now a successful and prominent physician and surgeon at Mason City, Custer county, where he conducts a private hospital; John W. is a physician in Lincoln, with a large and lucrative practice; Agnes resides with her parents and is the widow of Lester W. Curtis; Everett C. was formerly connected with Souder's jewelry store at Broken Bow, but after this country's entrance in the war he identified himself with the United States wireless-telegraph service and was stationed at Leavenworth, Kansas, awaiting call to service in France; Marietta remains at the parental home. The family belongs to the Christian church. Dr. Carothers is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and in politics is independent in his views.

ARTHUR B. CORNISH.—Located in that productive part of Custer county adjacent to Lodi and almost midway between Callaway and Oconto, is the beautiful farm home of Arthur B. Cornish. He is one of the substantial farmers and stockmen of the southern Custer district, and is one of the prominent and influential citizens of this part of the

county. Mr. Cornish was born at Cherry Valley Otsego county, New York, on the 16th of January, 1863, and is a son of Lyman W. and Eunice A. (Lowe) Cornish, the former of whom was born at Cooperstown, New York, and the latter in South Valley, that state, so that both branches of the ancestral line of Arthur B. Cornish are to be traced back to the old Empire commonwealth of the Union. Of the three children of Lyman W. and Eunice A. Cornish, the subject of this review is the eldest; the second child, Louisa L., became the wife of William C. Johnston, and she was a resident of the Lodi section of Custer county at the time of her death; Lee, the youngest of the children, is individually mentioned on other pages of this volume.

Lyman W. Cornish came to Custer county in 1885 and took a homestead about three miles southeast of Lodi. He was one of the honored pioneers of the county and he and his wife were sincere Christian folk, always connected with some church organization and active in all departments of its work. In this connection it is pleasing to record that on the first Sunday after their location in the Lodi valley they assisted in the organizing of a union Sunday school, in the sod house of Joseph Thurman. Their son Arthur B., immediate subject of this review, was elected assistant superintendent of this Sunday school, and for twenty consecutive years he served either as superintendent or assistant superintendent of a neighborhood Sunday school, the while he has been otherwise instrumental in maintaining and vitalizing religious influence in the community.

For the first nine years of his career in Custer county Arthur B. Cornish worked on the farm during the summer seasons and taught school during the winter terms. In the meanwhile he saved his earnings and arranged for the day when he should engage in independent farm enterprise.

On the 27th of December, 1893, the event so important in every young man's life had its place in the career of Arthur B. Cornish, for on that date was solemnized his marriage to Miss Isabel Fodge, in Ortello valley. The young wife was a bright, intellectual school-teacher of gracious personality and was splendidly adapted to become the head of a Christian home. Mrs. Cornish is a daughter of James M. Fodge, who is still living and who is well and favorably known by all of the old settlers of Custer county, his prominence in Sunday-school work being indicated by reference made to him in the historical department of this work, to which he contributes an interesting article concerning Sunday-school av-

activities in the county, said contribution being found in Chapter XI. Mr. Fodge is one of the gallant soldiers who went forth in defense of the Union in the Civil war, and for a number of years he has been a prominent figure in the Nebraska ranks of the Grand Army of the Republic. The early home of Mrs. Cornish was in Lucas county, Iowa, and she was a baby at the time of the family removal to Hamilton county, Nebraska, from which she came with her parents to Custer county in 1883, the journey having been made in an old-time "prairie schooner," and her father having settled in the Ortello valley, his claim having been that on which the Ortello United Brethren church now stands. For several years Mrs. Cornish was a pioneer teacher in the schools of Custer county, and she made a reputation for being a splendid instructor and being a successful and popular representative of the pedagogic profession in the pioneer community. At the time her parents settled in the state the nearest railroad point, from which all supplies and provisions had to be hauled overland, was seventy-five miles distant, and she gained a plethora of experience in connection with the hardships and other trials of pioneer life. Mr. and Mrs. Cornish are faithful members of the Baptist church and are devoted and active in all departments of church work. They have shown deep interest in all missionary enterprises, have contributed largely of their means to every missionary appeal and have done much to extend Christian propaganda in their home county, throughout the state and in foreign lands.

Mr. Cornish is one of the prominent men of Custer county and has here been identified with every progressive movement. In all county-wide work in which some representative of the Lodi district was needed, Mr. Cornish has generally been drafted into service, and he has never disappointed those with whom he has worked, nor has he failed to accomplish the task assigned to him.

By long years of toil, thrift and saving, Mr. and Mrs. Cornish find themselves in comfortable circumstances, and they are to-day the owners of 1080 acres of land, on which are a splendid equipment of farm buildings and fine herds of live stock. The new home, built in recent years, is a spacious and attractive farm bungalow of modern design and facilities, and it stands forth in sharp contrast to the primitive sod house in which Mr. and Mrs. Cornish began their wedded life and in which their children were born, this unpretentious domicile having served as the family home during the years of the pioneer epoch in Custer county.

Among the experiences of his boyhood Mr. Cornish states that he became consumed with a desire to become a hunter and trapper. Like David of old, his weapons were crude—his first equipment in this line having been a club. With this club he slew not the lion and the bear, but tackled two opossums. He succeeded in getting not only the scalps but also the hides of these little animals, and from the sale of the hides he received twenty-five cents. He invested his money in a steel trap, and from that time forward the capture of small game was somewhat easier, while hides ready for market came in more frequently. This was the first money which Mr. Cornish remembers of earning for himself.

Mr. and Mrs. Cornish became the parents of three children, concerning whom brief record is consistently given at this juncture. James L., who was graduated in the Broken Bow high school, is one of the gallant sons of Custer county who tendered his service to the nation when it became involved in the great world war. In June, 1917, he enlisted in Company L, Fourth Nebraska Infantry, under Captain L. J. Butcher. In October of the same year he was transferred to Camp Cody, at the time when an army reorganization terminated the existence of the Fourth Nebraska, which was then transferred to a new unit, the One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Heavy Field Artillery. In March, 1918, James L. Cornish was appointed corporal and qualified as gunner. A little later he was recommended for the officers' training school at Louisville, Kentucky, and on the 31st of August, 1918, he received his commission as second lieutenant of light artillery. At the time when the war came to a close he was with his command at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. The second son, Lyle Maynard, is a graduate of the Broken Bow high school and prior to the close of the world war he had entered the students' army training corps of the University of Nebraska. The third child, Mary I., was but two years of age at the time of her death.

The Cornish family and the Cornish home are typical of Custer county, where character and virtue are held in high repute and home comforts are counted more than wealth.

EDWARD T. LARSON.—In banking circles of Custer county, Mr. Larson enjoys a reputation for conservatism and shrewdness. He is cashier of the Farmers State Bank of Sargent, and, in the opinion of those competent to judge, is one of the capable financiers and progressive citizens of his community. Mr. Larson is a native of Boulder, Colorado,

and was born June 18, 1888, a son of A. P. and Mary C. (Nelson) Larson.

The parents of Mr. Larson were born in Sweden, and shortly after the close of the Civil war immigrated to this country and took up their residence in Boulder county, Colorado, where Mr. Larson became a homesteader. He proved up on his claim, developed his property and put in good improvements, and he passed the rest of his life in industrious labor as an agriculturist, becoming one of the substantial and reliable men of his community. He died in Colorado, after a career characterized by self-attained success, and his widow still makes her home at Boulder. They were the parents of eight children, of whom five are still living: Perry, who is identified with the Chino Copper Company, at Gurley, Nebraska; Bettie, who is the wife of Charles Gunneson, employed as a cabinet-maker at the University of Colorado and residing at Boulder; Edward T., whose name introduces this review; Oscar, who is engaged in the grocery business at Boulder; and Arthur, who is a statistician for the Butte & Superior Copper Company, at Butte, Montana. A. P. Larson was a Republican and was a member of the Lutheran church, to which his widow belongs.

Edward T. Larson received ordinary educational advantages in the public schools of Boulder, this attendance being followed by one year spent as a student at the Boulder Business College. His first employment was in a general store at his native place, and in 1910 he first came to Sargent and was employed by the Farmers State Bank, with which he remained until 1914. He then went to Butte, Montana, and for two years worked for a copper company. He next went back to his native city, where for one year he was teller in a bank, and in January, 1917, he again came to Sargent, this time to remain permanently. He started in the capacity of assistant cashier, and in 1918 was advanced to his present office, that of cashier of the institution. The Farmers State Bank of Sargent has a capital stock of \$15,000, and surplus and undivided profits of \$12,000, while its average deposits are \$325,000. Mr. Larson's career has been illustrative of the possibilities presented to a young man of determination, who in spite of the fact that he has no financial or other influential support to aid him still works his way to a position of recognized prominence. Each step forward that he has taken has been in accordance with his increased ability, and his varied experience has given him knowledge of conditions and methods that is a decided addition to his equipment.

Mr. Larson is unmarried. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, being popular with his fellow lodge members at Sargent, and in politics is a Democrat, with independent inclinations. While he has been too interestedly busy with his duties at the bank to take any particularly active part in public matters, he has not failed in his responsibilities of citizenship, and has served very efficiently and acceptably in the capacity of treasurer of the local school district.

JOHN E. STAAB, one of the energetic and progressive citizens of Ansley, is representative of the spirit that in recent years has proved such an important factor in the advancement of Custer county. The owner of a valuable and productive farm, he is also identified with the business interests of the community and already in his career has given evidences of versatility that should do much to make him one of his locality's substantial and influential men.

John Ernest Staab was born in Colfax county, Nebraska, near the Platte county line, January 28, 1883, and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Mayer) Staab, a record of whom appears elsewhere in this volume.

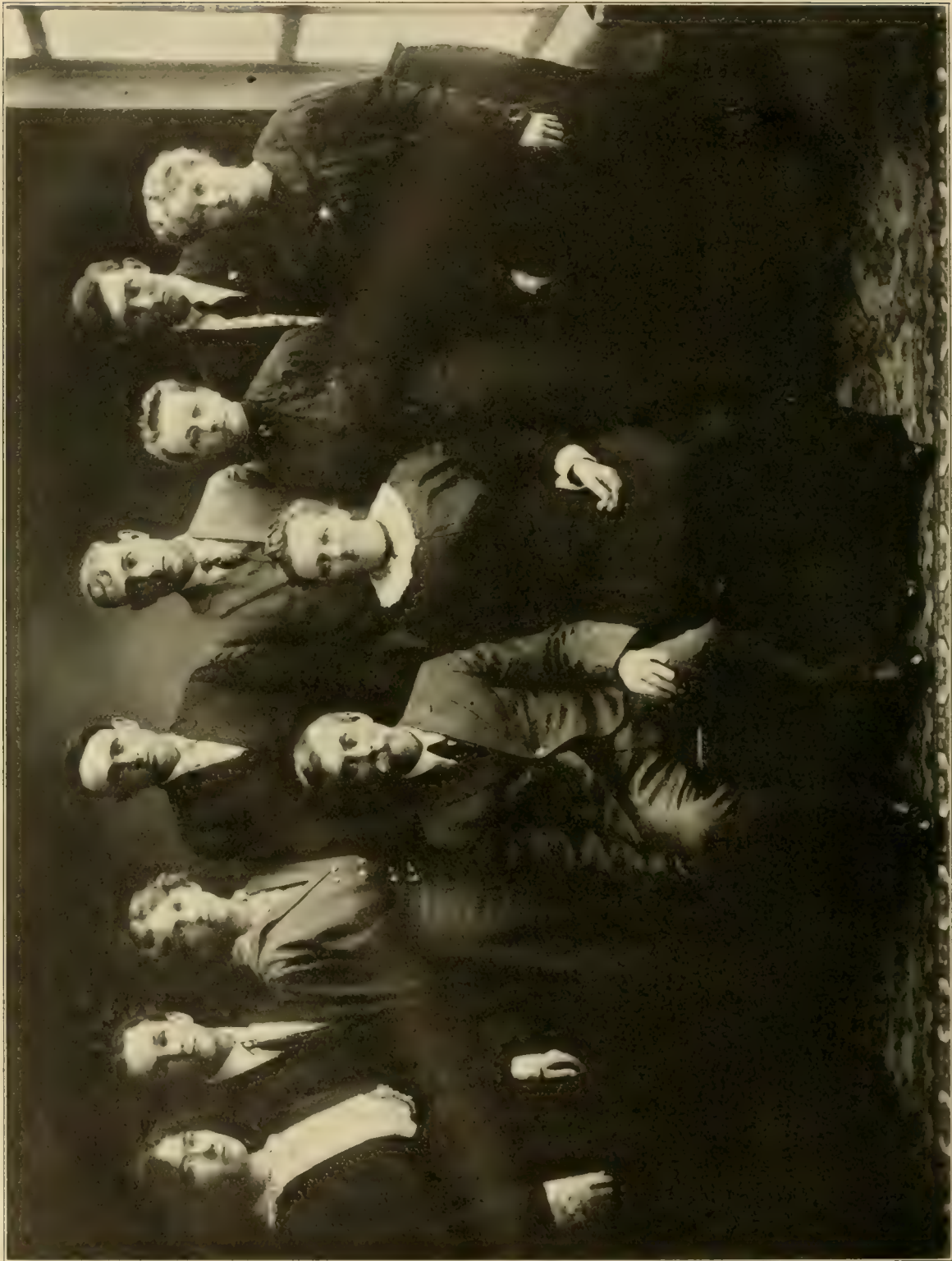
John Ernest Staab was educated in the country schools of Platte county, and there had his early training on his father's farm. Accompanying his parents when they came to Custer county, he here engaged in farming on his own account, and he successfully continued therein until 1912. While he does not now engage actively in farming, he still owns the property, a fertile tract of 160 acres, and superintends its operation. Since coming to Ansley, in the year mentioned, he has devoted himself principally to conducting a restaurant, having a large, well regulated establishment that has become very popular, not alone with the people of Ansley but also with the traveling public. He is interested also in conducting a coal business, and in his various capacities he manages to find an outlet for his boundless energy. He has made a place for himself among Ansley's business citizens, and his reputation in business circles is of the best. As to political matters, Mr. Staab acknowledges allegiance to no party, preferring to use his own judgment in the supporting of candidates. He is a member of the local organizations of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, is popular in both, and in the latter fraternity he has passed the official chairs. The family belongs to the Baptist church.

In 1906 Mr. Staab married Miss Stella L.

Miller, who was born at Polk, Nebraska, and to this union there have been born five children, whose names and respective ages (1918) are here noted: Lawrence H., eleven years; Julia Esther, ten years; Bessie, eight years; Voyle, five years; and Waneta, three years.

WILLIAM L. MILLER, who owns and resides upon a fine farm of two hundred acres, in the vicinity of Callaway, was born in Henry county, Iowa, on the 17th of June, 1860, and is a son of William and Sarah (Cubbison) Miller, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania and the latter in Ohio. In the immediate family were seven children—Levi, Frank, Oliver, William L. (subject of this sketch), Mrs. Irene Kohlby, James, and Cora. The father, a farmer by vocation, was a valiant soldier of the Union cause in the Civil war. He was a member of the Fourth Iowa Cavalry, and he saw four years of strenuous service in the great conflict through which the integrity of the nation was preserved. He not only participated in many important battles and minor engagements, but it was also his to have been captured by the enemy and to have been held for several months in the famous Libby Prison, of odious memory.

William L. Miller was reared and educated in Iowa and there he early gained practical experience in connection with the work of the pioneer farm, the while the discipline caused him to grow strong and self-reliant. At Audubon, Iowa, on the 9th of December, 1883, was solemnized his marriage to Miss Sarah A. Dill, who was born at Bellbrook, Ohio, and who is a daughter of Joseph E. and Mary C. (Hopkins) Dill, both likewise natives of the old Buckeye state. Mrs. Miller is the eldest in a family of five children, one of whom died at the time of birth. The names of the others are here given, in respective order of birth: Charles E., Nellie May, and Franklin M. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have a fine family of four children, besides which one child died at the time of birth. Concerning the surviving, brief record is here consistently given: Jennie is the wife of Roy Lee Longmore, a farmer living one and one-half miles west of Callaway, and she is an active member and liberal supporter of the Evangelical church. Mary is the wife of Harry Watkins, who is a farmer in Sand valley, six miles southwest of Callaway, and they have one child, a daughter. Mrs. Watkins, like her older sister, is a member of the Evangelical church. Myrtle, the third daughter, is the wife of Houghland Harper, likewise a prosperous farmer in Sand



WILLIAM L. MILLER AND FAMILY

valley, and they have two children, Garnett and Garlyn. Mrs. Harper is a member of the Evangelical church. Ralph D. Miller, the only son, is a successful young farmer in Custer county and is the proud father of a fine little son. The maiden name of his wife was Elsie Myers and they hold membership in the Evangelical church.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller have the distinction and honor of being pioneers of Custer county, for in the year 1885 they established their home on an embryonic farm in Brown valley, five miles southwest of Callaway. Mr. Miller pur-

ily and was able to retain his land and gradually carry forward the improvement of the property. This farm has been his home continuously during the long intervening period, save for three years, during the time of the drouth in this section, when, like so many others, he found it expedient to return east and "make his wife's folks an extended visit." Mr. Miller's admirable farm of 200 acres is now in a high state of cultivation, is well equipped for intensive farming and profitable stock-raising, with buildings of model type, and he has a fine orchard that adds much beauty to the home plat. Mr. Miller is progressive in spirit and has taken a specially deep interest in school affairs, in which connection he has for many years served his home district in the capacity of director and treasurer. Both he and his wife have been active members of the Evangelical church for many years, and they are numbered among the sterling and honored pioneer citizens of Custer county.



GRANDCHILDREN OF WILLIAM L. MILLER

chased of Robert Brown a relinquishment of this claim, upon which he filed a pre-emption. He secured the land by paying \$200 in cash and transferring to Mr. Brown also a team of horses. After paying for his land he had just twenty-eight dollars as his financial reinforcement in founding a home in the new county. He and his devoted wife encountered many hardships and weathered many storms, but they did not falter in courage, made the best of circumstances, without complaints, and manifested the faith that has been graciously rewarded in these later years. Industrious by nature, Mr. Miller in the early days obtained work wherever he could find it, and by means of such employment he provided for his fam-

DAVID A. GOODRICH, who is widely known as a breeder of registered Percheron horses, Shorthorn cattle and the red type of hogs, is the owner of Cedar Crest, which adjoins the thriving little city of Oconto, and which is well equipped as a stock farm. Mr. Goodrich is an important factor in the stock industry in this section of the state. He was born in the city of Brooklyn, New York, May 26, 1850. His parents were George P. and Hannah M. (Lent) Goodrich, the latter of whom was born at Hartford, Connecticut, a daughter of Stephen Lent. George P. Goodrich was a native of New York, from which state he entered the Union army as a soldier in the Civil war, and he met his death while on a scouting expedition, in August, 1863, near Harper's Ferry — falling a victim in an engagement with Colonel Mosby's guerillas. Before he entered the army he was a shoe manufacturer. He was a member of the Baptist church, was a Republican in politics, and fraternally was an Odd Fellow. He was a man of sterling character, true and loyal in every relation of life. He was the father of eight children, namely: Nathaniel, Mrs. Martha M. Whiting, David A., Harriet, Stephen H., Mrs. Fannie E. De LaFountain, George P., and Ada.

David A. Goodrich engaged in his first business transaction when he was not more than six years old, and from the way he managed it, under trying circumstances, a suggestion may be gained as to the business acumen he has shown in many undertakings since then.

It was pretty much of an accomplishment for a lad of his age to catch a big eel in the Delaware river, and one can easily imagine how proud and heroic he felt as he dragged his prize home and exhibited it to his father. The latter viewed the catch with approbation and then ordered little David to dress the eel and carry it to the minister, his idea, probably, being that it should be in the nature of a gift. It was hard work to dress that eel, as any one who has ever tried such a job will agree, and by the time David had reached the minister's house the price had risen and risen until it had reached the dollar mark, which the good man paid without question. To get full enjoyment from this story one should hear Mr. Goodrich tell it.

Mr. Goodrich was afforded good educational advantages and completed the high-school course, but otherwise he has made his way in the world.

In 1872 Mr. Goodrich went to Cambridge, Illinois, where he erected a business building and was engaged in the meat-market business for a time. He then sold out and located in Davenport, Iowa, where he worked for three years for Robinson & Kirk, wholesale butchers, and learned every detail of the business. Mr. Goodrich then visited for a short time in Pennsylvania, where his people were living, but in 1876 he came west again, to Peabody, Kansas, and was accompanied by his brother Stephen. Two months later he bought a shop and a store in that city and went into the meat-market and grocery business, in which he continued for seventeen years. In 1915 Mr. Goodrich came to Custer county and estab-

Mr. Goodrich was married September 13, 1882, to Miss Mary C. Miller, who was born in Pennsylvania, a daughter of George M. and Margaret J. (Wiley) Miller, the former being a native of Lancaster county and the latter of Perry county, that state. The father of Mrs. Goodrich is a Democrat, a Mason, and a member of the Evangelical church. Mr. and Mrs. Goodrich have six children: Llewellyn L., who is a mechanic with the Pierce-Arrow people at Omaha, is a Republican, a Woodman and an Elk. He married Etta, daughter of John Smith, and they have four children. James E. is associated with his father in the Cedar Crest Stock farm. Anna M., who is the wife of Arley O. Homan, has a daughter, Margaret Brundage, by a former marriage. George M., who is a traction-engine expert, at Kimball, Nebraska, was in the selective draft for the national army. C. Edgar at the time of this writing is in the national army, in the balloon general-supply depot. Raymond R. is a mechanic with the F. H. Gilchrist

Lumber Company, at Oconto. In politics Mr. Goodrich is a strong Republican, as are his sons. He is an Odd Fellow, and for thirty-six years has been a member of the Modern Woodmen of America—one of the oldest in membership in Nebraska. He was reared in the Baptist faith and has never changed his church membership.

ARTHUR C. RUMERY, M. D.—Of the men who have contributed technical skill and personal dignity to the profession of medicine and surgery in Custer county, few are held in higher esteem than is Dr. Arthur C. Rumery, who has been engaged in practice at Mason City since 1905. He has steadily advanced to a recognized place in his profession, and has attracted a practice that is as remunerative as it is important. Doctor Rumery was born in the southwestern part of Fremont county, Iowa, April 17, 1879, and is a son of Albert M. and Ellen (Cady) Rumery.

Sewell C. Rumery, the paternal grandfather of Dr. Rumery, was born in New Hampshire, whence he removed with his family to Iowa, and after some years spent there he came, about the year 1890, to Nebraska. Here he purchased farm land which he leased and here he remained until his death, at which time he was one of the well-to-do men of his community. Albert M. Rumery was born in New Hampshire, in 1852, and was a small boy when he accompanied his parents to Iowa, in which state he was reared to manhood. There he married Ellen Cady, who was born there. For several years they made their home on a farm, but in 1884 they came to Nebraska and settled on a property in Madison county, a homestead upon which they lived until in 1904. He then moved to one of his father's farms and was there engaged until about 1913, when he moved to his present home, in Litchfield, Sherman county. A man of ability, resource, and industry, Mr. Rumery was successful in his various ventures, and he now has a substantial competency for his declining years. He is a Republican in politics and fraternally is affiliated with the Masons and Odd Fellows, while he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. They are the parents of seven children: Dr. Arthur C., whose name initiates this review; Henry, who is engaged in cultivating the homestead farm; Frances, who is the wife of Ira Runyon, residing on a farm near Mason City; Lura, who is unmarried and resides with her parents; Nettie, who is the wife of Lester Ryman, residing near Halsey; Luther, who is engaged in farming

near Mason City; and Violet, who is the wife of Ernest Ryman, living near Halsey.

After graduating in the high school at Madison, Nebraska, in 1888, Arthur C. Rumery took up the profession of teaching, and for three years he carried on educational work. In the meantime he had become interested in medicine and had started to prepare himself for a career in that profession, eventually entering the Omaha Medical College, which is now the medical department of the University of Nebraska. In this excellent institution he was graduated, in 1905, with his degree of Doctor of Medicine. At that time he went to Centerville, South Dakota, where he practiced three months, and he then settled permanently at Mason City, where he has since been located, having won success in his profession, both as to standing and as to a large and lucrative practice. He has held the office of city health officer of Mason City and has done much to preserve the health and sanitation of the community. He is a valued member of the Custer County Medical Society, the Nebraska State Medical Society, and the American Medical Association, and he keeps fully abreast of all the advancements being made in his profession. He maintains an independent stand upon political questions, while in civic affairs he endeavors to give his support to those things which he believes are for the greatest general good. Fraternally, Dr. Rumery is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, having been master of his lodge four years and being affiliated also with Scottish Rite bodies. He belongs to the Baptist church, as do the members of his family.

In 1907, at Dayton, Ohio, Dr. Rumery married Miss Abilene Deal, who was born in eastern Ohio, and to this union there have been born two children: Helen Louise, and Lucile.

LEWIS KULHANEK.—One of Custer county's sturdy farmers, just merging into middle life, belonging to the pioneers upon whom the burdens and responsibilities of the present day rest heavily, is Lewis Kulhanek, a son of John and Fannie Kulhanek, whose family history is traced elsewhere in these pages.

Lewis Kulhanek is a native of Moravia Austria, where he was born June 23, 1879. He came to this country with his parents as an infant and reached Custer county when but two years of age. He received his education in the county of the family's adoption, and credits the public schools for equipping him for business life and for activity in the way

of farm and stock transactions. He is a farmer by lifelong occupation, and the farm home in which he and his family are now living stands on the original tree claim entered by his father in the early days.

Lewis Kulhanek was married June 30, 1908, to Josephine Fortik, she being a daughter of Joseph and Anna Fortik, natives of Moravia. Mrs. Kulhanek is a native of Custer county, and since she was born here and her husband has lived here since he was two years of age, and their children were born here, and they have of this world's goods was made here, all that they can be truthfully styled a Custer county family domiciled in a Custer county home.

In their pleasant home two boys have come to bring happiness and sunshine—Andrew Joseph, nine years old, and Anton Lloyd, six years of age, are sturdy young candidates for useful manhood and prominent citizenship in Custer county. They are at the present time wrestling with the curriculum of the public schools.

Mr. Kulhanek owns 160 acres of land, does a general farming and stock-raising business, enjoys the confidence and respect of neighbors and friends, and is rated as one of the best men of foreign birth now in Custer county. He is patriotic and loyal, and has been a liberal contributor to every national appeal for assistance in the recent period of the world war.

Religiously, the family are Catholics and faithful supporters of the church. In politics Mr. Kulhanek trains with the Republican party, yet the character of the local man must be above reproach or the candidate of some other ticket will receive his vote.

WILLIAM WALSH was one of the pioneers of Custer county and endured the hardships and privations of the early days, but he became one of the substantial and well-to-do men of the county.

William Walsh was born in Ireland, in June, 1835. He was reared on a farm in his native land and came to America in 1868 and engaged in farming in Lee county, Iowa. In 1874 he returned to Ireland, and February 8, 1875, he was there united in marriage to Ann Nolan, also a native of the Emerald Isle. The month after their marriage they came to the United States, and again Mr. Walsh took up the occupation of farming in Iowa, where they remained until 1880, when they came to Custer county and secured a homestead and tree-claim in section 26, township 18, range 22. He helped organize school district No. 31

and served for a number of years as a school director. He made a success of his farming ventures and became one of the prosperous men of his community. He assessed his township for several years and also served as a member of the county board of supervisors. In 1909 he retired from active life and took up his abode at Merna. His death occurred in Omaha. His widow still survives and is a resident of that city. They were the parents of ten children.

WILL D. AMSBERRY, who has been a resident of Custer county since 1885, has passed his entire career in the pursuits of general farming and stock-raising, and through industry and good management has become the possessor of a handsome farm of 160 acres, located in the vicinity of Mason City. Mr. Amsberry is a native of West Virginia, born July 7, 1868, and is a son of Francis E. and Lucy C. (Beard) Amsberry, natives respectively of West Virginia and Virginia, a review of their lives being given in the sketch of John A. Amsberry, elsewhere in this work.

Will D. Amsberry received his education in the public schools of West Virginia, and was seventeen years of age when he accompanied his parents to Custer county, whither they had been preceded some years before by his eldest brother, John A. Amsberry, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. He was reared to farm work and farm life, and when he attained his majority he began operations on his own account. He has continued to follow general farming and stock-raising to the present time, with a full measure of success. Mr. Amsberry built his own house, barns and other farm buildings, and has an attractive and valuable property. Cultivated by modern methods, his farm is in a high state of productiveness, giving him a position among the successful farmers of his locality. He keeps fully abreast of the advancements made in agricultural science and practice and is an interested member of the local Grange, in the meetings of which his voice is frequently heard in connection with the consideration of important farming and stock-raising questions. Politically he is a Republican, but is independent in his stand upon some subjects.

In 1897 Mr. Amsberry married Miss Jennie Myers, who was born in Indiana, a daughter of Philip Myers, who came to Custer county, Nebraska, in 1885, and homesteaded the land on which he farmed until his death. Mr. and Mrs. Amsberry are the parents of three children: Ruby, who is attending school at

Kearney, Nebraska; and Lloyd C. and Hazel, who remain at the parental home.

ALBERT B. DOWNIN.—The state of Illinois has contributed its share of useful citizens to the middle west, and it would seem on first appearance that the best of her contribution has been given to Custer county. Albert B. Downin is part of this contribution. He was born September 28, 1881, in Fulton county of that famous state. His father was James Downin, who came of Maryland stock. His mother's maiden name was Hettie Cattlet, and she, like her son, was born in the Illinois commonwealth. In the James Downin family were seven children—Emery L., Mrs. Mary J. Kitch, Joseph V., Mrs. Vina Ward, Carl J., and Tolliver K. The last named son is serving at the present time in the United States Navy, on the battleship "Georgia." The father of this family was a farmer of strong integrity and was highly esteemed in circles where he was known. He moved with his family to Adams county in 1886, and ten years later, in 1896, he came to the Wood River valley, south of Lodi, Custer county, where he rented and farmed land for three years. Later he bought a quarter-section in township 14, range 22, where he spent the remainder of his life. He died in May, 1902.

Albert B. Downin's early training was naturally on the farm. Doing always a boy's work, and sometimes a man's work, he acquired the art of husbandry very early in life. His first money was earned by drowning ground-squirrels for a neighbor, and for this service he was paid one cent for each animal thus destroyed. In this business he had a partner, who was a neighbor's boy. Together they did a thriving business, for squirrels were found in abundance on the farm where they operated.

Albert Downin, who had always made his home with his parents, after his father's death assumed the responsibilities of home and farm and worked the place for his mother, who survived his father only six years. By hard work and industrious and careful management, he has accumulated money and property, and is now owner of the home place, having bought the interests of his brothers and sisters. To the home place he has added by other purchases until he now owns and operates 595 acres. All this has been made by successful farming and stock-raising.

On November 25, 1908, the same year that his mother died, Mr. Downin married Miss Milly E. Jones, at Callaway. Mrs. Downin

is a native of Nebraska and is one of the five children born to Melvin K. and Martha Ellen (Dickson) Jones.

In the Albert Downing home to-day are two fine sons, Ralph C., and Morris L., and the younger son, Master Morris, is said to be the king of the realm and the manager of the Downin establishment. Mr. Downin is counted as a good neighbor, a thinking, active, progressive farmer. He is intelligent in politics, voting always according to his convictions and for the man he believes will make the best officer. Interested in educational affairs, he is at the present time serving his school district as treasurer.

JOSHUA C. MOORE is one of the substantial business men of Broken Bow, where he is engaged as abstractor and searcher of real-estate titles, and friends and neighbors who know him well and intimately cut the name short and refer to him as "J. C."

Mr. Moore was born in Moultrie county, Illinois, August 22, 1857, and is a son of Peyton and Maria (Roney) Moore, both of whom were natives of old Kentucky. The parents moved to Illinois, where their marriage occurred and where they continued their residence until the time of their death. By trade the father was a saddler and harnessmaker, and he established at Shelbyville, Illinois, a harness shop which he operated a few years, but later he took up farming. There were thirteen children in the family, only five of whom are now living—William H. is a farmer in Illinois; John T. farms in Oklahoma; the subject of this sketch was the next younger; and Henry and Willis are farming in Illinois.

Joshua C. Moore is a very faithful member of the Christian church, in which he has been a leader and heavy contributor for many years. He is a man well qualified for any position in church, society or business. He ran the gamut of the public schools in Illinois, entered college at Lincoln, Illinois, where he studied for one year, and he then took a course in the business college at Jackson, Illinois. He thus received a liberal education, and this his riper years have developed by wide reading. He was brought up on a farm, but later engaged in clerical work, at which he is accounted as an adept.

Mr. Moore came to Custer county in 1886 and for the first few years he was auditor of the county books. He also served as deputy treasurer and clerk of the county, and in 1896 he turned his attention to farm enterprise. In 1901 he retired to Broken Bow and engaged

in the abstract business, to which he now devotes his entire time.

Domestic life in a home of Mr. Moore's own establishing dates from 1877, in which year he married Emma T. Roll, a very excellent lady of fine Christian culture. Mrs. Moore was a native of the state of Iowa. To them the passing of time brought three children, who are still living and well established in the confidence and esteem of a wide circle of friends: The firstborn, Walter S., lives in Mason City; Sylva D. is the wife of John Turner, who lives in Thedford, Nebraska, and who is well known in Custer county as a reliable young business man: Mr. Turner operates a lumber yard in his resident town and is also owner of the yard in Dunning; Kate is at home and finds steady employment in the office of the register of deeds of Custer county, she being a very competent young business woman and having been the incumbent of her present position four years. The children are all members of the Christian church and are valuable assets to that organization.

Mr. Moore is a member of the Modern Brotherhood of America and is independent in politics. The great sorrow of his life came about three years ago, when Mrs. Moore departed this life, October 9, 1915, leaving an unusually large circle of warm friends.

Custer county is deeply indebted to her citizens, and families like the one just described are heavy contributors to that high and commendable personnel.

JACOB KULHANEK.—There are few better farmers in Custer county than the subject whom this narrative concerns. An Austrian by birth and ancestry, he has contributed to Custer county the sterling characteristics of thrift and frugality.

Jacob Kulhanek was born in Moravia, June 23, 1869, and comes of a prominent Austrian family. His father, John J. Kulhanek, has extended mention in this volume. The education of young Jacob was commenced in his native province of Moravia, and later supplemented in Custer county. Educationally he is well equipped to transact all business generally arising from farm or stock transactions, and to keep himself abreast with the times, as well as thoroughly enlightened on every topic of current-day history. He began active labor on his father's farm, and, being industrious and frugal by nature, he has made a success of his life vocation. He stayed at home with his father until he was thirty-six years of age, and during this time he was the stay and support of the father's home.



J. H. BRAND



MRS. J. H. BRAND

In 1906 Mr. Kulhanek married Miss Flossie Jones, a daughter of James B. Jones, a popular Custer county citizen, who is individually mentioned on other pages of this volume. Mr. Kulhanek and his father-in-law, James B. Jones, with their families, have recently made an extended trip over a large portion of the United States, and feel well repaid for the time expended. In the Kulhanek home are two sons, boys who give much promise of following in the footsteps of their father and grandfathers.

If you went to visit the Kulhanek home of to-day you would find a splendid farm of 200 acres, highly improved, with all kinds of buildings incident to stock-raising and grain farming, shelters for hogs and cattle, and all necessary equipment to make farming render the maximum profits. There is a good farm house, in which the family are happily domiciled and prepared to live much easier than in the pioneer days, when such homes as the Kulhaneks have to-day were at least a hundred miles remote from the confines of Custer county. Mr. Kulhanek was reared in the faith of the Catholic church and his wife is a member of the Baptist church. He is independent in politics and cares little for partisan names or affiliation. With him the character of the candidate is the great and prominent thing, and the man who in his judgment is best fitted to fill the office will secure his vote. Custer county would be better off with more such men and such families.

J. H. BRAND.—In this sterling citizen Custer county has a practical and zealous agriculturist, and one who for nearly thirty-five years has done his share in promoting the best interests of the community. He still owns the claim which he secured in 1884, on first coming to the west, and during his long residence here his conduct in all matters, agricultural, business, social, and civic, has been such as to establish his reputation as a helpful citizen and a man of strict integrity and probity of character.

Mr. Brand was born in Franklin county, New York, in 1849, a son of Luther and Lucy (Bateman) Brand. The Brand family originated in Germany but was transplanted in America at a very early date in the history of this country, as shown in the fact that Robert Brand, the great-great-grandfather of J. H. Brand, was a resident of Rhode Island. The paternal grandfather, Nathan Brand, was a native of Vermont and fought as a soldier of the patriot army during the Revolutionary war, and the maternal grandfather was Datis

Bateman, an Englishman, who died in New York state. Luther Brand was born at Hinesburg, Chittenden county, Vermont, and as a young man went to Franklin county, New York, where he married Miss Lucy Bateman, a native of that county, born at Chateaugay. They became farming people of that vicinity and spent their entire lives there, Mr. Brand passing away at the age of fifty-seven years and his wife when a little older. They had a family of seven children, of whom five are living: J. H.; W. W., a farmer in the vicinity of Grand Island, Nebraska; F. E., a retired dairyman of Grand Island; and Ida S. and Nellie M., maiden ladies, who live at Grand Island and keep house for their brother, F. F. The children were reared in the faith of the Baptist church, of which the parents were life-long members. The father was a Republican in politics, and at one time served as school trustee, although he was no politician and only took a good citizen's interest in public affairs.

J. H. Brand received his education in the public schools of Franklin county, New York, where he grew to manhood on his father's farm. He was an enterprising and industrious young man and desired to make a success of his life. Thus when he noted that his progress was not fast enough, he decided that the fault lay with the locality and that by changing his place of residence he could better himself. Accordingly, he came to Custer county in 1884, still a bachelor, and took up the tree claim on which he has since carried on general farming, with constantly increasing success. In the meantime, the lady who was to become his wife had come here and homesteaded a claim, and they are now the owners of 320 acres, all under a high state of cultivation and with the best of modern improvements. The buildings on the property were all erected by Mr. Brand, as at the time of his arrival there were no structures here and no improvements of any other kind.

On June 27, 1918, Mr. and Mrs. Brand were the guests of honor at a surprise party, which commemorated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the marriage, June 27, 1893, of J. H. Brand and Mary A. (Miller) Hughes. Mrs. Brand's first husband was James A. Hughes, by whom she had two children: Fannie A., who is the wife of C. M. Kiplinger, living near the Brand home; and Sidney R., who is farming his mother's property. Mrs. Brand was born in Harrison county, Indiana, April 7, 1862, and is a daughter of Oliver W. and Hester (McCulloughm) Miller. She is a granddaughter of Valentine Miller and James McCulloughm, who were natives respectively

of Virginia and Kentucky, and both of whom died in Indiana. Oliver W. Miller passed his life as a farmer in the Hoosier state, where he was elected to the school board, on the Democratic ticket, and where he also served in official positions in the old, radical United Brethren church. Following his demise his widow came to Nebraska, where she was living with her children at the time of her death. Of the five children, four are still living: Mrs. Brand; Mrs. Ella Burley, of Sharps Mill, Indiana; A. S., rural mail carrier out of Litchfield, Nebraska; and D. F., on a homestead in Colorado. Mr. and Mrs. Brand have had four children: Oliver F., who is engaged in operating his father's farm and also owns eighty acres of his own; Wilbur D., who also operates on his father's land; Hester L., who remains with her parents; and Lucy, who died at the age of seven years. The children have always resided at home, but it seemed as though the happy family circle would be broken by the cruel demands of war, as both of the sons were subject to the call. Mr. and Mrs. Brand have been members of the Free Methodist church for nearly a quarter of a century, having joined twenty-three years ago. Mr. Brand is a Republican, but has not cared for the doubtful honors of political life. He has found plenty to do in supporting good movements for the civic betterment and the general welfare, and has been content to till his acres and to take the awards that come through a life of industry and honorable conduct, as represented by the gaining of life's true compensations — the love of one's family and the respect and confidence of one's fellow citizens.

JAMES G. BASS, who is a prosperous merchant at Mason City, where he has been established since 1916, came first to this state when nine years old, accompanying his parents, who located in Hamilton county, in 1883. Although circumstances led to his residing in other sections during a busy interval, when he felt prepared to settle down permanently, Mr. Bass' choice of a home was in Nebraska. He is a self-made man, having had but meager advantages in early youth, but his honest efforts along many industrial lines have met with just rewards.

James G. Bass was born July 26, 1874, in Pike county, Indiana. He attended the district schools and after the family came to Hamilton county, Nebraska, he remained on the farm until he was seventeen years of age. As his tastes were not in this direction, he then sought other employment, and for a

time he was a clerk in a hotel and also worked for the B. & M. Railroad. While living in Omaha he was in the barber business and he then pushed on to San Francisco, in the meanwhile filling the position of traveling salesman for several years. Finally he engaged in the mercantile business in San Francisco, and there he was comfortably situated when his business, like thousands of others, was destroyed by the earthquake and fire calamity. Mr. Bass then went back on the road and continued as a commercial representative until 1916, when he came to Mason City and engaged in the hardware and agricultural-implementation business, under the firm name of C. E. Bass & Company. A very complete stock is carried and the firm has built up an enviable reputation for business integrity.

In 1903 Mr. Bass married Miss Maude E. Smith, who was born at Healdsburg, Sonoma county, California, and they have four children: Gifford E., Naoma, Irma, and James Darrell. Mrs. Bass is a member of the Christian church, while Mr. Bass is a Christian Scientist. He has always been a staunch supporter of the principles of the Republican party, but at no time has he been willing to accept public office. He is an earnest citizen, however, and his fellow citizens find him ready to co-operate with them in furthering all movements for the public good. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity, including the Mystic Shrine.

CASPER VOGLER. — In the early '80s, when settlers and home-seekers were beginning to come into Custer county, the fame of this section spread all over the country, and many a young man saw here an opportunity to secure a farm and establish a home such as was not offered in the locality in which he had been reared. These ambitious young men came from other states and from other countries, and by 1885-86, choice homestead claims in the neighborhood of Oconto promised a greatly increased population. One of these homesteads was secured by the late Casper Vogler, who, for almost a quarter of a century, was one of the county's highly esteemed citizens.

Casper Vogler was born in Massbach, Germany, December 7, 1858, the third in a family of four children born to John S. and Margaret (Dittmar) Vogler, the others being Michael, Nicholas, and Maggie. Casper Vogler attended the established school in his native village and before he left Germany, in 1882, had complied with the military law of the land. He was twenty-four years old when he came

to the United States, and because many of his countrymen had settled in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, he made this his objective point. On reaching that county he easily obtained remunerative work on farms. Two years later Miss Carolina Schüller came from Germany to America, and in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, she met Casper Vogler. Their friendship culminated in their marriage, on the 10th of May, 1885. Mr. Vogler then came to Nebraska and filed his homestead claim, southwest of Oconto, in Custer county, and in 1886, he and his wife moved on to this pioneer homestead, which thereafter continued to be the family home. Mr. Vogler was an excellent farmer and good business man, a kind husband and father and an accommodating neighbor. He died on his farm, November 7, 1909, leaving a fine property to his widow, who now owns 320 acres, adjoining the 160-acre farm of her only son, John G. Vogler.

Mrs. Vogler was one of a family of eleven children, of whom there are five survivors — Mrs. Caroline Vogler, Casper Schüller, Mrs. Margaret Knies, Mrs. Louisa K. Heim, and Otto Schüller. The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Vogler: Lena is the wife of Henry Miller, a farmer on Redfern Table, and they have two sons and two daughters; they attend the Lutheran church; Casper, who is a carpenter and contractor, remains at home; John G., who was born in Custer county, November 8, 1890, farms his own land and also his mother's 320 acres, and is well known all over the county as a young man of sterling character; and Martha J. is the wife of James McNamara, who is a farmer in Pleasant Valley, their one child being a daughter. The Vogler family belongs to the Lutheran church. When Casper Vogler first came to this county and secured his homestead, his nearest neighbors were James Johnson and Michael McNamara. The first school, called the Johnson school, was established in 1890.

ALFRED O'BRIEN, who originally came to Custer county in 1882, as homesteader, but who for a number of years has been connected with mercantile pursuits, as the proprietor of a thriving and successful grocery and hardware store, is another of the men who have found awaiting them in the virile west splendid opportunity for advancement. He was born at Churubusco, Clinton county, New York, February 11, 1855, a son of Thomas and Anna (Corcoran) O'Brien, and a grandson of Kennedy O'Brien, a native of Ireland, who died on a Vermont farm.

Thomas O'Brien was born in Ireland, and was a young man when he came to the United States, the family settling in Vermont, where he met and married Anna Corcoran, who was born at Portland, Maine. Subsequently he went to Clinton county, New York, and settled on a farm near Churubusco, a small rural community, and he was living there at the time of the Civil war. In the last year of the struggle he enlisted in Company I, First New York Engineering Corps, with which he fought until peace was declared, and he then returned to his homestead, where he continued to be engaged in farming until the time of his death. He became a substantial and highly respected citizen, was successful in his business affairs, and served his community capably as justice of the peace. He was a Democrat, and was a faithful member of the Catholic church. He and his wife were the parents of seven children: Alfred, whose name initiates this sketch; Margaret, who is deceased; George, who is a telegraphist, living at Concord, New Hampshire; Arthur, who also is a telegraph operator, and is living at Cambridge, Massachusetts; Miss Anna, who resides at Churubusco, New York; Agnes, who is the wife of Horace Martin, of Montreal, Canada; and Thomas, who lives on the old home farm.

Alfred O'Brien received his education in the country schools of New York, and, like many farmers' sons of his day and locality, was attracted by the romance of railroading, which he took up as a vocation, in the west. From 1874 to 1882 he had a run from Grand Island to North Platte, but in the latter year he gave up railroading for farming, securing a homestead and a timber claim in Custer county. He had practically no capital to start with, as represented in a monetary way, but he was full of ambition and energy and was able to overcome the hardships and obstacles that discouraged and defeated many who were not so sturdy or courageous in spirit. He has since sold his homestead, but continues to hold his timber claim, and has other land, which totals 800 acres. His career has been one of self-made success that has all the elements of creditable achievement. In 1894 Mr. O'Brien came to Mason City and established himself in business as the proprietor of a grocery and hardware store. He has built up a large trade and is accounted one of the successful business men of the city.

In 1861, Mr. O'Brien married Miss Ellen McAllister, who was born at Council Bluffs, Iowa, a daughter of William McAllister, an early settler of Hall county, who had come up to Council Bluffs on a flat-boat, in 1848. The

town at that time was known as Canesville. Mr. and Mrs. O'Brien are the parents of two children: Evelyn, who is the wife of C. M. Anderson, of Scotts Bluff, Nebraska, a salesman for the Standard Oil Company; and Frank M., who went to the east, where he was given a course of instruction in the celebrated Massachusetts Institute of Technology, after which, in connection with the nation's participation in the world war, he was sent to Millington, Tennessee, as a member of the United States Aviation Corps in which he received commission as second lieutenant.

Alfred O'Brien is a Scottish Rite Mason and has served as master of his lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons. In political matters he supports the Democratic party.

JOHN A. DAILY.—Some of the most profitably conducted and highly developed farming properties to be found in Custer county are those which were taken by their present owners as homesteads more than thirty years ago and which have continued through all this period to receive the personal attention of these owners. A case in point is the farm of John A. Daily, which is located two miles from Ansley, and a part of which was secured by Mr. Daily in 1884. For thirty-four years he has applied himself to its cultivation and development, and the property is now one of the valuable and attractive estates of this section of the county.

Mr. Daily is a Pennsylvanian by nativity, born in Franklin county, June 3, 1858, and he is a son of John and Emily (Penwell) Daily. His parents were likewise born in the Keystone state, the father in 1822 and the mother in 1830, and there they married. They later removed to Indiana, where they spent several years, and finally they established their home in Illinois. They were family people of the best type, industrious and God-fearing, and had the full respect and esteem of their neighbors in whatever community their home was made. Both passed away at Plano, Illinois, the mother in 1895, aged sixty-five years, and the father in 1907, when eighty-five years of age. He was a Democrat in politics and Mrs. Daily was a faithful member of the Presbyterian church. They were the parents of nine children, of whom six are living: Emily, the widow of W. T. S. Jamison, formerly a merchant of Shippensburg, Pennsylvania; Sarah, the wife of George Bailey, a farmer of the vicinity of Plano, Illinois; John A., of this notice; W. H., who formerly conducted a store at Overton, Nebraska, for two years, but who is now a merchant of Knoxville, Illinois;

J. A., who is connected with a drug firm in California; and Martha, a resident of California, the widow of Frank Bailey.

John A. Daily was educated in the public schools of Pennsylvania, and at the age of eighteen years left home and went to Illinois, where for four years he worked on a farm. In August, 1884, he came to Custer county and took a homestead two miles from Ansley, on which he still resides, although he has increased his acreage to one-half section of good land. Every acre of his land has been accumulated through the medium of his own efforts, and his pleasant residence and his commodious barns and substantial outbuildings were all erected by him. He has kept pace with modern agricultural methods and inventions, his general farming operations being carried on along up-to-date lines and with highly improved farm power-machinery. In addition, he is a raiser of all kinds of live stock and has made a success in this direction also.

In 1894 Mr. Daily married Miss Agnes M. Elison, daughter of Major Elison, and of the three children of this union two survive: Charles P., who was graduated in the Ansley high school, in May, 1914, died in the following August; and Florence and Lurene remain with their parents.

Mrs. Daily is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and while Mr. Daily is not identified with any religious body he is a supporter of good movements. Politically a Republican, he has been somewhat active in the ranks of his party for some time past, being a former member of the county board, while at the present time he has served six years as a member of the board of school directors, and his term continues for three years more. His official record is a good one, and as a business man he has won general confidence through his unqualified integrity.

FRANK N. MOSSMAN, who is one of the substantial men of Custer county, is prominent in both business circles and in public affairs at Mason City. Thirty-four years ago he accompanied his parents to Custer county and although he has not been a continuous resident, he has never lost interest in this section and in later years has been closely identified with the county's substantial development.

Frank N. Mossman was born August 19, 1868, in Benton county, Iowa. His parents were T. J. and Florentine (Amsberry) Mossman, the latter of whom was born in Mason county, West Virginia, January 29, 1848, and now resides in Butler county, Kansas. T. J.

Mossman, father of Frank M., was born in Pennsylvania, in 1841, and died in Butler county Kansas, in 1906. He married in Marion county, Iowa, and lived in that state until he came with his family to Custer county, March 12, 1884. He took up a pre-emption claim and a tree claim and is worthy of special note that in 1868 he homesteaded on the site of the present beautiful city of Lincoln, but never proved up. In 1884 he settled on a timber claim he had secured in 1882, but he sold this claim in 1891 and moved to Butler county, Kansas, where he spent the rest of his life. He was a good business man, an evidence being the fact that he came to Nebraska without appreciable capital and before he left the state owned 360 acres. Mr. Mossman was a man of enterprise also and was the first settler in school district No. 101 who made a move in the direction of building a schoolhouse, his son Frank M., with the assistance of Samuel Evans, putting up the walls of the structure after the former had hauled the lumber from Kearney, without charge. In politics he was a Republican and fraternally was a Mason and an Odd Fellow, as well as an honored member of the Grand Army of the Republic, in which he was actively identified with the post at Ansley, Custer county. As a valiant soldier in the Civil war he served as a member of Company D, Eighth Iowa Volunteers. With his family he belonged to the Baptist church. Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Mossman, of whom the following survive: Frank M., whose name introduces this review; Edward and Darius, both of whom are farmers in Kansas; Sophronia, who is the wife of L. L. Hinnen of Butler county, Kansas; Nola, who is the wife of Isaac Hammond, a farmer in Butler county; and Stella, who is the wife of George Manor, also of Butler county.

Frank M. Mossman attended the district schools in Iowa and one term in Custer county, in the schoolhouse he had helped to build. He lived on the farm until he was twenty-three years old and then went to Kansas, where he was foreman on a ranch for the next ten years. In 1901 he moved back to Custer county and here he purchased a half-section of land and engaged in a general-store business at Mason City. In 1905 he sold his store and went into the hardware business, but he sold out one year afterward and then became interested in concrete work. While in this line he did such work on a number of the most important buildings erected in Mason City. In 1916 Mr. Mossman turned his attention to insurance and realty dealing and he is now

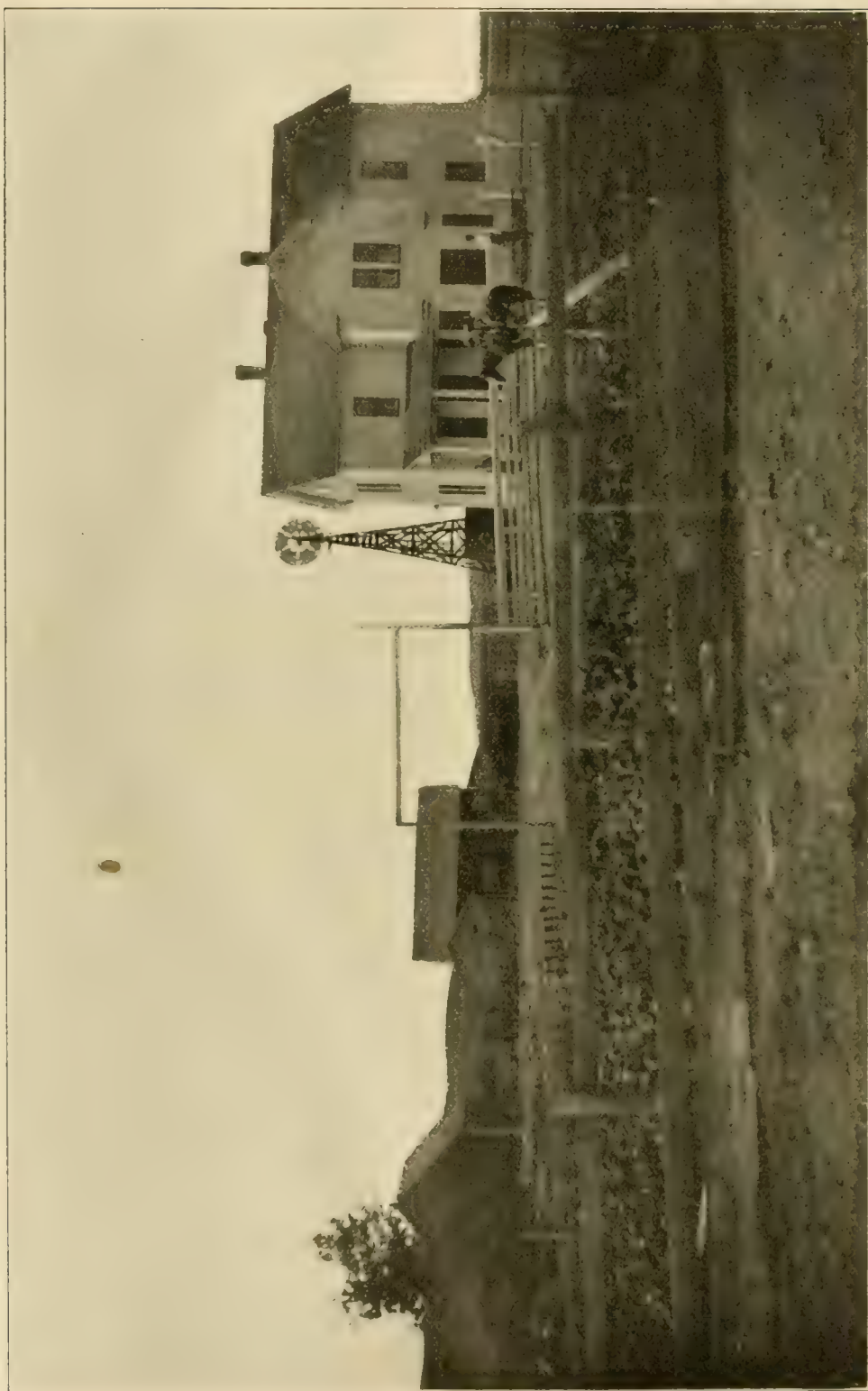
one of the foremost business men in these lines in this part of the county.

Mr. Mossman was married in 1891, to Miss Louie Amsberry, who was born in West Virginia, and they had four children, the survivors being: Jesse B., who is a soldier in the national army, a member of Company D, Three Hundred and Thirty-ninth Machine Gun Battalion, serving in France at the time of this writing; and Helen and Lillian Frances, both of whom are at home. The eldest daughter, Nellie, died May 17, 1916, when but twenty years of age.

In politics Mr. Mossman is a Republican. He has been a man of influence and prominence at Mason City, serving for twelve years as mayor and for six years he has been a member of the school board, of which he is now president. He owns a considerable amount of valuable property here, including his handsome private residence and also the hotel building. Fraternally he is a Modern Woodman and an Odd Fellow and he has passed all the chairs in the latter organization. With his family he belongs to the Baptist church.

HIRAM T. COFFMAN.—One of the pioneers of Custer county who came early, and later qualified in every way as a good man and valuable citizen, was the late Hiram T. Coffman, a veteran of the Civil war. His property still remains in the possession of his family and his memory is revered because of his sterling traits of character.

Mr. Coffman was born in Indiana, in 1844, and died on his old homestead in Custer county, Nebraska, in 1910. His parents moved to Iowa during his childhood and there he had some meager educational advantages, but the larger part of his education was self-gained, in the hard school of experience. He was reared on a farm and it was from a farm that he responded to the first call of President Lincoln for soldiers to preserve the Union. He served for five months in an Iowa regiment and then re-enlisted, in an Illinois regiment, and he continued in his country's service until the close of the war. His war record was one that he could refer to with justifiable pride in later years when he gathered with old army comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic, in which organization he was interested as long as he lived. After the war closed he returned to Iowa and resumed agricultural pursuits, and there he remained until 1874, when he moved to Nebraska and settled in Howard county, where he homesteaded and



RESIDENCE OF ALBERT BRASS

remained until he had proved up. He sold his land in Howard county and in the spring of 1881 he came to Custer county and took a pre-emption. On this claim he continued to reside until his death, in 1910. During his active years he developed and improved the farm, and this work is being capably continued by his son Harry, who resides on the old homestead.

In Iowa, in the year 1871, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Coffman to Miss Mary J. B. Amsberry, who is a sister of Darius M. Amsberry, a representative citizen of Custer county and now incumbent of the office of secretary of state for Nebraska, a review of his career being given on other pages of this work and the same giving adequate data concerning the Amsberry family. Mr. and Mrs. Coffman became the parents of seven children, of whom five attained to years of maturity: Mary is the wife of James Kelly, a prosperous farmer in Colorado; Harriet became the wife of Charles Kelly and both were residents of the state of Wyoming at the time of their death; Kittie is deceased; Harry, as above noted, has the active management of the old homestead farm; and Paul was one of the gallant young men of Custer county who went forth in the service of his country when the nation became involved in the great world war: he went with the American Expeditionary Forces to France and was one of the noble young patriots who sacrificed their lives in defense of a righteous cause, a memorial tribute to him being given in Chapter XV of this publication.

Hiram T. Coffman always manifested a lively and intelligent interest in public affairs, especially those of a local order, and he was in favor of the principles of the Populist party at the time when that organization was at the zenith of its influence, but after its waning he became staunchly arrayed with the Republican party. His religious faith was that of the Baptist church.

ALBERT BRASS.—Among the cattlemen of Custer county who have been engaged in large and important transactions in cattle feeding and dealing, one deserving of more than ordinary mention is Albert Brass, one of the owners of the K. C. and Brass ranches. From his young manhood all his training has been along lines connected with the business in which he is now engaged, and in which the size and importance of his operations have placed him in a leading position.

Mr. Brass was born in McHenry county, Illinois, October 16, 1877, and is a son of Orson

and Emma (Wilber) Brass, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of New York. His father was a farmer and stock-raiser who bought and sold cattle on a large scale and who was known far and wide for his extensive deals as well as for his personal integrity and probity. He was a popular member of the local Masonic lodge at Woodstock, Illinois, was a staunch and unwavering Republican, and took an active part in civic affairs, as a progressive and constructive citizen. He died July 7, 1918, his wife having passed away in 1906, in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church. They were the parents of nine children, of whom eight are living, but only three are living in the Custer county vicinity—Mrs. Charles Florida, residing on a farm near Comstock; Ed, a cattleman of Grand Island; and Albert, of this review.

Albert Brass received his early education in the public schools of McHenry county, Illinois, and was reared in an agricultural atmosphere, where he early learned to understand and appreciate live stock. From boyhood he made the most of the opportunities that presented themselves, to learn all he could regarding cattle, and when he came to Custer county, in 1904, it was but natural that he should engage in the cattle business, his partner in this venture being his brother, Edward Brass, of Grand Island. Their initial ventures were somewhat in the way of experiments, but as success gave them confidence they became operators on a larger and larger scale, until, during the winter of 1917-18, they reached their high point by making a shipment of \$53,000. This was followed about August 1st by a shipment amounting to \$43,000, this last being western cattle right off the grass. These animals were placed in the pasture about April 1st, and were sold August 1st, when, in addition to the loss by shrinkage between the time of their purchase and the time of their weighing at the Omaha market, each animal averaged a gain of 250 pounds. This refutes the statement or idea that Nebraska grass is not good for cattle, as this was the only food that the animals had to fatten on. The Brass brothers own the K. C. ranch, consisting of 2,945 acres, while the home property, known as the Brass ranch, in section 14, township 20, has 1,560 acres, of which the acreage not needed for stock is rented to outside parties. This ranch is improved with a large and commodious house, substantial barns, and any number of splendid outbuildings, and the equipment of the entire property is up-to-date in every particular. Mr. Brass is a man who does large things in a large way, has no superior in his

branch of the cattle industry, and is a business man of marked judgment and acumen and of high and honorable principles. He is a Republican in his political views.

On September 26, 1903, in McHenry county, Illinois, Mr. Brass was united in marriage to Miss Edith M. Joslyn, and to this union there have been born nine children—Ellwyn, Edwin, Maleda, Wendel, Evelyn, Loren, Orson, Nellie, and Albert, Jr., all of whom reside with their parents except Evelyn, who passed away in March, 1918, at the age of seven years, after a fatal attack of appendicitis.

FREDERICK CAMIN, who is one of Custer county's large landowners, heavy taxpayers, and enterprising and respected citizens, has been a resident of Nebraska almost his entire life and takes great pride in the wonderful forward steps the state has taken within his memory. Mr. Camin was born at Watertown, Wisconsin, a son of William and Mary (Minick) Camin. The father was born in Germany, February 7, 1833, and came to the United States in 1854. He was a strong, robust young man and easily found employment in a saw mill at Watertown, where he remained until 1862, when he enlisted for service in the Civil war, as a member of Company E, Twentieth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and shortly afterward took part in the battle of Prairie Grove, in which he was seriously wounded in the left side, a bullet passing through his body and coming out through his breast. This caused him to be honorably discharged, for disability, March 24, 1863.

William Camin survived his severe injuries and lived many years afterward, although his condition was feeble for seven years before his death, which occurred December 6, 1905. During this period he was carefully cared for by his son Frederick. In 1867 William Camin left Wisconsin for Nebraska, driving a mule team and a yoke of oxen, and after reaching the new state, he located a homestead in Cuming county. The first home was a dugout, twelve by fifteen feet in dimensions, and this was quite as commodious and comfortable as any of those occupied by neighbors, the while it served its intended purpose until 1870, when Mr. Camin erected the handsome residence in which he lived until his death. He became a man of prominence in Cuming county, a leading factor in the Democratic party, and served in numerous local offices. For three years he was county assessor and for three more was county commissioner of Cuming county. His children all survive, two sons and three daughters—William, Fred-

erick, Mrs. Freda Hazencamp, Mrs. Mary Kuester, Mrs. Augusta Brockman—all of whom live in Cuming county except Frederick.

Frederick Camin was too young at the time to remember the long, slow trail to Nebraska, but he very readily recalls many incidents of early days in Cuming county. Herding cattle for his father and for the neighboring stockmen was one of his earliest ways of being useful, and it was through this means that he earned his first money. Perhaps every man, if questioned, could recall the time in his early youth when some unattainable object aroused feelings akin to despair. In Mr. Camin's case it was a new hat, and when he found that the only way to get it was to earn it, he forthwith set about the earning, the neighboring ranchmen being called upon to pay the sum of twenty-five cents a week for his herding services. He eventually secured the hat in this way, and it is quite possible that his practical father watched with silent approval the son's industry and self-denial.

Mr. Camin remained at home until he was of legal age, his twenty-first year, going to school during the winters and helping his father during the summers, and he then took upon himself the management of the home farm, which he operated for two years. After his marriage, in 1886, he went to Holt county, Nebraska, where he bought 160 acres, near Atkinson, on which he lived for two years. He then moved to Boyd county, in 1892, and took up a homestead, on which he lived five years, when he removed to Keyapaha county, where he rented land for two years. He then returned to Holt county, where he bought eighty acres and where he remained two years. In the meanwhile his father had become somewhat feeble, and Mr. Camin returned then to the homestead in Cuming county, as noted above. In 1909 he came to Custer county and bought 320 acres, the west one-half section of section 21, township 13, range 22. He has erected a handsome modern residence here and has 160 acres under a fine state of cultivation. His investments in Nebraska soil have turned out well and he now owns a total of 1,120 acres.

Mr. Camin was married October 21, 1886, to Miss Margaretha Albright, who was born in Germany, a daughter of John G. and Barbara (Schademann) Albright, natives of Germany. They have the following children: Ida, Martha, Alma, Walter, Emil, Herman, and Anna, all of whom reside with their parents except the eldest daughter. This daughter, Ida, is the wife of Carl Achterberg, who is a farmer five miles south of Oconto, and

they have four children. Mr. Camin and his family belong to the Lutheran church. He casts his vote with the Republican party but has never sought office.

ANTON FORTIK.—The blood of historic Bohemia flows in the veins of Anton Fortik, a South Loup farmer who ran the gamut of early-day hardships and who, single-handed and without help, has improved a splendid farm, reared a family, and made for himself a reputation as a reputable, reliable citizen second to none who began life under the same handicaps.

Mr. Fortik was born in Bohemia June 13, 1873, and is a son of Joseph and Anna (Cline) Fortik. In the ancestral line the blood of Bohemia flows through the veins of more than a dozen generations. Joseph Fortik and his wife and children came to Custer county, Nebraska, in 1884, and immediately he filed on the homestead upon which he lived during the remainder of his life. In the father's family were nine children, of whom seven are living: John lives in Custer county; Anna married U. G. Brown and has her home in this county; the third was Anton, the subject of this sketch; Frank lives in Custer county; Joseph lives on the old homestead; Josie is the wife of Lewis Kulhanek; and Charles lives in the vicinity of the home of his brother Anton.

Mr. Fortik regrets the limited educational advantages of his youth. From early years he was compelled to work, and school opportunities were few, yet he is a man of keen intelligence and very competent to transact all kinds of business connected with general farming, the while he is able also to render very capably a great deal of public service. During his boyhood years he worked for a German four years, and then went to work on his father's farm and helped to support the family. This was necessitated by the illness of his father. In 1898 his domestic life really began, when he led to the altar Miss Anna Kulhanek, sister of John J. Kulhanek. Of this union were born seven children, Anna, Rosa, Anton, Emil, Albert, Thomas, and Everette. For generations the families on both sides have been members of the Catholic church, and have maintained splendid reputations as honest, industrious, law-abiding citizens.

The Fortik farm consists of 400 acres of land, and this has long since developed beyond the sod-house period in which a pioneer "soddy" was the first dwelling of the Fortik family. The primitive domicile has passed away, and a beautiful farm home takes its

place. The resources of a new county owned their development many times to the sturdy emigrants from the Old World who have contributed brain and brawn to the land of their adoption.

JAMES E. G. NELSON, whose activities as a general farmer and stock-raiser in Custer county have covered a period of thirty-two years, owes a large share of his success to the sturdy characteristics of his race. The courage and perseverance which he displayed during the early days of the county's history have enabled him to succeed where others have failed, and the same judgment that led him to select his homestead has caused him to retain possession thereof, with continued faith in its value.

Mr. Nelson was born in Denmark, July 19, 1863, a son of N. P. and Emma (Sonson) Christinson. His parents, who were natives of the same country, passed their entire lives within its borders and never desired any other country for their home. The father was a farmer and a man of marked industry, in addition to which he was held in high esteem by his fellow citizens, who elected him a member of the body which corresponds to the town board here. He and his wife were devout members of the Lutheran church, and had nine children, of whom two now live: Lars, who resides in Denmark; and James E. G.

James E. G. Nelson received his education in the public schools, and had just attained his twenty-first year when he decided to view the United States, the land of opportunity. At that time he did not remain for any appreciable length of time, returning soon to Denmark, but in 1886 he again came to this country, this time to make his permanent home here. Coming to Custer county in that year, he bought a relinquishment of his present farm, and settled down to the pursuits of general farming and stock-raising, in which he has been successfully engaged ever since. Mr. Nelson is one of the men of his community who have been progressive in their methods and in their ideas. Under his able management the land has been highly cultivated, until it is now some of the most fertile and productive to be found in this part of the county, and good buildings, including a large modern house, have been erected, adding much to the farm's appearance and value. A reputation for integrity and honorable actions is one of Mr. Nelson's most cherished possessions, and he is likewise accounted one of his locality's men who can be depended upon to stand behind worthy and progressive movements for

the general welfare. He is a Republican in politics, and he and Mrs. Nelson belong to the Lutheran church.

In 1891 Mr. Nelson married Miss Matilda Johnson, who was born in Denmark, a daughter of Peter and Sophia (Johnson) Johnson. The parents of Mrs. Nelson came to Custer county in 1885 and settled near the home of Mr. Nelson, where Mr. Johnson became a homesteader. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson have had four children: Carl, who entered the United States service June 25, 1918, had his preliminary training at Camp Funston, and is located at Camp Mills, Long Island, at the time of this writing; Alfred died when eight years of age; and Josephine and Marie died in infancy.

WILLIAM J. CROSS.—One of the men who has been in Custer county since 1883 and had all the experiences of early homesteaders is William J. Cross, who was born in State Center, Iowa, October 15, 1877, a son of John H. H. and Melissa (Bullock) Cross, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of the Hawkeye state. The marriage of the parents was solemnized in Iowa and there they lived during their early wedded life. In the days of the Civil war Mr. Cross enlisted in Company H, Thirty-first Iowa Infantry, and he served three years, performing a hard and strenuous service for his country. He was on the remarkable expedition with Sherman through Georgia to the sea, and was one of the heroes who fought in the battle of Look-out Mountain. After the war he returned to Iowa, where he remained until he removed to Nebraska, in 1878, at which time he settled in the eastern part of the state, in Seward county. Feeling that opportunities were a little better in the new land farther west, he came to Custer county five years later, and homesteaded a substantial tract of land, eight miles southwest of Ansley. In the home of John H. H. Cross, father of the subject of this sketch, were five children, three of whom are still living. The survivors are Oliver, who lives in Ansley and is employed by the railroad company; William J., who is the subject of this sketch; and Dell, who lives eight miles west of Ansley.

John H. H. Cross is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, is a faithful member of the Methodist church, is a Republican in politics, and, withal, is a very highly respected citizen.

William J. Cross, the subject of this sketch, has spent most of his life in Custer county, where he grew to manhood. He began life on

the farm, but during his early years he clerked in a Broken Bow store for a period of eight or nine years. He was educated in the public schools at Broken Bow. Mr. Cross is a reliable citizen to whom much credit is due for the services rendered to the major county of the Nebraska commonwealth.

WALTER S. MOORE, who occupies a very responsible position as superintendent of the J. H. Melville Lumber Company at Mason City, Nebraska, is an experienced lumber man and is one of Mason City's energetic and public-spirited citizens. Mr. Moore was born on a farm near Sullivan, Moultrie county, Illinois, February 29, 1880, and is a son of Joshua C. Moore, of whom specific mention is made on other pages of this volume.

From 1887 until 1896, Walter S. Moore lived in the vicinity of Broken Bow, Nebraska, attending school there and working on a farm. Thereafter he lived on a farm and was engaged in agricultural industries exclusively until 1903. He then went as far west as Oregon, where he learned something of the lumber trade, while working for a furniture company, and after returning to Broken Bow he engaged in the lumber business there. He continued his activities at Broken Bow from February, 1907, until February, 1909, when he came to Mason City. Here he took charge of the business of the G. L. Turner Lumber Company, which is now operated under the style of the J. H. Melville Lumber Company, and he now has entire charge of the plant. He is a keen, capable business man, and no enterprise in this line is doing a larger or more profitable business here.

Mr. Moore was married in 1908, to Miss Ella Green, who was born in Kansas. Her father, the late Col. J. T. Green, who died at Broken Bow, was a veteran of the Civil war and was one of Broken Bow's citizens of ample means.

Mr. Moore has been more or less active in civic affairs ever since locating in Mason City. He has served usefully and efficiently on the town board and at present is town clerk. He votes independently, and fraternally he is an Odd Fellow. Both he and his wife are members of the Christian church. They have no children.

JOHN A. SNYDER, whose valuable ranch and beautiful home are located in Custer county, has lived here for a quarter of a century and has one of the best cultivated farms in this entire section of the state. He has led

an active, vigorous life ever since early manhood, and his reminiscences of cowboy life are not only interesting but also historical. Mr. Snyder was born near Jefferson City, Missouri, December 10, 1863. His parents were John N. and Barbara (Grogan) Snyder, both of whom were born in Cole county, Missouri, their children having been seven in number—Peter, John A., Mrs. Margaret Uling, Andrew M., Charles B., Mrs. Mamie Mullins (deceased), and Clara (deceased).

When John A. Snyder was nine years old his parents came to Nebraska. His father had served over four years as a soldier in the Union army through the Civil war. When he came to Nebraska John N. Snyder settled twenty-two miles north of Fremont, which was the nearest railroad town and supply depot for a long period afterward. The country was yet in a wild condition and the hunting of wild animals was largely engaged in. Young John became a successful trapper in boyhood and on one occasion caught three minks in his traps. These he sold to a neighbor for forty cents apiece, although he learned later that he could have obtained for the skins two and one-half dollars each in Fremont. He consoled himself with the thought that a tramp of forty-four miles to and from Fremont, would not have been a pleasure trip, even to make a better business bargain.

Mr. Snyder grew up strong and hardy, and he was only thirteen years of age when he came with David Rankin to the Bar-7 ranch, on the Middle Loup river, one and one-half miles east of the present town of Seneca. He was already a fearless horseman, and his first year's work was riding a range some 200 miles in circumference. He remained with the Bar-7 ranch until he was twenty-two years old. In 1893, having married several years previously and desiring a settled home, he came to Custer county and located three miles south of Oconto, where he has continued ever since. He owns 480 acres here, has placed 180 acres under a high state of cultivation and has put improvements on the place until it is in every way a desirable rural home, while its proximity to Oconto, but three miles distant, gives town advantages.

Mr. Snyder was married in June, 1891, at Nonpareil, Nebraska, to Miss Sarah Fritz, who was born in Favette county, Iowa, and who is a daughter of Harriet S. (Weaver) Hassler, her mother's second marriage having been with Harry Hassler and both having been born in Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Snyder have two daughters: Mabel is the wife of Harry Hodson of Deertrail, Arapahoe county,

Colorado, and they have two daughters; and Blanche remains with her parents. Miss Blanche Snyder is highly accomplished, being a graduate of the Fremont Normal School, and also of a business college at Broken Bow. She is proficient in music, and teaches the same. Mr. Snyder has never been specially active in politics but has always voted the Republican ticket and has done his duty in upholding the law and furthering public improvements.

BENJAMIN P. MORRIS, who has accumulated about 200 acres of land since coming to Nebraska, has passed his active career as a farmer in Custer county, having arrived in this locality in 1883. He is now one of the substantial men of the Ansley community and has not only been successful as an agriculturist, but has also been an active factor in public affairs and for a long time rendered his fellow citizens excellent service as an office-holder.

Mr. Morris was born in Henry county, Ohio, July 15, 1857, a son of John W. and Susan N. (Pindar) Morris, the former born at Baltimore, Maryland, and the latter in Virginia. The parents were young people when they went with their respective families to Ohio, where their marriage occurred and where Mr. Morris was engaged in farming for a number of years, in Henry county. In 1867, John W. Morris came to Nebraska and took up a homestead in Otoe county. There he farmed for a number of years, but in the evening of life he came to Custer county, where he and his wife made their home with their son Benjamin P., and where both passed their remaining days. They were the parents of eleven children, of whom seven are living: S. O., who is engaged in farming in the vicinity of Merna; Mrs. Anna Reed, whose home is located near Syracuse, Nebraska; Sue; Mrs. Alwilda Klein, who resides at Burr, this state; Mrs. Evelyn Klein, who lives at Burchard, Nebraska; and Mrs. Ella Himmelright and Mrs. E. M. Green, both of whom are residents of Custer county. Mrs. Morris was a member of the Presbyterian church. The father, who was a stanch Democrat, was quite active in politics and wielded considerable influence therein.

Benjamin P. Morris was about ten years of age when brought to Nebraska by his parents, and here his education was completed in the public schools of Otoe county. As a young man he adopted farming as his life's vocation, and in 1883 he came to Custer county and filed on a homestead, which forms a part of

his present property, for since his original settlement he has added from time to time to his holdings, until he now has about 200 acres. He made all the improvements on his own farm, and they are appropriate, modern and substantial, reflecting the owner's good judgment, taste, industry and prosperity. He has always carried on general farming, and has also raised considerable stock, and in both departments he has met with the success that his energy and good management have merited and warranted. In business circles his word is held as good as a bond, and he has always kept his reputation inviolate. Like his father, he is a strong and unfaltering Democrat, and has taken some interest in political affairs in the past. During the sixteen years that he served as a member of the board of county supervisors he gave his fellow citizens fine and constructive service, and in 1914 he retired from that body with a splendid record. Mr. Morris has never married.

CARL E. BOWMAN. — One of the progressive young farmers and stock men of Custer county who is now engaged in the real-estate business, is Carl E. Bowman, of Broken Bow. Mr. Bowman was born April 7, 1883, in Cass county, Nebraska. His father was Abraham D. Bowman, and his mother's maiden name was Ella M. Bethel. His parents immigrated to Custer county in 1885, when Carl was but two years of age. The first Custer home was the regulation "soddy," with brush and sod roof, supported by a large cedar log, nearly two feet in diameter and twenty-five feet in length. This log made an impression upon the boy's mind, and is to this day closely associated with his childhood. Like most of the primitive dwellings, this pioneer domicile had no floor and no more windows than were absolutely necessary. Carl claims that there were stormy days when the roof leaked and the only dry place where he could perch was under the ridge pole. He grew up in Custer county, imbibed the spirit of the west, and early formed the western practice of trading and cattle dealing. On a pony that his father purchased for him, Carl E. Bowman commenced his career by herding cattle on the prairie, in the days before pasture fences were fashionable.

The first money that he ever picked up by individual effort was for carrying cedar chips from the canyon. For this service his mother paid him thirty-five cents. He invested the entire amount in candy and stuck to the sack until he had eaten the last piece. He claims

to like candy still, but asserts that he does not now buy it for himself in such quantities.

The occupation of herding is one that tends to make a boy an expert horseman and affords him splendid opportunity to practice with rifle or revolver. Accordingly, young Carl became a good rider and a splendid marksman. He lived in the day when broncho-busting was the sport of the "Wild and Woolly West," and on picnic occasions and Fourth of July celebrations all the youths of the country were there with their "bad horses," and riding the broncho was the principal program of the day.

Carl narrates that on one occasion when he and John Christy were holding a bunch of cattle which Carl's father had purchased of a neighbor, Thomas Christy, that he proposed to ride a two-year-old bull which seemed to be head and boss of the herd the boys were holding. Young Christy agreed to lead the bull, and the operation of lassoing was soon performed. The bull was drawn up close to the saddle-horse and Carl, getting close enough, sprang on to its back. Then young Christy thought it was time for the show to commence. He loosened the rope from the saddle horn and threw it toward the bull, with a whoop that would have done credit to an Apache Indian. That was the signal for the start. Away went the bull, headed for home, paying no attention whatever to speed limits and hitting only the high places in the prairie. Carl's horsemanship and riding ability stood him in good need. He clung on for dear life and succeeded in staying on the animal's back. Young Christy, seeing the terrific speed with which the bull made for home, followed quickly on his pony, but was not able to stop the runaway until the animal had reached the home where it had been raised. There it stopped, almost exhausted, and Carl had opportunity to alight in regulation form. For a rough ride, Carl says that the bull has a "Ford" car beaten a country block.

Mr. Bowman made good as a cattle man and trader, as a farmer and stock-raiser. He now resides in Broken Bow and is doing a good real-estate business. He is the junior member of the firm of Bowman & Bowman. He is married to an amiable lady and his family consists of himself, wife, and one child. He and his wife have a host of friends, and still young in years, their lives are, for the major part, before them. Mr. Bowman is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, including the Eastern Star, and he has passed all of the official chairs in the lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, besides holding membership in the



CARL E. BOWMAN

adjunct organization, the Daughters of Rebekah.

THORNTON S. CROSLLEY, SR. — With his venerable head touched by the snows of eighty years and his strong face and capable hands bronzed by the sun which has beat upon almost as many harvesting seasons, Thornton S. Crosley is to-day a striking illustration of a life well lived, of activities properly directed, and of a career spent in co-operation and communion with the forces of nature. He was a homesteader to Custer county in the year 1883 and has been a successful farmer and raiser of live stock, being at the present time the owner of 400 acres of valuable land.

Mr. Crosley was born in Hampshire county, Virginia (now West Virginia), October 13, 1838, and is a son of Joseph and Mary (Thrasher) Crosley, the former born in Virginia and the latter in Pennsylvania. The parents were married in Virginia, where the father died after a career passed as a farmer and tanner, while as a voter he had been a Whig. After his demise his widow removed with her children to a farm in Iowa and there passed the remaining years of her life. She was a faithful member of the Baptist church. Of the ten children, only Thornton S. survives. Mr. Crosley received his education in the public schools of his native state, and was still a youth when he accompanied his mother and the other children to Iowa. There his real career began on a farm, but when he reached manhood he chose mercantile pursuits for his life work and for a time was proprietor of a general store in Iowa, in addition to which he acted in the capacity of postmaster. When hostilities between the north and the south culminated in the outbreak of the Civil war, Mr. Crosley enlisted in Company I, Twenty-first Iowa Volunteer Infantry, with which he served almost three years, participating in some of the hardest fought engagements of the Civil war, including Vicksburg and Mobile. He received his honorable discharge after a service marked by a splendid record, and returned to his home, where he once again took up the reins of business. In 1883 Mr. Crosley migrated to Custer county and located his claim, but did not remain at that time. In 1884 he came out again, this time with one son, and built a sod house, and in 1885 he brought his family here. From then to the present he has devoted himself without cessation to farming and stock-raising activities, and in both lines he has been rewarded by constantly increasing success. In the meantime he has added to the improvements and build-

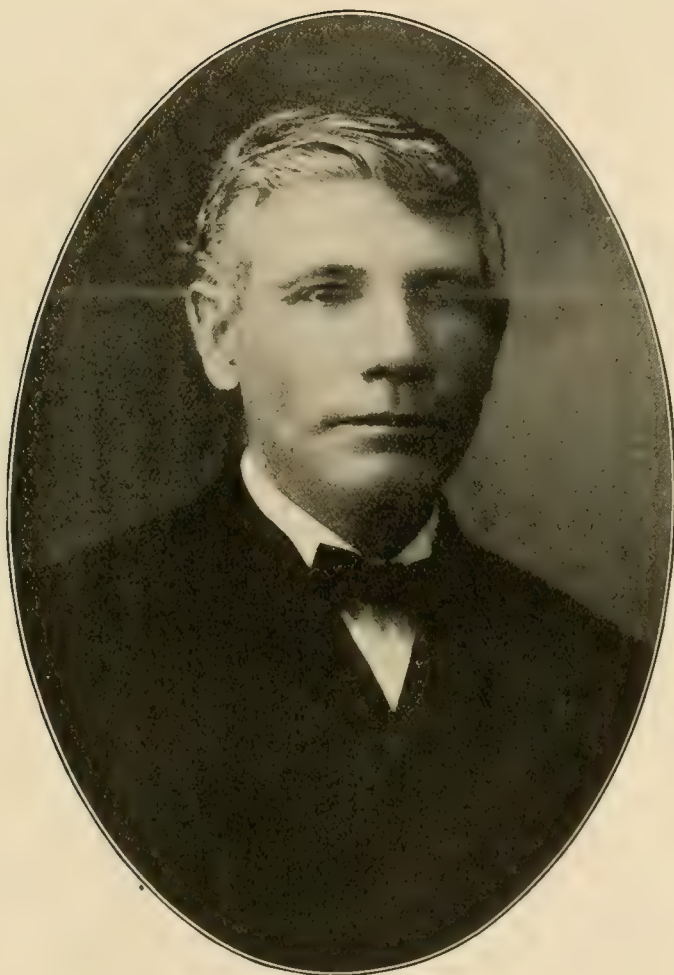
ing on his farm, which now consists of 400 acres, and in 1903 he erected a comfortable house, which has all modern conveniences. Mr. Crosley is greatly respected in his community, where he has always been found a man of the highest integrity and strictest probity. He has taken an active part in civic affairs, and has assisted in the administration of governmental matters in the capacities of justice of the peace and town clerk, in both of which offices he has established a record for conscientious, efficient and expeditious service. His political faith is that of the Democratic party and his religious faith that of the United Brethren church, which he attends at Broken Bow. Mr. Crosley has never forgotten his old army friends, and is a valued comrade of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic.

While a resident of Iowa, in 1857, Mr. Crosley was united in marriage to Miss Lucinda Holcomb, who died in March, 1864, leaving one son, Joseph Siegel Crosley. In 1866 Mr. Crosley was again married, being united with Miss Margaret A. Hunter, who was born in Christian county, Illinois, a daughter of James Hunter, a farmer who died in the Prairie state. Eight children were born to this union, of whom four are living: H. L., a merchant of Mason City; Thornton S., Jr., engaged in farming in Custer county; Jennie T., the wife of Perry Smith, a farmer of Upton, Wyoming; and Richard N., residing on the farm with his parents.

JOHN E. CAVENEE. — The name which initiates this paragraph is one that guarantees both the character and standing of the man to whom it belongs — at least this is assured in the estimate of the old settlers of Custer county.

John E. Cavenee claims the Buckeye state as the place of his nativity. He was born within twenty miles of Zanesville, and not far from Lexington, Ohio, and the date of his birth was July 29, 1851. He is a son of Patrick and Mary (Montgomery) Cavenee, excellent folk who ever commanded unqualified popular esteem. Patrick Cavenee was born in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, on the same day that Abraham Lincoln came into the world, and thus he continued in a special sense the contemporary of the martyred president until the latter came to his tragic death.

John E. Cavenee has given virtually his entire active life to the great basic industries of agriculture and stock-raising, through the medium of which he has achieved worthy success and provided a competency for the proverbial "rainy day." In his native state he



JOHN E. CAVENESS

was reared to the age of five years, when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Iowa, the family becoming pioneer settlers in Henry county, that state. The subject of this review was thus reared under the conditions and influences that marked the pioneer era in the history of the Hawkeye state, and there he gained his youthful education in the common schools of the period. His training in school and in connection with the pioneer farm proved specially prolific in the development of that experience and those sterling qualities that have been of inestimable value to him in his independent activities and business affairs in later years.

Mr. Cavenee came to Custer county in the spring of 1878, and here he became one of the early settlers of the South Loup region. He recognized the opportunities here offered, and thus he was led to secure homestead, pre-emption, and tree claims and become the owner of land that is to-day very valuable. The early days brought their hardships and trials—experiences that will never be forgotten by those to whom they came. The first home of Mr. Cavenee was the regulation sod house—very appropriate for the time and place in which it was built. From the first Mr. Cavenee gave particular attention to cattle, and he was thoroughly imbued with the belief that it was essentially profitable to raise the best possible grades of all kinds of live stock produced on the farm. Accordingly his breeding stock was always marked by purple blood of fine selection. Thus he early gained reputation as a progressive and successful cattle and general live-stock man. His primitive holdings of the early days were augmented until the farm home and stock farm grew to 1,040 acres, and this valuable landed estate he held intact until a short time ago, when he sold 400 acres.

In the early spring of 1890 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Cavenee to Mrs. Alice M. Wright, who has proved a devoted companion and helpmeet and shared with him in the blessings and sorrows that the intervening years have brought in their train. Of the two children one is deceased, and the survivor, Paul E., is a representative young farmer who is made the subject of individual mention on other pages of this volume.

Mr. Cavenee has been a true apostle of civic and industrial development and progress in the county that has long been his home and in which he is held in unequivocal popular esteem. He has been influential in community affairs and was for eight years a member of the county board of supervisors, while his was the distinction of having been a member of the

first grand jury empaneled in the county. He is affiliated with the Ancient Order of United Workmen and has been prominent and influential in its local lodge. He and his wife are affiliated with the Presbyterian church.

JOHN CHERRY, SR., who is one of the substantial exponents of farm enterprise in the southern part of Custer county, with mail service on one of the rural routes out of Sumner, is consistently entitled to pioneer honors in Nebraska, in which state he has maintained his residence since 1884, the while he has maintained his home in Custer county for somewhat more than thirty years.

Mr. Cherry was born in Iowa county, Wisconsin, on the 16th of December, 1856, and is a son of Joseph and Amelia (Killian) Cherry, who were sterling pioneers of the Badger state. This worthy couple became the parents of nine children and four of the number are living in Nebraska—Thomas, who is a resident of Furnas county; Mrs. Sarah Williams, who resides in Nuckolls county; John, who is the immediate subject of this sketch; and George, who is a resident of Sartoria, Buffalo county. Another of the family was the late Joseph Cherry, who died in Custer county and to whom a memoir is dedicated on other pages of this work.

John Cherry was reared and educated in Wisconsin, and there he gained youthful experience in connection with farm industry. He continued his residence in Wisconsin until 1882, and spent two years in Woodbury county, Iowa, before coming to Nebraska, where he first located in Box Butte county. There, in the year 1891, was solemnized his marriage to Miss Alice Watts, a daughter of the late John Watts, and soon after their life destinies were thus joined, the young couple set forth for Custer county, fortified with the courage, self-reliance, and ambition that enabled them to face the trials and responsibilities of pioneer life. Upon their arrival their material possessions were mainly represented in the pair of broncho mules which had afforded them transportation to the new home. Notwithstanding their financial handicap, they girded themselves earnestly for the work of developing and improving the land which they obtained in this county, and the passing years have awarded them with a goodly measure of success and prosperity. Their attractive farm home, in section 27, township 13, range 19, bears evidence of the success which has been theirs, for the place has excellent buildings, including a pleasant and commodious residence, and has

its due complement of horses, cattle, and hogs — all combining to give evidence of what may be achieved through well directed energy and determined effort. Mr. Cherry now owns a well improved landed estate of 440 acres, and the property is splendidly adapted to progressive agricultural and stock-raising enterprise.

Loyal and public-spirited as a citizen, Mr. Cherry has had no desire for political activity or public office, but he is found aligned as a supporter of the cause of the Democratic party. He and his family hold the faith of the Presbyterian church. Mr. and Mrs. Cherry have five children — Anna, John William, Teddy, Carl, and Marcus — and all possess the sterling characteristics which have brought success and good repute to the parents, who command unqualified popular esteem.

FRANK DOBESH. — Living in well deserved retirement, in a comfortable home in Ansley, will be found Frank Dobesh and his family, who have been residents of Custer county since 1881, and he has been one of those successful farmers of the county who have been splendid contributors to the present-day wealth and resources of the commonwealth.

Frank Dobesh is the third in order of birth of the thirteen children born to Thomas and Josephine (Jobe) Dobesh. The parents were born, reared and married in Moravia, Austria, and came to this country, with their six children, in 1871. On other pages the sketch of Anton Dobesh gives further data concerning the family history.

Frank Dobesh was born in the province of Moravia, October 19, 1862, and was nine years old when brought by his parents to Saunders county, Nebraska. The family sailed on the "Columbia" from Bremen to Baltimore, and spent fourteen days on the sea. Mr. Dobesh came to Custer county in 1881, his eldest brother having already taken up a homestead, and here he secured a homestead for himself, — the northwest quarter of section 12, township 14, range 19. Since that time he has made this place his home. For thirty years he has owned the place, and has improved it and added to it until now he is the owner of vast acres of land, and has large cattle interests. The first dwelling of the family was a sod house, but in after years, when prosperity had come to them, the sod house was vacated and a splendid farm home of eight rooms erected to take its place.

In February, 1885, Mr. Dobesh married

Mary, daughter of John and Mary (Delbelka) Jelivek, who came from Bohemia to America in 1864. They lived here ten months, and then took up a home in Saunders county. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Dobesh five children were born: Mary, is the wife of Joseph Orchard, and they live on the old homestead of Mr. Dobesh; and Charlie, Arthur, Grace, and Emil all remain at the parental home.

Mr. and Mrs. Dobesh can well afford the retirement and rest upon which they have entered, and they have a host of friends who are glad to see them so well and favorably located, and who, while extending congratulations, wish for them many years of comfort and life enjoyment.

CHARLES C. FISHER. — One of the energetic, successful farmers living in the vicinity of Mason City, from which place the rural carriers bring his mail, is Charles E. Fisher. His life story commenced April 22, 1850, at which time he first saw the light of day, in Gallia county, Ohio. He is a son of Isaac and Sarah (Fisher) Fisher, both of whom sprung from old Virginia stock.

Isaac Fisher immigrated to Ohio in 1848, and his future wife was twelve years of age when her parents established their home in the Buckeye state, some time in the '30s. Isaac and Sarah Fisher became the parents of thirteen children, eight of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch being, however, the only one of the family who lives in Custer county. The parents moved back to that part of Virginia which at that time had become West Virginia, and there they passed the remainder of their lives. The father's occupation was that of a carpenter, and he was rated a very fine workman. He was a member of the Free Will Baptist church, and in politics he affiliated with the Democratic party. Isaac Fisher's father was Solomon Fisher, who was a native of Holland. This grandsire immigrated to the United States and settled in Virginia. The maternal grandfather of Charles C. Fisher was John Fisher, who died in Ohio.

In the old Buckeye state Charles C. Fisher received his early education in the common schools, and there he laid the foundation of that mental structure which has served him so well in a business way in all his farm transactions, and by which he has come to be deservedly rated as one of the intelligent and broad-minded citizens of Custer county.

Mr. Fisher left West Virginia in 1883 and came directly to Custer county, where he



EDMOND J. AVIS AND FAMILY

homesteaded a quarter-section of land and built the sod house in which he began his career in this county.

In 1881 Mr. Fisher wedded Miss Laura J. Amsberry, a daughter of Francis Amsberry, who became a pioneer homesteader of Custer county. To this union were born four children: Dore Alena is the wife of Henry Keller and they live near Mason City; Della Alberta is the wife of William Smith and they reside at Seattle, Washington; Chester, at the time of this writing, is in France, he having entered the military service of his country in November, 1917; Leander, the youngest of the children, is at home and is assisting on the farm.

On the splendid rural estate of Charles C. Fisher is to be found an elegant farm residence, which was built in 1912, and in which the family is at the present time comfortably and happily domiciled. Mixed farming operations are carried on. Fifty head of cattle constitute the average farm herd. The farming and stock-raising operations are conducted under the title of Fisher & Son. Aside from the grain and stock farming, Mr. Fisher and his son run a small dairy with twelve cows. Mr. Fisher relates that when he reached Custer county and had filed on his land he had a wife and one child and fifty cents in money. The splendid home and farm equipment—the property and everything that represents wealth—have been accumulated since that time.

Mr. Fisher is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, is independent in politics, and he and his family enjoy the confidence and respect of the entire community.

EDMOND J. AVIS.—The agricultural interests of Custer county find a worthy representative in the gentleman whose name introduces this record and who for twenty-six years has successfully conducted farming operations here.

Mr. Avis was born in Cumberland county, Illinois, February 26, 1865. His father, Colbert Avis, was a native of Ohio, and became a farmer of St. Clair county, Illinois, where he resided until 1884. He then became a resident of Saunders county, Nebraska, where he spent the remainder of his days. The mother of our subject was Margery (Bryan) Avis. She was a distant relative of William Jennings Bryan, and she passed away in Illinois.

Edmond J. Avis was a young man of nineteen years when he first came to Nebraska, and he made a trip to Custer county that year, but he returned to Saunders county, where he re-

mained until 1892, when he again came to Custer county, where he bought land. He has resided on his present farm for the past fifteen years, this being a valuable tract of 240 acres, in section 24, township 17, range 23. The property was unimproved when it came into his possession, but he has erected substantial buildings, has made other excellent improvements, and successfully carries on general farming.

For a wife and helpmeet, Mr. Avis chose Miss Theodosia Calbreath, a native of St. Clair county, Illinois, and they have a family of four children, all of whom are still under the parental roof. Their names are Arthur, Ethel, Clarence, and Maud. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics Mr. Avis is a Democrat. Though he has never aspired to nor held public office, he has rendered efficient service as a member of the school board, the cause of education finding in him a stalwart champion. Pioneer conditions were still in evidence when Mr. Avis made permanent location here, and he has contributed to the upbuilding of the community in which he is held in high esteem by all who know him. In the words of a neighbor who has known him all these twenty-six years, he is "a dandy good fellow, a fine man."

THOMAS DOBESH.—It is not necessary to cross the water to the European countries or to search through any of the eastern states in our own country to find the birthplace of Thomas Dobesh. He belongs to Custer county; here he was born and bred; here he was educated, grew to manhood, married, and established his home; and here he is one of the prominent citizens belonging to the generation that is now coming into the full responsibilities of active and middle life. On the farm where he now lives, Mr. Dobesh was born August 11, 1888, and he is a son of Anton Dobesh, of whom extended mention is made on other pages. He secured the best possible education from the public schools and very early took up farming for a life occupation.

In January, 1912, Mr. Dobesh married Bertha A. Curtis, a very excellent lady who, like her husband, was born in this county. She was a daughter of W. S. Curtis, who lives near Algernon schoolhouse. The happiness of the new home was soon disturbed, for Mrs. Dobesh was called to her long home after a married life of only four years.

Mr. Dobesh is a member of the Catholic

church, belongs to the Non-partisan League and is a progressive young farmer who is operating one full section of land, which he leases from his father. He is conducting a general farming and stock-raising business. He expects, with ordinary luck, to market one hundred hogs each year. He keeps a good grade of cattle, having about sixty head on his farm throughout the entire year. Just such industrious, hard-working farmers are the present-day hope and basic strength of our country.

FRED AND HENRY SCHULTZE.—There are few existing associations that are productive of better results than those which exist between brothers in the operation of a business or agricultural venture, and this is applicable to the partnership of Fred and Henry Schultze, who are carrying on extensive farming and stock-raising activities in the vicinity of Mason City. They have always been farmers, and in the several communities in which they have resided have impressed themselves upon their fellow citizens as practical, progressive and energetic men, thoroughgoing masters of their vocation, and honorable factors in the civic life of their locality.

Fred Schultze, the elder brother, was born July 13, 1874, in Illinois, and Henry, the younger, was born October 24, 1877, in Seward county, Nebraska. They are sons of Fred and Amelia (Zilke) Schultze, natives of Germany, the former of whom came to the United States at the age of five years, and the latter when nineteen years of age. Married in Illinois, the parents resided there for three more years, and then moved to Seward county, Nebraska, where their home was made for a quarter of a century. Subsequently Mr. Schultze came to Custer county and bought school land, and later he went to Canada, where he lived for some time, but eventually he returned to Seward county, Nebraska, and retired from active pursuits. He is a Republican in his political views and he and Mrs. Schultze are members of the Lutheran church. Of their six sons and four daughters, Fred and Henry are the only ones living in Custer county.

The early educational discipline of Fred and Henry Schultze was secured in the district schools of Seward county, and they were brought up under the training of their practical father, who instructed them fully in all the departments of agricultural work. When they reached manhood they began farming together, and on coming to Custer county, in 1893, they purchased 320 acres of land, in the

vicinity of Mason City—a property which formerly belonged to their father. Together they have since farmed it successfully and have made their farm one of the fertile and well improved properties of the locality. Their buildings are large, well kept and substantial, their improvements and equipment are modern, and their stock of a good grade. They are men of integrity and high standing, and while they have devoted their entire time to farming, and therefore have not figured prominently in public affairs, they are known as public-spirited citizens. Their political preference is for the Republican party's principles and candidates, and both are members of the Lutheran church.

On February 3, 1910, Fred Schultze married Mrs. Mary (Lang) Neben, the widow of August Neben, and to this union there have been born four children: Elsie, Amelia, Minnie, and Arthur. Henry Schultze is a bachelor.

JOHN A. AMSBERRY.—A resident of Custer county for forty years, John A. Amsberry has the distinction of being the oldest breeder of Aberdeen-Angus cattle in the state of Nebraska, and few cattlemen are more widely or favorably known. His connection with stock-raising has always been of a helpful and progressive character, and as president of the Angus Breeders Association Institute his broad knowledge and long experience, always at the call of his fellow-breeders, have done much to encourage the industry and to place it upon a high plane.

John A. Amsberry was born September 11, 1850, in West Virginia, and is a son of Francis E. and Lucy C. (Beard) Amsberry, both natives of Virginia. They were married in Virginia and came to Custer county in 1884, Mr. Amsberry homesteading on section 35, township 15, range 18, where he continued to carry on agricultural pursuits on his 160 acres until his death. He was a Republican in politics, and he and his wife were members of the old-school Baptist church. There were twelve children in the family, of whom ten are living: John A. is the subject of this review; Martha, twin of John A., is single and is living with her brother Will; Margaret is the wife of Nick Peterson, and they reside in Custer county; Rosetta is the wife of J. N. Greenlee, a farmer of this county; Laura is the wife of C. C. Fisher, of this county; J. M. is an Oregon farmer; Myra is the wife of Charles Amsberry, a farmer northwest of Broken Bow; Ella is the wife of Lou Coleman, a blacksmith of South Da-



Henry and I with Lily

kota; Will D. is farming near Mason City, and a sketch of his career will be found elsewhere in this work; and Frank is operating his father's old homestead.

John A. Amsberry received an ordinary public-school education in West Virginia, and early learned the lessons of industry and money value, as, being the eldest of his father's children, it was necessary that he start to work as soon as he was old enough and to contribute his share to the family support. Leaving his native state in 1871, he came to the west and passed four years in Iowa, where he found employment at farm work. In 1874 he came to Nebraska, and after entering and perfecting title to a pre-emption claim in Valley county he returned to Iowa, where he remained four years. In 1878 Mr. Amsberry came to Custer county and settled on a homestead, this county having continued to be his home and the stage of his productive activities during the long intervening period of forty years. How successful he has been in his operations may be discerned when recognition is taken of the fact that he is now the owner of 1,000 acres of land, all made through his own efforts and abilities, without outside assistance. For many years he has been one of the leading cattlemen of the county, and, as previously stated, he is to-day the oldest breeder of Aberdeen-Angus cattle in Nebraska. He generally keeps 100 head on hand and his stock is much in demand, bringing top prices and taking many prizes at fairs. He is president of the Angus Breeders Association Institute, and has been a life member of the Farmers National Congress for the past fifteen years. Alfalfa is his principal crop, and in the raising of this staple he has met with the success that his skill and hard work have merited. The splendid improvements to be found on Mr. Amsberry's property have all been put in by him, and the buildings are of his own erection. Mr. Amsberry is a Republican and a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and he and the members of his family belong to the Baptist church.

In September, 1880, in Iowa, Mr. Amsberry was united in marriage to Miss Mary Buckley. She was born in West Virginia, a daughter of Frank Buckley, who was an early settler of Iowa and who there met an accidental death in the woods. Mrs. Amsberry died May 2, 1918, leaving three children: Zadee, who is the wife of R. H. Duke, a druggist of Mason City, Nebraska; Frank, who is associated with his father in his farming and stock-raising operations; and Nellie, who is the wife of Will Dorsette, a farmer of Custer county.

VERNON E. FLEMING.—One of the farmers of Custer county who is living in the vicinity of Mason City, and operating successfully a small farm, with every indication of a prosperous future before him, is the young man whose name the title line heralds.

Mr. Fleming was born January 28, 1887, and is a son of John and Rachel (McKee) Fleming. The Hoosier state is the place of his father's nativity, and Illinois is the state in which his mother was born. The parents were married in Illinois and in 1882 they came to Custer county, where they took a homestead. Mrs. Fleming died in 1907, and the father now makes his home with his daughter, Mrs. Arthur Zahn, near Mason City.

In the parental family circle were three children—Pearl, the wife of Oscar Fletcher, died in March, 1916, at Portland, Oregon; Vernon E. is the subject of this sketch; and Minnie is the wife of Arthur Zahn, of Custer county. The father is a member of the Baptist church, as was also his wife, and he is a Socialist in politics. He served as justice of the peace a number of years ago.

Vernon E. Fleming received his early education in the district schools of Custer county, attending in school district No. 71 principally. His early years were devoted to farming, to which occupation he has given his entire life. He lived on his mother's old homestead for twenty-five years and then removed to his present farm of 160 acres, which he purchased in 1908. He has made good improvements and developed the place into a first-class farm. At the time when he took the farm there were only ten acres broken on the entire place.

October 27, 1909, recorded the marriage of Mr. Fleming to Rosetta A. Hauck, for whose family history see the Fred Hauck sketch in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Fleming have two sons—Loyel, born September 23 1910, and Clyde, born October 17, 1911.

Mr. Fleming is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He generally votes the Democratic ticket and has served on the school board for a number of years. He does a general farming and stock-raising business, in which he has been very successful. He has full-blooded Duroc-Jersey hogs, and makes a success of breeding fine specimens whose lineage entitles them to place in the register of the society that maintains the records of the Duroc hogs. He and his wife are also making a specialty of Rhode Island Red chickens, and their poultry flock at feeding time presents one of the attractive features of farm life as the Flemings are living it. This is a splendid family, and, beyond

doubt, Mr. and Mrs. Fleming have before them many successful years.

HARRY A. SHERMAN, vice-president of the Sargent State Bank, of which he was formerly president, is also a leading and prominent real-estate and insurance man of Custer county, has been identified with numerous business and financial enterprises here and has established a high reputation for capability, judgment and general acumen. His introduction to Sargent was in the role of school-teacher, but it was not long until he became connected with banking affairs, and since that time his rise has been sure, rapid and consistent.

Mr. Sherman was born November 3, 1871, at Streator, Illinois, his parents being George W. and Ruth (Courtney) Sherman. A record of the family will be found in the sketch of Mrs. Ruth Sherman, which appears elsewhere in this work. The country schools of Custer county furnished Harry A. Sherman with his early education, as he was but a child when brought to this county, and this preliminary training was later supplemented by one year's attendance at the University of Nebraska, at Lincoln, and a course in the Lincoln Business College. Until he was twenty-five years of age he was engaged in farming, and he then went to Rochester, New York where for a time he was employed by the Rochester Railroad Company. Returning to Sargent, he taught school until 1902, when he secured a clerkship in the Farmers & Merchants Bank. In the following year that institution was consolidated with the Custer County Bank, in June, 1903, and Mr. Sherman was elected cashier of the new banking house, known under the latter name, and being the oldest bank in the county. Later the Custer County Bank was reorganized, and Mr. Sherman was elected president, a position he retained until 1914. At that time other interests became too pressing for him to do full justice to his duties, and he resigned from the presidency, but accepted a vice-presidency and also became chairman of the board of directors of the Sargent State Bank, positions which he still holds. In these capacities a great deal of the bank's policy is directed by him, and his ability as a banker and financier has served to make this one of the strongest institutions in this part of the state. In 1914 Mr. Sherman bought out the partnership of Ebenezer Miller, and entered actively into the real-estate and insurance business, with James W. Lundy as partner. He has been interested in a financial way, more or less, with

real-estate and insurance matters during the past fifteen years, and the development and growth of his connections made it necessary that he give more of his time thereto. His reputation in business and financial circles is of the highest order, and he is frequently dependent upon for advice and leadership in matters of large importance.

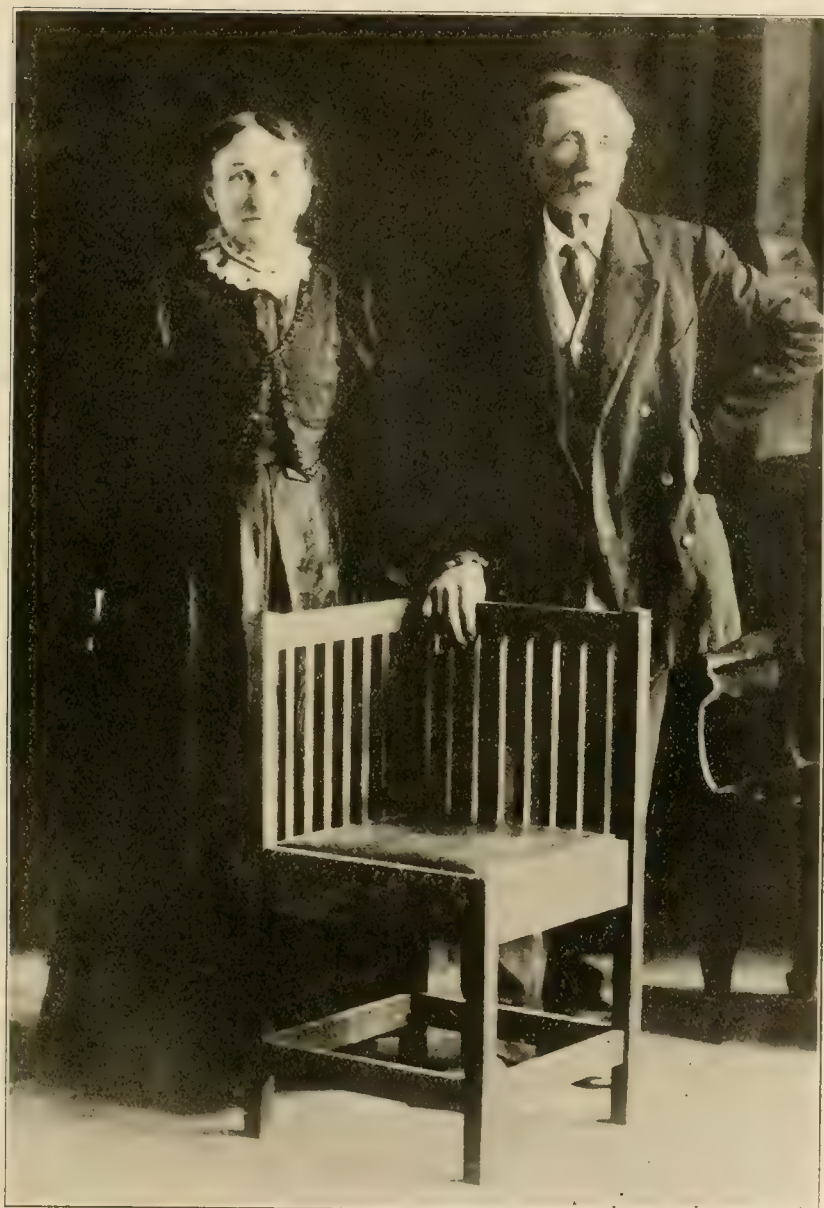
Mr. Sherman is a Republican, but has not sought official recognition by his party, although his influence therein is marked. As a friend of education, however, he is serving efficiently as a member of the school board. An active worker in the Methodist Episcopal church, he has been prominent in its affairs, and belongs at this time to its building committee. Likewise he is prominent in fraternal circles, being a Scottish Rite Mason and a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in the latter of which he has passed all the official chairs.

Mr. Sherman was married July 10, 1902, to Miss Ora S. Spooner, a daughter of A. F. and Anna (Wilbur) Spooner, early settlers of Custer county. To this union there have come two children—Paul G., born April 26, 1906, and Dean F., born May 31, 1908.

JOSEPH H. CHERRY, SR.—The life record of a good man who has gone to his reward is briefly reviewed in the following memoir to one who lived his life with a high sense of personal stewardship, who served his Master according to his earnest convictions, who reared his children in the Christian faith he had received from his father, and who was fifty-six years of age when he passed forward to "that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns." The life of Joseph H. Cherry was one of distinctive honor and usefulness and it is gratifying to enter in this publication a tribute to his memory.

Joseph H. Cherry was born in Richland county, Wisconsin, on the 1st of June, 1851, and he passed to the life eternal on the 6th of December, 1917, secure in the high regard of all who knew him. He was a son of Joseph and Amelia (Killian) Cherry, of whose nine children four are living—Thomas, who is a resident of Furnas county, Nebraska; John, who is individually mentioned on other pages of this publication; Mrs. Sarah Williams, who lives in Nuckolls county, Nebraska; and George, who is a resident of Sartoria, Buffalo county, Nebraska.

In his native state Joseph H. Cherry acquired his early educational discipline, and at Mifflin, Wisconsin, was solemnized his mar-



MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH H. CHERRY, SR.

riage to his first wife, whose maiden name was Mary Williams. Upon coming to Nebraska he and his wife first located in Box Butte county, about 1876, when the Indians were still plentiful in that section of the state. In 1893 Mr. and Mrs. Cherry came to Custer county, where they located by renting the farm which he later purchased of Walter George, and upon which he was residing at the time of his death. After coming to the county Mr. Cherry was somewhat discouraged by the conditions that here prevailed during the memorable period of drouth in 1894-5, and in the latter year he removed to Nuckolls county, where occurred the death of his beloved wife, her remains being laid to rest in the cemetery at Nora, that county. In Nuckolls county Mr. Cherry rented a ranch of 800 acres, and under his direction all but thirty acres of this tract was maintained under effective cultivation. He there continued his successful operations as a grain-grower until 1902, the previous year having recorded his second marriage—to Lydia M. Kinsey, of Custer county. In 1902 he came with his family to Custer county, where he purchased the half-section of land which is now known as the old Cherry homestead. The place had but few improvements when Mr. Cherry became owner of the property, and by him were provided all of the buildings and other fine improvements which embellish and add to the value of the estate at the present time. For several years the family here occupied a sod house of the primitive pioneer type, but with increasing prosperity this gave place to the present attractive and commodious farm residence. Mr. Cherry was a man of indefatigable industry, of nature judgment, and of progressive policies, so that he achieved a large measure of success in connection with his farm enterprise.

In a fraternal way Mr. Cherry was affiliated with the Improved Order of Red Men for a few years, but on account of hard times he dropped his active affiliation, but his greatest satisfaction was gained through the prosecution of active Christian work and service. For a number of years he and his wife were connected with the Methodist church, but finally he and his entire family became members of the Presbyterian church, in which he held the office of elder for a period of nine years. For twenty-one years he was an active Christian and church member, and he took specially deep interest in the neighborhood Sunday school. This was a matter of much solicitude to him and in the period culminating in his death he earnestly urged his family and his neighbors and other friends to keep the Sunday school

in continuous service. "Don't let it go down," he begged, over and again. His deep concern was for the school and its work, but as his life neared its end he was not dismayed or afraid for himself, for, as he stated, he knew "that his Savior would take care of him and that he would be saved." He selected the Scripture lesson and also the text of the sermon for his funeral service, the same being found in the twenty-fourth chapter of the gospel of Joshua, beginning at the fourteenth verse, and closing with the twenty-fourth verse, the text being a part of verse 15: "Choose you this day whom you will serve." He also made arrangements for his own sons and sons-in-law to act as pallbearers.

At the death of Mr. Cherry his wife was left well provided for, according to plans pre-arranged by him, and she has continued to be devoted to the work in which he had proved so faithful. His brother John is administrator of the family estate. Within the period of his first residence in Custer county Mr. Cherry assisted in the erection of the neighborhood schoolhouse in which the Presbyterian church services are now held. He gave freely of his influence and co-operation in the furtherance of public improvements and community needs, and for two years he was road overseer of Loup precinct. His political allegiance was given to the Republican party. He lived and labored to righteous ends, and, now that he has passed away, his influence remains as a benediction upon all who came within its gracious sphere.

On the 17th of July, 1901, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Cherry to Lydia, a daughter of John A. Jennings, in whose personal sketch, on other pages of this work, is given adequate record concerning the family. Mrs. Cherry proved to her husband a devoted companion and helpmeet and since his death she is sustained and comforted by the hallowed memories of their gracious association in the years that have passed. Mr. Cherry and his first wife became the parents of eleven children, of whom the wife and six children passed over to await his arrival in glory and five children survive the honored father, namely: Mrs. Elizabeth Jane (Cherry) Watts, Joseph H. Cherry, Jr., Hester Ann Cherry, Mrs. Mary Alice (Cherry) Morgan, John Williams Cherry, Jr.

JOHN H. HANNA is a citizen whom misfortune has visited as the result of an accident with which he met in 1906, since which time he has been virtually incapacitated, though

he is a man in the very prime of life. In the autumn of the year mentioned above, Mr. Hanna was severely injured by a fall from a windmill tower on his fine farm, and he has never recovered from the effects of this deplorable accident. He is thus unable to give his personal and direct attention to business affairs or the active management of his farm, but he is favored in having a wife whose capacity for business is marked and who, with the assistance of their children, is effectively continuing the direction of the farm activities, the while Mr. Hanna is assured of the sympathy and good will of the community in which he was winning precedence as a farmer at the time when he encountered his deplorable accident. It is pleasing to accord him recognition in this history and also to pay a merited tribute to Mrs. Hanna.

Mr. Hanna was born in the state of Iowa, on the 6th of October, 1874, and is a son of Septimus E. and Julia (Thomas) Hanna, the former of whom was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, and the latter of whom was born on an island in beautiful Lake Champlain. The parents of Mr. Hanna became residents of Custer county, Nebraska, in the spring of 1882, and thus they gained pioneer honors in this county, where they still reside. Their children are eight in number—Mrs. B. G. Evans, Mrs. Grant Turnbull, John Henry, Leroy, Mrs. Robert Beauchamp, Oscar, Howard, and Stanley.

John Henry Hanna acquired his rudimentary education in the schools of his native state, but he was about eight years of age when the family home was established in Custer county. Here he attended the pioneer schools and here also he gained full fellowship with the practical work of the home farm. Thus he was amply fortified in experience when he instituted his independent activities as a farmer. After their marriage he and his wife established a home of their own, and by assiduous application and good management they succeeded in making a splendid farm of 380 acres the stage of their effective operations. This fine farm, to the work and management of which Mr. Hanna gave his personal supervision until incapacitated, as noted in a preceding paragraph, is situated on West Table, twelve miles west of Broken Bow. Of the tract 150 acres are under effective cultivation and the place is devoted to diversified agriculture and stock-growing.

On the 20th of June, 1897, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Hanna to Miss Irena Mabel Philipsen, who was born near Spring-

field, Illinois, but who has been a resident of Custer county since her early childhood. Mrs. Hanna is a daughter of John Jacob Philipsen and Mary Amanda (Stone) Philipsen, the former of whom was born in Dantzic, Prussia, May 15, 1837, and the latter of whom was born in Wabash county, Illinois. Mr. Philipsen was a young man when he immigrated to America, and for several years thereafter he was identified with farm enterprise in Illinois, where his marriage occurred. Not many years after the birth of his daughter Irena M. (Mrs. Hanna) he came from Piatt county, Illinois, to Nebraska, and established himself as a pioneer farmer in Custer county. He was one of the prosperous and honored citizens of the county and contributed his share to social and industrial progress. The death of Mr. Philipsen occurred May 3, 1911, his wife having passed away February 8, 1893. Of the family of fourteen children, the nine who attained to maturity are here mentioned: Mrs. Ella Longfellow, Mrs. Augusta Hargett, Edmund F., Mrs. Elizabeth Dagan (deceased), John J., Mrs. Rosetta Hanna, Mrs. Irena M. Hanna, William O., and Mrs. Annie L. Brown.

Mrs. Hanna was reared on the old home farm of her parents, and acquired her early education in the public schools of this county, the while her devoted mother did not fail to instruct her well in the domestic arts and duties. She remained at the paternal home until her marriage, and since her husband became afflicted she has shown herself well qualified for the added responsibilities that have fallen upon her in connection with the operations of their farm and all incidental business. They are highly esteemed citizens and Mrs. Hanna is a popular factor in the social activities of her home community, with a circle of friends that is limited only by that of her acquaintances. Of the six children of Mr. and Mrs. Hanna five are living, and concerning them the following brief record is consistently entered in conclusion of this sketch: Guy E., who was born March 3, 1898, and who resides on and assists in the management of the home farm, was in the final draft of young men to be called to military service in the world war, which came to a close before he was summoned for preliminary training; and the younger children likewise remain at the parental home, their names and respective dates of birth being as follows—Floyd H., January 1, 1900; Septimus E., March 7, 1901; Ralph H., July 20, 1906; and Iva Mae, October 5, 1909.

THOMAS CONDON.—Among those who were early settlers of Custer county and who for years contributed to the upbuilding of the community was the sterling pioneer whose name introduces this memoir.

Thomas Condon was born at Shanagolden, County Limerick, Ireland, November 10, 1846. He came to America when a young man, but after remaining here two years he returned to his native land and after two years spent there he again took a noteworthy voyage,—this time going to New Zealand, where he remained seven years. By way of California and across the continent he finally came to Omaha, Nebraska, and in the early '80s he came to Custer county and took a homestead of 160 acres in sections 5 and 8 of township 18, range 22. His first home was a sod house and he had the usual hardships and experiences that fell to the lot of the early-day pioneers of the county. He was successful as a farmer and to his original tract he added 160 acres adjoining. The old sod house was replaced with a frame dwelling and he continued in the cultivation of his land until his death, which occurred January 2, 1909.

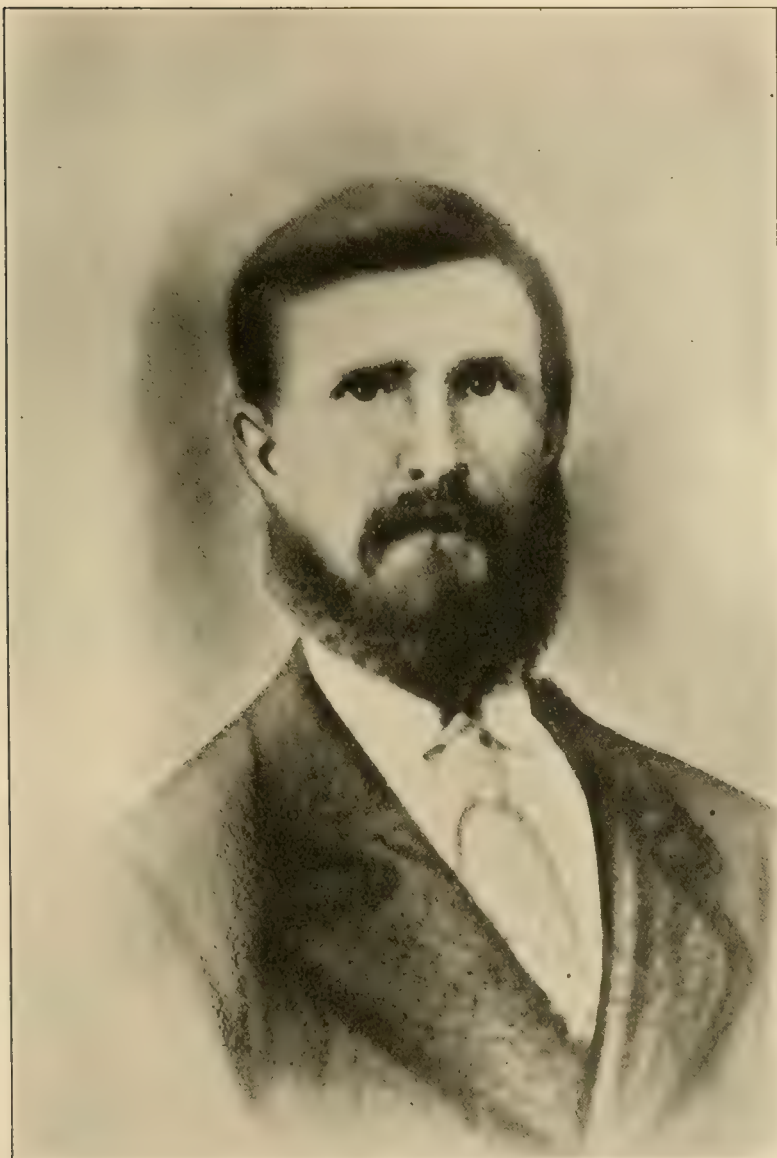
On the 1st of June, 1895, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Condon to Miss Mary Maroney, who was born at Trenton, New Jersey, a daughter of Martin and Mary (Daugherty) Maroney. Mr. and Mrs. Condon became the parents of two children, Mary Ellen and Thomas, who are at home with their mother. The family are communicants of the Catholic church. In the death of Thomas Condon the community lost a representative citizen and his immediate family a loving husband and father.

MRS. RUTH SHERMAN, who possesses the unique distinction of having been the first postmistress of the Sargent community of Custer county, although there was no town here by the name at that time, was one of the earliest settlers of this region, coming in 1879, when there were no houses in the valley and but three or four dug-outs to give evidence of human habitation. It has been her fortune and privilege to witness and participate in the great changes which have taken place during a period of forty years and to have accomplished her share in the development of one of the great counties of an important commonwealth.

Mrs. Sherman was born January 28, 1844, at Morgantown, West Virginia (then Virginia), a daughter of William and Amy (Gapen) Courtney, the former a native of

Morgantown, and the latter of Greensboro, Pennsylvania. In 1859 the father, who was a farmer, took the family to Missouri, but two years later the Civil war came on and, as the sympathies of the Courtneys all rested with the Union, matters became so unpleasant for them in that state that they disposed of their interests there and moved to Illinois. That state continued to be their home until 1880, when they came to Custer county and homesteaded close to the present site of Sargent, and there Mr. Courtney continued to be industriously engaged in farming until his retirement. He moved then to Lincoln, where his death occurred in 1892, Mrs. Courtney following him to the grave during the next year. They were consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which Mr. Courtney played an important part, assisting to build the first church of that denomination at Sargent and always being a liberal contributor. He was an ardent Republican, and so outspoken was he during the troublous times immediately preceding the outbreak of the Civil war that he was classed among those who were known as "Black Republicans." He and his wife were the parents of twelve children: Thomas, a farmer of Palmyra, Missouri, who married Elizabeth Nicker; W. Fletcher, a resident of Arbela, Missouri, who married Margaret Stroh; Maria L., who married D. M. Shaw, a cement manufacturer of Sargent; Ruth; Hannah M., of Sargent, the widow of William Sherman; James D., a farmer six miles south of Omaha, who married Itasca Perrin; Miller W., a coal operator of Streator, Illinois, who married Eliza Worthington; Laura H., the wife of S. W. Perrin, who for twenty-nine years has been superintendent of the State Farm, at Lincoln; Ella, is the wife of Levi Gapen, of Whitewater, Wisconsin; and the three others are deceased.

Mrs. Ruth Sherman received her early education in the public schools of Virginia and Illinois, and was reared in a manner that fitted her admirably for the duties of a farmer's wife. She was married January 14, 1866, at Sunbury, Illinois, to George W. Sherman, who was born at Byron, New York, September 7, 1835, a son of Reuben and Almeda (Shedd) Sherman, the former a native of Vermont and the latter of Byron, New York. In 1874 Mr. and Mrs. Sherman moved from their farm to Streator, Illinois, and in 1879 came to Custer county and homesteaded one and one-half miles northeast of the present site of Sargent. There they continued to live for twenty years, but in the fall of 1899 Mr. Sherman retired from active life and the family moved to Sargent. Mrs. Sherman had the honor of being



THOMAS CONDON

the first postmistress here, the postoffice being located in the family farm-house, where mail was delivered by stage from North Loup once each week. When the village of Sargent was started, in 1883, Mrs. Sherman relinquished the office in favor of John Spacht. She is a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which she has been an active worker. Mr. Sherman was a Republican in politics and served as supervisor of Custer county for one term. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and was a prominent figure therein, passing all the official chairs and being a delegate to several conventions. He passed away November 11, 1904, at the age of fifty-nine years.

Mr. and Mrs. Sherman became the parents of two children: Nellie S. is the wife of Andrew F. Phillips, a banker of Sargent; and Harry A., who married Ora S. Spooner, is a banker, real-estate operator and insurance man of Sargent, a sketch of his career being given on another page of this volume.

JOSEPH A. HARRIS.—Living not far from Walworth, on what is for this day an extensive stock ranch, is one of the successful stockmen and farmers of Custer county, and this sterling citizen is he whose name introduces this paragraph.

Joseph A. Harris hails from the Hoosier state, in which commonwealth he was born March 16, 1862. His parents were Aaron and Elizabeth (Winkoop) Harris, both excellent people and natives of the Buckeye state. Aaron Harris was a farmer all his life. During the Civil war he enlisted in the Union army, but after serving only three months he was discharged, on account of injuries which he had received and from which he died before he could reach his home. Of his thirteen children only three are living at the present time—one resides in California, one in Oregon, and the third surviving child is the subject of this sketch.

In 1881 Joseph A. Harris came with his mother to Custer county and located a homestead in section 28, township 20, range 19. On this place he lived about nine years. That definite and well merited success has attended his efforts during the intervening years is fully vouched for by his status at the present time, and he is to be designated as one of the progressive pioneers who have been resourceful factors in the development of the splendid resources of Custer county, where to-day he is the owner of 1,120 acres of land, the most of which is in pasture and well stocked with cattle and horses, the while the building equip-

ments and other improvements are of excellent order.

On the 23d of September, 1890, at Taylor, Loup county, Nebraska, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Harris to Miss Louisa M. Long, the estimable daughter of Mrs. Susannah Long, who was a widow at the time when she came to Nebraska and numbered herself among the pioneers of Custer county, her husband having died June 18, 1882. In the autumn of 1884 Mrs. Susannah Long, accompanied by her two sons and three daughters—Jim, Patterson, Louisa, Mattie, and Emma—came to Custer county, the son Jim, who was married at the time, having returned to Indiana about two years later, on account of the ill health of his wife. Mrs. Long, her son Patterson and her daughters Louisa and Mattie, all homesteaded land north of Walworth this county, and the other daughter, Emma, became the wife of John Stephenson, of Broken Bow. Mr. and Mrs. Harris still reside on the homestead which Mrs. Harris thus obtained in the pioneer days. The claims of the mother and children were adjoining, and by exceedingly hard work and the enduring of many privations and other hardships, they succeeded in holding the properties. Jim Long took a homestead in an adjoining section, and still another homestead was located by W. T. Morford, a brother-in-law of Mrs. Harris. All this gave to representatives of the Long family extensive land holdings, but of the immediate family Mrs. Harris is now the only one remaining in Custer county.

Until the time of her marriage Mrs. Harris made her own way and improved her claim to the best of her ability. At the time of her homesteading it was impossible for her to obtain work, so she made three different trips to Boone county, this state, where she secured work and saved money with which to improve her claim. She made the trips overland in an old-fashioned buckboard. Later she secured work in Broken Bow, at the famous Marble Top hotel. Her indomitable spirit prevailed over all obstacles and she succeeded in her homestead enterprise.

Mr. Harris was educated in the district schools of Boone county, Indiana, and has made splendid use of every advantage afforded him. Practically all his life has been spent in Custer county, and the privations and hardships incident to pioneer life are known to him by actual experience. He recalls that on one occasion a party of five, consisting of himself, John Welsher, Ed. Roberts, Bruce Smith, and Roland Richardson, were hauling grain to the Stems ranch when they were overtaken

by one of the unfriendly blizzards so well remembered by the old-timers. All night long they had to cut green willows and keep up a fire with green wood, in order to keep from freezing to death. After getting to their destination they received twenty cents a bushel for the corn they were hauling. It was on this trip that they lost their water-bucket while trying to get water out of an air hole in the ice-covered river, and, with nothing with which to stir up their pancakes, they subsisted for the rest of the trip on cold meals.

Into the Harris home two children were born: Aaron lives north of Walworth, on one of his father's farms. His wife's maiden name was Gladys Williams. James is single and lives at home. Susie Stephenson, a niece of Mrs. Harris, has made her home with her aunt and uncle since the death of her mother, February 2, 1901.

Mr. Harris had his experience with horse thieves and was one of a party who tried to stop a man and woman who had stolen a pair of horses farther south in this county. The thieves drove across the country without regard to roads and when their horses became exhausted, at the point of a revolver they compelled some farmer to exchange teams, and then drove on as far as they could drive the fresh horses. Of course the owners of these teams followed up the trail and secured their horses after the thieves had abandoned them. They tried to elude their pursuers by concealing the woman in the bottom of the wagon-box. It was Mr. Harris' young boys that saw her prostrate in the wagon and thus identified the parties. The thieves succeeded, however, in evading capture. At the time their trail was lost by the pursuers they were driving a team appropriated from Mr. Goldson, who was not fortunate enough to recover it.

Politically Mr. Harris affiliates with the Republican party. Mr. and Mrs. Harris are representative citizens, are well established in a comfortable home and enjoy the confidence of their neighbors.

JAMES B. HARTSON.—The man who develops a farm, maintains a home and rears a family, every member of which is a contribution to good citizenship, is entitled to equal rank with the "noblest Roman of them all." That is the kind of a man this story concerns.

James B. Hartson was born February 9, 1848, and is a son of Lucius D. and Elizabeth (Robinson) Hartson, splendid people whose life history runs much the same as that of

the major portion of the generation to which they belonged. Lucius D. Hartson was a native of Connecticut, and his good wife first saw the light of day midst the Pennsylvania hills. Lucius D. Hartson, born September 8, 1821, lived in the day when opportunities were rare and childhood was expected to pay its way in manual labor from tenderest years. Accordingly, he was apprenticed as a boy and learned the machinist's trade, but this vocation being not entirely to his liking, he later studied veterinary surgery and made that the profession which he followed more or less during his entire life. In early life he moved to Pennsylvania, where he formed the acquaintance of the one who was to be his wife and the mother of his children, and here he led her to the marriage altar in 1842. Into their home came nine children, five sons and four daughters: Namon W. is deceased; James B. is the successful farmer of whom we write; Jerod D. lives in Charles City, Iowa; Riley A. is in South Dakota; Holley has his home in Nevada, Missouri; Julia M. became the wife of Andrew Parker but is now a widow and conducts a hotel at Lemon, South Dakota; Elsie is the wife of T. N. Moore, of Riverton, Nebraska; Lucy J. is the wife of James Culom, of Lawrence, Kansas; and Adelia is deceased.

In 1860 Lucius D. Hartson moved to Chickasaw county, Iowa, where he followed farming until 1876. He then removed with his family to Smith county, Kansas, which place was then on the Kansas frontier, and there he became a successful farmer. He remained in Kansas until 1909, when he came to Custer county to make his home with his son James, the subject of this sketch, and here he lived until his death, in 1913. His good wife had preceded him to the other land by eleven years. Her demise occurred in Kansas.

James B. Hartson's migrations run almost the same course as those of his father before him. When he was eight years of age the family left Pennsylvania for Wisconsin, and four years later they removed to Iowa. The education by which Mr. Hartson was enabled to make a success of business was received in the public schools of Wisconsin and Iowa, and in the latter state he began his first farming operations. He also inclined to the veterinary profession, and has practiced the same with success until the present time, in connection with his farming and stock-raising. He remained in Iowa several years, when he, too, removed to Kansas and settled in Smith county, where he rented land, and continued to farm for seventeen years. He came north



MR. AND MRS. B. FRANK COULTER AND CHILDREN

to Nebraska and settling in Custer county in the spring of 1902. He immediately became one of the forces of the central county in Nebraska, and in every operation he has proved himself to be a "live wire." He located near Sargent, where he lived one year, until the fall of 1903, when he bought 480 acres of land located in section 14, township 20, range 21, where he now resides, engaged in active and successful ranching in all its different phases, but making a specialty of stock-raising. Not content with what stock he can raise, he conducts a general business of buying and selling cattle and hogs, horses and mules. He has made a decided success of these operations, and in the last decade has laid the foundations of what a few years ago would be called a neat fortune. He came to Custer county without money and heavily in debt. He now owns 1,200 acres of land, on which he has four sets of good buildings, all practically new. Three of the houses have full basements and are more or less modern in the internal construction.

The domestic and family life of Mr. Hartson began January 16, 1875, when he was married to Miss Mary Etta Snyder, daughter of Thomas H. and Sarah (Brock) Snyder. Mrs. Hartson's father was a native of Wisconsin and her mother a New York lady of high standing. Both passed away in September, 1867, leaving three daughters, mere children — Mrs. Hartson; Ida Maria, the wife of Fred Ably, now living in the state of Washington; and Mrs. Randall, now residing in Atlantic, Iowa. One brother died in infancy. Mrs. Hartson was born November 12, 1857.

Into the splendid home maintained by Mr. and Mrs. Hartson has come a splendid group of eight bright, happy children, who are now assuming the responsibilities and obligations of life with credit to their parents: Ralph L. was born October 17, 1877; Mattie May, was born August 25, 1879, and is now the wife of John Molesworth, of Almeria, Nebraska; Florence E. was born November 18, 1881, and is the wife of Samuel Marick, of Riverton, Franklin county, Nebraska; Nellie M., who was born May 25, 1884, is the wife of Edward Marick, and resides in Smith county, Kansas; George Thomas, born May 22, 1889, is making good as a Custer county farmer; Marv A., born September 7, 1896, is the wife of Raymond Renv, and lives in Custer county; Mabel Grace, born in September, 1899, is at home; Virdie L., born March 13, 1891, died March 27, 1911; Ralph L. remains at home with his father and assists in the management of the ranch and stock business.

Mr. Hartson is an independent voter, makes

up his own political platform and votes for candidates who, in his judgment, are best fitted to serve the people. He is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge in Anselmo, and is a Universalist in religious belief. Few men have accomplished more in the years of their life, and still fewer have achieved in the last fifteen years what Mr. Hartson accomplished from a start that was less than nothing. He has a splendid family and is an excellent citizen.

B. FRANK COULTER. — The story of B. Frank Coulter commences July 14, 1883, at which time he discovered America in Shelby county, Illinois. His father, William B. Coulter, was a Pennsylvanian, and his mother was Louise (Burlew) Coulter. In the father's family were eight children — William H. Coulter, Charles A. Coulter, Mary E. (Coulter) Harriger, John R. Coulter, Lambert Coulter, Benjamin F. Coulter (of whom this story is related), Nellie (Coulter) Graham, and Mabel (Coulter) Baker.

Mr. Coulter's parents died when he was less than seven years of age, and, left alone in the world, he was befriended by an uncle, B. F. Doyle, with whom he made his home until he was thirteen years of age. He attended the common schools, worked on the farm, did chores and made himself generally useful. In the matter of earning his first money, Mr. Coulter says one of his uncle's neighbors had a bulldog which persisted in making his home on the Doyle homestead. The neighbor promised young Frank a pair of guinea hens if he would run the bulldog off and scare him so he would stay at home. This the boy undertook to do, and how well he succeeded is not recorded in history, but he got possession of the guineas and sold them for twenty-five cents. He added to this first capital by picking up potatoes all day for ten cents. This gave him a working capital of thirty-five cents, to which his brother donated another nickle, and the entire amount was invested in a pair of sheepskin-lined mittens, with the result that no matter how many times young Frank had cold feet that winter, his hands were always warm.

April 10, 1907, at Walnut, Iowa, Mr. Coulter was united in marriage to Catherine Gundy, who was born in Illinois. Mrs. Coulter's father, Albert Gundy, was a native of Germany. Her mother, Mary A. (LeRette) Gundy, like herself, was a native of Illinois. In the Gundy family were thirteen children, ten of whom are living to-day: Henry, Frank E., Frederick J., Mary Booth, Margaret Allard, Catherine Coul-

ter, Lewis A., Lucy A. Roucis, Andrew N., and George W. The Gundys have held earnestly to the faith of the Catholic church. Mr. and Mrs. Coulter have four children, Ruth F., Gilbert B., Lyle E., and Marjorie M., all of whom are still at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Coulter came to Custer county in the early part of 1910 and for four years lived on a rented farm. They then bought 325 acres in section 5, township 16, range 22. Of this farm 260 acres are under cultivation and the place is well improved. Mr. Coulter is arranging to stock the farm with thoroughbred short-horn cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs. He is one of the progressive young farmers of the county, a representative of the class of vigorous men who are coming on to take the place of the old-time settlers who turned the virgin soil over for the first time with "grasshopper" breaking-plows.

Mr. Coulter does not belong to the school of farmers who believe that anything is good enough and any way good enough, and is always ready to avail himself of better methods and facilities. Not satisfied with scrub stock of any sort, Mr. Coulter believes the best that can be produced will be the most profitable. Mr. and Mrs. Coulter are sterling people and have a host of warm friends.

RALPH CLEMENTS was born in Allegan county, Michigan, February 17, 1879. His parents were Eugene and Eva (Belden) Clements, and they were not only both born in the same town in Ohio, but in the same house. The father was a skilled mechanic and was foreman of a lumber mill in Allegan county until March 6, 1898, when he came to Valley county, Nebraska, and from then on until his death he followed blacksmithing. His family consisted of eight children and five of these are living, but Ralph is the only one residing in Custer county.

Ralph Clements had educational advantages in Michigan, taking a high school course after the common school grades, and accompanied his parents when they came to Nebraska, in which state he has ever since made his home. Since the age of twenty-one years he has engineered his own path in life, beginning at the bottom of the ladder as a farm helper and gradually, through hard work, advancing until now he owns 3000 acres of land in this state and has his Custer county land well stocked with Shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs. The greater portion of his land lies in Loup county, but enough is in Custer to make him a heavy tax payer here. He takes a good citizen's interest in all that concerns this section

and does his part in the matter of public improvements.

Mr. Clements was married at Burwell, Nebraska, December 21, 1907, to Frances E. McKenney, whose parents were early settlers in Garfield and now live in Loup county. Mr. and Mrs. Clements have two children, Ralph and Jesse, and an adopted son, Walter Lund, who is now sixteen years old.

JOHN FANTA.—The province of Moravia should be given full credit for the bachelor farmer to whom this paragraph pays tribute. He is making a mark in Custer county that will soon rate him as one of the thriftiest of our foreign born citizens to be found in any section of the Middle West.

He was born August 9, 1889, in Moravia. His father, John Fanta, and his mother, Josie (Rouse) Fanta, were both natives of Moravia, where the father worked at the carpenter trade at times, and followed farming occasionally. They never came to the United States. In the father's family were three children, two sisters besides young John. One of them still lives in the old country with her parents; the other is Mrs. Mary Nekuda, who lives a few miles west of Sargent, on the Middle Loup river.

John Fanta received his education in the common schools of Moravia before he came to the United States, but feeling that the new world held more for him, and that here the opportunities would far exceed the almost hopelessness of his native land, he turned his face to the west, crossed the ocean, and the star of destiny led him on until he reached Custer county, April 1, 1903. It was All Fools Day, but John's coming was no joke. He meant business from the start, and with his coat off and his sleeves rolled up, the sturdy youth went to work. He worked wherever he could get a job. He worked for several years on farms. He saved his money, and recently has been able to buy 240 acres of land of R. P. Leach, on which he now lives, and which has been in his possession for two years. He is following farm and stock-raising operations, and is laying the foundation for a splendid business in these activities. He never married. So far, he is the master of the situation in the home as well as on the farm, and must operate the range in the kitchen as well as the harvester in the field.

He is a member of the Modern Woodman of America, a Democrat in politics, a faithful adherent of the Roman Catholic church, and when you see his farm and the stock that he already owns and consider that when he



H. C. Chase

reached this country, fifteen years ago, in debt for his ticket that brought him to the land of opportunity, one feels like taking off his hat to such energy and thrift.

HIRAM C. CHASE. — From the year 1890 until his death, in 1913, the late Hiram C. Chase was prominently identified with the business interests of Mason City, where he established a lasting reputation for ability in commercial affairs, integrity in transactions and engagements, and probity in personal character. His career was one in which he attained success through merit and not by chance or fortunate circumstance, and his citizenship was of a public-spirited order that lent itself helpfully to every constructive movement for the general welfare.

Mr. Chase was born at Strawberry Point, Clayton county, Iowa, May 28, 1866, and was a son of Dr. Hiram C. and Eunice (Lyon) Chase, natives of New York state. Dr. Chase had the distinction of being the first homeopathic physician to practice in Iowa, where for many years he followed his profession, but after the death of his wife he came to Mason City, Nebraska, where he passed away. He was long affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, was a staunch Republican, and held various offices both in the Masonic order and in public life. He was the father of eighteen children.

Hiram C. Chase, the subject of this memoir, received his early education in the public schools of Iowa, and under the instruction of his brother he studied pharmacy, his preceptor being Dr. Warren T. Chase. In 1886 he engaged in business on his own account, for in that year he opened a drug store at Ashton, Nebraska, but after four years he came to Mason City, where he rose to prominence and where he achieved success. He entered business life here as the proprietor of a pharmacy, which he conducted for a period of fifteen years, and in the meantime he became interested in real estate, and, finding that he possessed marked talents in that direction, he eventually disposed of his drug business and gave all of his attention to the handling of realty, a line in which he eventually became one of the best known and most successful men in Mason City and the surrounding country. He was so engaged at the time of his death, July 10, 1913, when his community lost one of its most valued and capable men of business. Mr. Chase was a strong and loyal Mason, having passed the official chairs of his lodge, and his funeral was held under the auspices of that fraternity. A loyal Republican, he never sought office, but he wielded

no little influence and exercised it for his party and his friends.

In 1893 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Chase to Miss Martha Riese, who was born May 30, 1875, at Juda, Wisconsin, a daughter of William and Wilhelmina Riese, who are natives of Germany and who came to the United States in 1872, settling in Wisconsin. Later they moved to Hampton, Iowa, where Mr. Riese, a blacksmith by trade, took up farming, and it was as an agriculturist that he came, in 1884, to Custer county, where he homesteaded and where he farmed for a number of years. Both Mr. and Mrs. Riese now make their home with their daughter. Mr. Riese knew the father of the present kaiser of Germany and when occasion offers he expresses himself forcibly in regard to the misguided and now deposed ruler of that country. Mr. Riese is a most loyal citizen of his adopted country, and has great pride in his grandson, who has joined the colors. Mr. and Mrs. Chase are the parents of two children — Iva Mabelle, the wife of Dr. P. H. J. Carothers, who is a practicing physician of Mason City, and a sketch of whose career appears elsewhere in this work; and Cecil A.

Cecil A. Chase was graduated in the high school at Broken Bow and then began the study of medicine, entering the medical department of the University of Nebraska, where he was in his third year, and a member of the exclusive Sigma Nu fraternity. He enlisted in the United States army December 18, 1917, was called February 6, 1918, and was assigned to the aviation corps, being sent to Berkeley, California, for instruction. His final training was obtained in Texas, where he was prepared to be sent to the battle-fields of France.

FRANK A. GORHAM. — Over in the vicinity of Walworth, operating a well improved farm and engaged in a general farming and stock-raising business, is Frank A. Gorham, one of the reliable and substantial citizens of north Custer county. He was born June 14, 1865, and is a son of Nathan and Mary J. (Carr) Gorham. The father was a native of Michigan and the mother a daughter of Illinois. Nathan Gorham was a blacksmith by occupation, which trade he learned and followed in the state of Illinois. Later he immigrated to Iowa, in which state he made his home for nearly thirty years. Before his death, however, he returned to Illinois, where he spent the remainder of his life. The mother died in Iowa, in 1908. In their family were three children, two of whom are living

at the present time — Frank A., the subject of this sketch; and Edward N., whose home is in Manchester, Iowa, where he works at locomotive firing and sometimes works at his father's trade of blacksmithing.

Frank A. Gorham is a native of Illinois but spent most of his early years in Iowa, in which state he received a liberal education. He was married in August, 1894, to Sarah E. DeBusk, a very excellent Custer county lady. Mrs. Gorham is a daughter of Elizabeth DeBusk, a widow who had made her home in Custer county since 1885. Mrs. Gorham, the daughter, filed on a homestead in section 5, township 19, range 19, comprising also lots 5, 6 and 7, and this land is still held by title in her name, although she is deceased.

Mr. Gorham came to Custer county in 1894 and purchased a small farm of 120 acres, which he still owns and upon which a general farming business is conducted. Into the Gorham home were born two children, Edith M. and Harold L., both of whom are single and still living at home.

The home was severely bereaved in 1902, when Mrs. Gorham, wife and mother, was called from the scenes of earthly activities into that mysterious realm from which no travelers return. The home circle now consists of the father and his two children. They are very excellent people and command the respect of an extensive circle of friends and neighbors.

Politically, Mr. Gorham is independent, claiming affiliations with no party. He belongs to the Methodist church.

WILLIAM B. ATHEY, who was one of the pioneer settlers and good citizens of Custer county, was born in Whitley county, Indiana, January 14, 1854, and died at Broken Bow, Nebraska, in June, 1906. He was a son of Elijah and Catherine Athey, who were natives of Ohio, and who settled early in Indiana. His mother died in Indiana and his father then went to Colorado, where his death occurred in 1916, when he was more than eighty years of age.

William B. Athey was reared on his father's farm in Indiana and attended the country schools. Until 1882 he engaged in farming in his native state, and he then joined in the great exodus from the east to the west. After reaching Nebraska he homesteaded in Custer county. He proved up on his claim and with his family lived on it until 1897, when he removed to Broken Bow. Following this change, Mr. Athey was employed by the Standard Oil Company until his death. Mrs. Athey owns the homestead of 160 acres, which

is well improved. Mr. Athey was a man of sterling character, a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and a Prohibitionist.

Mr. Athey was married in Indiana, in 1876, to Miss Sarah Miller, who was born in 1852, in Columbiana county, Ohio, a daughter of Peter and Lydia (Dutterer) Miller, the former a native of Pennsylvania, and the latter of Ohio. Of the nine children of Mr. and Mrs. Miller there are five living, three of whom reside at Broken Bow — Mrs. Athey, Mrs. Young, and Mrs. Kester.

Concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Athey the following brief record is consistently entered: Legrand, who is a prosperous ranchman in Cherry county, where Elsmere is his postoffice address, married Miss Rose Daily and they have four sons and five daughters. Howard, the second son of the subject of this memoir, died June 3, 1906, at the age of twenty-six years. Claude M., the third son, is a progressive farmer and dairyman near Giles, Brown county, this state. He married Miss Mabel Leach and they have one son and two daughters. William A., who is identified with railroad service and resides at Oakland, California, wedded Miss Mabel Anderson. Alonzo, who is still a bachelor, has charge of the old home farm of his mother. Paul is engaged in farming in the irrigated district in the vicinity of Eaton, Colorado. He married Miss Chilla Mitchell and they have no children. He is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity. Miss Ellen E. Athey, who is now the popular and efficient assistant cashier of the People's State Bank of Anselmo, this county, was graduated in the Broken Bow high school, as well as in the commercial department of the same.

The Athey family is recognized as among the best that settled in the northwestern part of Custer county in the early days, and through thrift and industry substantial prosperity rewarded the earnest efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Athey. In addition to the old home farm Mrs. Athey owns and occupies an attractive modern home in the city of Broken Bow where she delights to entertain her children and grandchildren whenever they can visit her, and where her many friends also are assured of a cordial welcome. She is a devoted mother and is an earnest member of and worker in the Methodist Episcopal church, to the faith of which her children also adhere.

ED CUNNINGHAM. — A property in the Broken Bow community which may well serve as an example of good management and practical results in farming, is that owned and



MR. AND MRS. ED CUNNINGHAM

operated by Ed Cunningham, who has been a progressive agriculturist in Custer county since 1911. Mr. Cunningham was born in Poweshiek county, Iowa, August 8, 1865, and is a son of Ross and Marie (Noble) Cunningham.

The Cunningham family is of Scotch origin, and John Cunningham, the grandfather of the subject of this review, was an early settler of Indiana, whence he later moved to Mercer county, Illinois, where he farmed until his death. His son, Ross Cunningham, was born in 1833, in Indiana, and as a lad was taken to Illinois, where he was reared to adult years and where, in Marshall county, he married Marie Noble. She was born in Illinois, in 1839, and was a daughter of Joseph Noble, who was a farmer of Mercer county, and whose father was a native of Ireland. In 1854 Ross Cunningham left Illinois for Iowa, with his wife and three children, his worldly possessions aside from a few household goods being two ox-teams and fifty cents in money. Settling in Poweshiek county, he proceeded to hew out a splendid success, and at the time of his death he was the owner of 400 acres of land and was a man of substance and worth in his community. In politics he was a Republican. Mr. Cunningham died in 1898, his widow surviving until May 8, 1910. They were faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and were the parents of ten children, of whom nine are living, the only two in Nebraska being Ed and Harry.

Ed Cunningham received his education in the public schools of his native state, and was reared as a farmer. When he reached his majority he engaged in operations on his own account, and he remained in Iowa until 1911, when he came to Custer county and purchased a farm of 320 acres, on which he has since made numerous improvements, including a substantial and commodious residence and good barns and outbuildings. His property evidences due appreciation of the inventions which do away with much of the old-time drudgery of farming. When he came to Custer county Mr. Cunningham began raising registered Short-horn and Durham cattle, having a herd of thirteen head, and he still continues to raise a good breed of cattle, as well as horses, in connection with his general farming operations. His attention is entirely devoted to his farm operations, so that he has but little time for other matters, but he is accounted a loyal and public-spirited citizen and one who does not allow his residence in the country to interfere with his keeping up with the times or informing himself upon the sub-

jects which engage the attention of the dwellers in the busier marts of trade. He and the members of his family belong to the Methodist Episcopal church, and his fraternal connection is with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His support has always been given to the Republican party.

Mr. Cunningham was married June 10, 1903, to Miss Myrtle Winslow, who was born in Iowa. She is a daughter of Ezra Winslow, who, in 1876, moved to Wood River, Nebraska, and who still lives in that community where he is a successful farmer. Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham are the parents of three children: Jennie Elizabeth, Ross, and Floyd. Jennie E. is attending school and is making good progress in her studies.

LEWIS C. COLE, who is a representative citizen of Custer county, has lived here for almost forty years. He accompanied his parents to this section in childhood, was educated and married here and about all his interests have been centered here from those early days to the present. He has not been an unworthy adopted son, for he has always identified himself with those enterprises and movements that have been of practical benefit to Custer county, in a public way, and personally has won the confidence and respect of his neighbors, because of his sterling honesty and his recognition, at all times, of their rights.

Lewis C. Cole was born August 28, 1875, at Weathersfield, New York, one of a family of five children born to his parents, L. W. F. and Maria E. (Joiner) Cole, the latter of whom was born in the state of New York. The father of Mr. Cole was born in Germany and after immigrating to the United States he engaged in farming and was also a minister in the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he served charges both in New York and Illinois before coming to Nebraska, in the fall of 1879. He homesteaded in Custer county and also secured a timber claim, in section 33, township 20, and the development of this property engaged his energies afterward. His death occurred on his farm, in July, 1901. The mother of Lewis C. Cole survives and lives at Sargent, Nebraska. Of the five children the following is a brief record: Flora is the wife of W. T. Cropper, who is postmaster at Sargent; Lewis C. is the subject of this sketch; Etta is the wife of Charles McGregor, a railroad man, of Sterling, Colorado; Mame is the wife of Arthur Betts, of Chappell, Deuel county, Nebraska; and Mina is the

wife of M. L. Tobias, their place of residence being at Chappell, Nebraska.

Lewis C. Cole lived with his parents until he was twenty-one years old, in the meanwhile attending school as opportunity offered, although school facilities in Custer county in those days were limited, as compared to the advantages now offered in this progressive section. Farming has been his main occupation all his life, and through his industry and wise management he has made the business profitable in combination with stock-raising. Reared on Nebraska soil, he understands its possibilities far better than a later comer, and through experience has learned the scientific facts to which he adapts his methods.

Lewis C. Cole was married December 25, 1900, to Miss Clara M. Sweet, who is a daughter of C. E. Sweet, residing six miles northeast of Sargent, and they have two sons and one daughter, namely: Lloyd, who was born February 8, 1904; Fred, who was born March 27, 1907; and Marion, who was born August 24, 1909.

Mr. Cole and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He has been very active in the matter of public education and has served his school district faithfully as a director for the past five years. In addition to his farm and stock interests he is known favorably in the financial field to some extent, having been on the directing board of the Farmers State Bank of Sargent for the past seven years.

J. H. MELVILLE, one of Nebraska's well known lumberman, a pioneer of Custer county and president of the J. H. Melville Lumber Company, was born near Morrison, Illinois, in the year 1861, and died at his home in Broken Bow, Nebraska, August 3, 1917. The parents of Mr. Melville were James and Margaret (Mason) Melville, both of whom were from Markinch, in Fifeshire, Scotland. The Mason family settled in Round Grove, Illinois, in the year 1850, and were among the early pioneers of that section. In the year 1857, the daughter Margaret became the wife of James Melville: they made their home in Round Grove, and on March 27th of the year 1861 their son James Henry was born. The parents were fine types of the genuine old Scotch Presbyterians, they were highly respected for their sterling worth, the father was among the early members of the Masonic fraternity in Whiteside county, and their lives were the adornment of the faith that they cherished to the end. The early education of J. H. Melville was obtained in the country

schools. His boyhood home was on a beautiful farm owned by his father, where he grew to manhood. He entered the Northern Illinois College, at Fulton, Illinois, where he completed his education and where he received an excellent business training.

His first experience in the lumber business came shortly after he left school, when he assisted his uncle, James Mason, who owned a lumber yard in Morrison, Illinois, at that time. It was largely through the influence of this uncle that Mr. Melville decided to make the lumber business his permanent work. In the year 1883 he went to northern Iowa, where he operated a yard for John H. Queal. In May of the year 1886, as one of the yard managers for the Bogue-Sherwood Lumber Company of Kearney, Mr. Melville opened the first lumber yard in Mason City. The railroad had not reached Mason City at that time, and the first stock of lumber was hauled across country from Kearney. In December of the year 1887 Mr. Melville returned to Illinois, and on January 5th he was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Louise Smaltz, at the family home in Ustick township, Whiteside county. The parents of Mrs. Melville were born in Baden, Germany, of a devout and godly ancestry. In the year 1863 they came to Ustick township, from Ohio, and settled on a farm near Morrison, where they made the beginnings of what became the family homestead and which is still, after a period of over fifty years, in the possession of members of the family that were born and reared there. The parents were consistent, devoted and lifelong members of the Lutheran church, and were among the substantial and highly respected citizens of the community in which they lived. Their children were given the best educational advantages that the time afforded. Mrs. Melville is a graduate of the Zeigfeld Musical College in Chicago.

Mr. and Mrs. Melville spent the first few years of their married life in Mason City, and their two oldest sons, Arthur W., and James A., were born there. Later they moved to Lincoln, and in March, 1898, Mr. Melville purchased the lumber yard owned by the Home Lumber Company at Sterling, Nebraska, which he operated with a marked degree of success, in connection with a number of branch yards, for a period of eighteen years.

During the residence of the family in Sterling the children were educated. Arthur W. was graduated from the high school, and was a student at Doane College, at Crete, for two years. He married Miss Edith Catchpole, of Sterling, January 16, 1913. James Alfred

was educated in the Sterling schools, attended Doane College one year, then entered the State University, of which he is a graduate. George S. was educated in the Sterling schools, attended the Wentworth Military Academy, at Lexington, Missouri, for one year, and then entered the State University. Shortly after war was declared he enlisted and went into training at the Naval Station, Great Lakes, Illinois. July 10th, while in quarantine there, recovering from an attack of scarlet fever, he received the message, that conveyed to him the sad news, of the death of his father, at Broken Bow, Nebraska, during the night of August 3d. In March, 1918, he entered the naval aviation detachment at Great Lakes and was shortly afterward admitted to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, at Cambridge. He finished the course prescribed for naval aviators, and was transferred to the naval air station at Miami, Florida, where the preliminary instruction in flying was given, after which he entered the advanced course for naval aviators, located at Pensacola, Florida. He was designated as a naval aviator and was commissioned an ensign in October, 1918. He was ordered to report to Admiral Sims in London, as a seaplane pilot; he went to Washington, D. C., where he had his orders completed and his passport signed. He was granted a two weeks' furlough before sailing for London, and while on furlough at his home in Broken Bow the armistice was signed. At the end of his furlough he reported in New York City, and, on account of the signing of the armistice his foreign orders were recalled, and he received his release from active duty, subject to call until October 25, 1922. Willard Christie, the fourth son of the family, graduated from the Sterling schools at a very early age. During his school years, by close application and by making careful use of his time, he succeeded in acquiring an excellent musical training, in connection with his school work. During the winter of 1917, while his parents were in California, for the benefit of the health of his father, he took a business course at the Lincoln Business College, in order to qualify himself for the work of stenographer in the general office at Broken Bow, his father having shortly before acquired the line of yards in Custer county owned by George L. Turner. In October, 1918, he enlisted in the Students' Army Training School at Lincoln, where he was in training until after the close of the war. He expects to enter upon a university course at the beginning of the coming school year. Margaret Marion, the only daughter of the family, was born at Sterling, and at the age of five years she en-

tered the kindergarten in the Sterling schools. She is at the present time attending school in Broken Bow, a pupil of the sixth grade.

In March, 1916, on account of failing health, Mr. Melville sold his lumber interests in Johnson county and sought rest and recuperation by travel. He spent the following season, with his family, on an automobile trip through the northwest, spending the greater portion of the time in Montana. Mr. Melville greatly enjoyed this trip, and with returning health came the desire to engage again in business. On December 19, 1918, with his sons Arthur W. and James A., he bought the G. L. Turner line of lumber yards in this county.

While the details of the business were being worked out by the two sons, Mr. Melville, with his wife and daughter, went to California, for the winter, returning in May, when he came to Broken Bow, the family moving there a short time afterward. Mr. Melville's health seemed much improved, but the apparent improvement proved to be only superficial, and he died suddenly, August 3d, heart trouble being the cause of his death.

Mr. Melville, or Henry, as he was universally known to his host of friends, was widely known among the lumbermen of the state; he was a firm believer in the value of organization, he was a member of the board of directors of the Lumberman's Association, was an officer in the Lumberman's Mutual Insurance Association, and at his death the Lumberman's Association lost one of its staunchest friends, the state one of its best known figures in the lumber industry. He was a business man of unusual ability, and commanded the highest respect and confidence of the people among whom he lived. He was known by his business associates as one who carried out only the highest standards of business integrity. No one ever sought his counsel in vain; he was kind, gracious and lovable in his attitude toward his fellow man, and was more than esteemed — he was beloved — by all who knew him. He was devotedly attached to his home, solicitous in regard to the education of his sons, and found great pleasure in watching them develop into good business men and useful citizens. Upon his daughter, Margaret Marion, he lavished, the affection of his maturer years, and the little grandson, James Willard, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Melville, was the idol and pride of his heart.

While political aspirations never appealed to Mr. Melville — his business interests occupying his time — he occupied many positions of honor and trust in the community that was for so long a time his home, and during the

last year of his life, while he was out of active business, through the earnest solicitations of his friends and loyalty to the political party of his lifelong choice, he accepted the Republican nomination to the Nebraska legislature. Mr. Melville became a member of the Presbyterian church at the age of seventeen, he was a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity, was a United Workman of many years standing, was a Modern Woodman, and was a member of the Royal Highlanders.

Mr. Melville's life ended at a time when, according to human understanding, a long period of usefulness should still have been before him, and he desired to live—but there were times when he felt that the time when he must leave home and loved ones might not be far distant, and his thought and care at those times were for those that he would leave behind, and with the spirit so characteristic of him, he felt he could accept the call, with an absolute faith in the message that "Thy will, not mine, be done." During the early morning hours of August 3d, the summons came, and his life's work, so faithfully performed, was finished. Funeral services were held at the home in Broken Bow, on the afternoon of August 4th, the Rev. A. H. Fraser, of the Presbyterian church, officiating. His mortal remains were then taken to Sterling, Nebraska, where the home of the family had been for many years. Upon arrival at Sterling the remains were taken to the Masonic Hall, where they lay in state, and where hundreds looked upon the face of one they had loved and admired. Funeral services were held at the Methodist church on Sunday afternoon, August 5th, at three o'clock, Rev. J. W. Lewis, a former pastor and an old friend, officiating. Interment was made in the Sterling cemetery, under Masonic auspices, where many friends gathered to pay a last tribute to one who had won for himself the highest possible esteem of all who knew him.

To his sons Mr. Melville left the example of an honorable and useful life; to his family, the memory of his loving care as a husband and father will remain forever as a blessed inheritance. And now in the beautiful city of the dead, he sleeps the sleep that knows no awakening, awaiting the Master's call.

GEORGE E. PORTER.—For more than twelve years identified with the office of register of deeds of Custer county, and for eight years of this time the incumbent of the register's position, to which office he was re-elected in 1918, George E. Porter has become well

known to the people of this community as a hard-working, efficient and conscientious public servant. He was born in Illinois, June 6, 1870, and is a son of Judson C. and Martha S. (Holmes) Porter.

Judson C. Porter was born in Connecticut, where he was educated for the profession of law, but on locating in Illinois, in 1867, he became identified with newspaper work, and for some time he was connected with a Joliet publication, as a member of its editorial staff. In 1885 he removed with his family to Hastings, Nebraska, but after there remaining only one year, he located in Custer county, where he practiced his profession at Mason City and Ansley and built up a reputation for sound legal ability and broad knowledge of the fundamentals of his calling. He was successful in the attaining of a practice which was large and lucrative, and business of the most desirable kind came into his hands, so that he was connected in the courts with some of the most important litigation that was tried. When he died, at Ansley, in 1902, the profession in Custer county lost one of its most brilliant, logical and forceful members. Mrs. Porter survives and makes her home with her son, George E., the survivor of her two children. She has been for many years a consistent member of the Presbyterian church, and while Mr. Porter never joined that or any other religious body, he was an earnest worker and generous supporter of the church movements. For years he was identified with Masonry, belonging to both the blue lodge and the chapter, and of the latter he served as high priest. His political support was given unreservedly to the Republican party.

The education of George E. Porter was obtained in the common schools of Illinois and Nebraska, and in the latter state he entered upon his career in connection with business enterprises. His experience included mercantile operations at both Ansley and Litchfield, but while his commercial sense and ability were well developed and he was making good progress in his affairs, he readily disposed of his interests when he was appointed deputy register of deeds of Custer county, in 1906. For four years he served under the administration of the register then in charge, but in 1910 he was chosen to succeed his superior, and since then has been re-elected three times. In the election of 1914 he was the only Republican to be returned a winner for county office. His terms of office have been characterized by expeditious, capable and earnest work, combined with a desire to accommodate those of his fellow citizens whose

business brings them into touch with his office, and few men are more popular or have better personal support in the way of friendships.

In 1890 Mr. Porter was united in marriage to Miss May Immel, who was born in Iowa, and to this union there have been born five children, as follows: Estella is the wife of F. R. Lamphier, of Dallas, Texas, secretary in the office of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroads; Dwight I., at the time of this writing, is with Battery C, 339 F. A., 88th Division, in France; Harvey, a pharmacist is a member of Company F, 355th Infantry, 89th Division, in France; Doris is engaged in teaching school at Antioch, Nebraska; and Helen was graduated in the Broken Bow high school in 1918. The mother of these children died in 1901, in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in 1906 Mr. Porter was again married, being united with Miss Ida J. Foster, who was born in Hall county, Nebraska. To this union there have been born five children: Adelaide, Julia, and George J., who are attending school; and Romona and Alfred, at home. Mr. and Porter are members of the Presbyterian church, in which he is an officer. Fraternally, he is connected with the Masons, in which he has attained Scottish Rite degrees; the Knights of Pythias, in which he has passed through all the chairs; and the Modern Woodmen of America. He is popular in all of these fraternal orders.

WILLIAM M. DAVIS.—One of the congenial spirits of the South Loup region is William M. Davis, commonly called "Bill" Davis by those who know him. He is a prosperous, well-to-do farmer and stockman, prominent in local political circles, and is a man who charges himself to some extent with responsibility in connection with public affairs. He is one of the moving spirits in his community and when anything of a public nature is to be undertaken he is generally one of those selected to see that it is accomplished.

Mr. Davis was born in 1868, in Scioto county, Ohio. The maiden name of his wife was Lenora Harville, and she was born at Mellville, Wisconsin.

Concerning the family from which Mr. Davis springs, it may be briefly stated that he is a son of David D. and Louise Davis, very estimable people who reared their children, lived their lives, and have passed to their reward. Six children constituted the family circle and all have been a credit to worthy parentage. Lon Davis, one brother of this family,

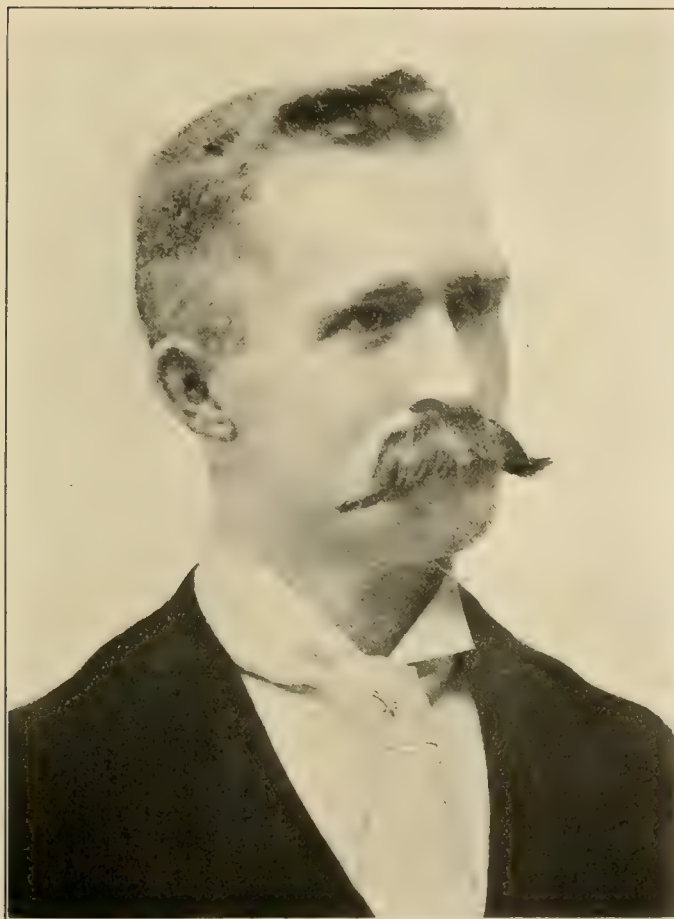
lives near Broken Bow where he is an extensive farmer and stockman.

William M. Davis came directly from Ohio to Custer county, in 1885, a date early enough to insure him many pioneer experiences. He purchased his farm, however, which consists of 320 acres, well improved, and upon which is a very snug and comfortable farm home. His stock operations have been more or less extensive. He has been a feeder of some magnitude and a great many fat porkers and beef steers have been turned out of feed lots on his premises into the markets of the world. He has given some attention to horses and is known as a splendid judge of horseflesh. In the days before autos and tractors, when horses were in more demand, Davis always had in his possession some very good horses.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis have five children, in whom they take pardonable pride: Louise is a teacher, just entering upon young womanhood, in her nineteenth year. At the time of this writing, in 1918, Doris, fifteen years of age, is taking a course at the Kearney Normal School. Lenora, aged twelve, Darrell, ten, and Wilber Orel, a young master of nineteen months, are all at home and help to make the home lively and cheerful.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis enjoy the confidence of their neighbors, are highly respected in the community, and are part of the citizen assets of the county. In fraternal circles Mr. Davis belongs to the Masonic lodge, in which he is in good standing, and enjoys the social benefits of the order. He has been postmaster at Burr Oak for twelve years, and is serving as justice of the peace.

JOHN D. KNIGHT.—One of the substantial farmers among the many of like kind living in the Sargent vicinity, is John D. Knight, whose name finds place in this title line. He was born in Omaha, Nebraska, June 13, 1863, in what was then known as Brigham Young's winter quarters. He is a son of John G., and Lavina (Streight) Knight, very excellent people, natives of Massachusetts and New York respectively. The father was a farmer except in early life, when he learned the shoemaker's trade, at which he worked for some time. He came to Benson, near Omaha, in November, 1856, pre-empting land, and living there until his death. He made a specialty in his day of thoroughbred Holstein cattle. In 1862 his patriotic spirit led him to enlist in the Second Nebraska Cavalry, which did frontier work in Dakota. The



WILLIAM M. DAVIS

command wintered at St. James, Dakota, and was mustered out in 1864. John G. Knight was a Republican in politics and was a member of the First Congregational church of Irvington, Nebraska. He and his good wife became the parents of five children: Ella E., a dressmaker, is living at Somerford; Minnie L., the wife of A. W. Pierce, also lives at Somerford; Margaret W. is the wife of Jesse Pierce; the third was John D., the subject of whom we are writing; George W., married Sopha Christoferson, and lives on a farm near Irvington, Nebraska.

John D. Knight received a liberal education in the common schools of Douglas county and the Congregational College at Tabor, Iowa. He came to Custer county in the fall of 1883, and in the spring of 1884, he homesteaded the place where he now lives. He owns 280 acres, well improved, and raises fine cattle, his specialty being double standard polled Durhams. Mr. Knight is one of the men who has helped to make the history and the present status of the county. Well and favorably known throughout his community, and also throughout a large portion of the county, he well deserves the success he has attained.

JOHN J. DOWNEY.—The agricultural interests in Custer county, find a worthy representative in the subject of this record, and he has the honor of being one of the very early settlers of the county.

John J. Downey is a native of the old Keystone state, his birth having occurred in Schuylkill county, Pennsylvania, March 22, 1855. His parents, John and Ellen (Sweeney) Downey, were natives of County Tipperary, Ireland, where their marriage was solemnized, and in 1849 they came to America. The father was a coal-miner by vocation and followed that line of work—in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Iowa—until 1880, when he came to Custer county and secured the homestead on which both he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives. They had a family of twelve children, five of whom reached maturity and four of whom are still living—Mrs. R. D. McCarty, of Merna, this county; Mrs. Ellen Carey of Pennsylvania; Mrs. Mary English, of Wilmington, Delaware; John J.; and Mrs. William Couhig, who was the other who attained mature years, is now deceased.

John J. Downey, youngest member of the family, was only a child when he began working in the mines, as a slate-picker. He was employed in coal mines until March, 1880, when he, in company with others, started for

Nebraska, Custer county being the destination of the party. He arrived here in the month of June, after having here filed entry on a homestead on the 7th of the preceding March.

Mr. Downey secured as a homestead the southeast quarter of section 15, township 18, range 22, and here he has continued to maintain his home to the present time. His first house was a "soddy," twelve by fourteen feet in dimensions, and when the family outgrew this, he built the second sod house, which was the home of the family until sixteen years ago, when the present, large, frame house was erected. Mr. Downey, with a rather ingenuous turn of mind, devised a scheme of cutting the sod with a machine. This device was constructed with knives which cut the sod, and then, when plowed six inches deep, the sod would turn up in rectangular chunks, like large bricks. All the experiences of those pioneer days were endured, obstacles were met and overcome, and with the passing years the gallant pioneers prospered. To obtain a little money with which to provide for the needs of his family, Mr. Downey hauled cedar posts as far as York, Nebraska. He also enclosed forty acres with sod fence, making it hog-tight, and when one wire was placed above, it would turn cattle. He has been successful in his undertakings and is to-day the owner of 480 acres of land in this township. The improvements on the home farm are among the best in the county.

In 1879, in Iowa, Mr. Downey was united in marriage to Miss Mary Ann Jones, who was born in Wisconsin, March 14, 1862, a daughter of Hugh and Sarah (Roberts) Jones, who were natives of Wales and both of whom passed away, in Iowa, several years ago. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Downey has been blessed with twelve children, a record of whom is given below:

Ellen May is the wife of J. E. Price, of St. Louis, Missouri; John A. is a member of Company F, Twenty-third Regiment, Engineer Corps, of our national army, in France; Thomas F. also is a member of the national army and at the time of this writing is located in camp in Minnesota; Joseph M. married Miss Lillie Andrews and is operating a ranch in Custer county; Mary Agnes has for six years been a clerk in the soldiers' home at Grand Island, Nebraska; Hugh Raymond is a member of Company D, Three Hundred and Fifty-fifth Infantry of our national army, in France; Bernice E., who attended college in St. Louis, having taught in the Custer county schools, is now employed in the postoffice at St. Louis; Harold P. and Paul A. are at home,



MR. AND MRS. JOHN J. DOWNEY

assisting in the operation of the farm; Johanna, Frances, and Lewis Arthur passed away in childhood.

The family are communicants of the Catholic church, and in politics Mr. Downey exercises the right of franchise in support of measures and principles he deems best, regardless of party lines. He has rendered efficient service as assessor of his township two terms, and was a member of the county board of supervisors two terms. For three years he conducted a mercantile enterprise in the old town of Dale, and when the B. & M. Railroad came through, in 1886, he and his brother-in-law, Robert D. McCarty, had a contract for building several miles of the road.

Mr. Downey was among the first settlers of Dale valley, has witnessed the remarkable changes that have taken place, and in the work of improvement and development he has taken commendable interest. Three of his sons are now in the service of the government, offering their lives, if need be, to bring about a worldwide condition where wars will be no more.

Through all the years of residence in Custer county, as a pioneer and a progressive citizen, with the years of sacrifice incidental to rearing a family, Mr. Downey's faithful wife has been his devoted companion and helpmeet, and in recording the life records of Custer county's citizens we would be remiss in our duty if we failed to give them a place which they justly deserve.

ROSS G. MOORE.—Well and favorably known in business and professional circles of Broken Bow, Ross G. Moore has been identified with this locality since 1901, and during the period which has elapsed has won standing and success, both as an attorney and as a real-estate, insurance and loan operator. Mr. Moore was born in Harrison county, Ohio, October 13, 1871, and is a son of John and Agnes E. (Duncan) Moore.

The Moore family originated in Ireland, from which country came Samuel Moore, the grandfather of Ross G. Moore. He was a young man, without any great amount of capital, when he arrived in the United States, but he became one of the successful men of his part of Ohio and at the time of his death was the owner of large tracts of valuable land. John Moore was born in 1818, on a farm in Harrison county, Ohio, and in the old Buckeye state he married Agnes E. Duncan, who was born in York county, Pennsylvania, daughter of James and Margaret Duncan.

Mr. Moore followed in the footsteps of his father, adopting agricultural pursuits as his life work, and his entire life was passed in Ohio, where he died in 1886, at the age of sixty-eight years. Mrs. Moore, who was born in 1829, passed away when seventy years of age, in 1899. They were members of the United Presbyterian church. Mr. Moore was a Republican, was interested in various movements for civic betterment, and for some years served very acceptably in the office of school director. Of the eight children in the family, six are now surviving but only one, Ross G. Moore, lives in Nebraska.

Ross G. Moore received his early education in the public schools, following which he took a course in Franklin College, New Athens, Ohio, being graduated in that institution in 1891. He began to read law with John M. Garvin, a well known attorney of Cadiz, Ohio, and later went to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he spent some time in the office of Murphy & Hosack. He then came to Grand Island, Nebraska, where, in 1892, at the age of only twenty-one years, he was admitted to the bar. Returning to Ohio, he began practice, subsequently visited Pittsburgh, where for a time he practiced in the office of Murphy & Hosack, his former preceptors, and in 1901 again came to Nebraska, this time to locate permanently at Broken Bow. His practice in law soon brought him into direct association with the loan business and soon after his arrival at Broken Bow he engaged in that line himself. During the seventeen years that he has been identified therewith he has built up an exceptionally large farm loan business. Closely allied with this enterprise is the real-estate business, and it was but natural that he should begin operations in this direction. At this time, while he still accepts cases as an attorney and gives advice and council in his professional capacity, he devotes the greater part of his attention to his loans and real-estate operations. Mr. Moore is one of Custer county's self-made men, and has piloted his own craft into the harbor of success. He has established a substantial position for himself in the confidence of the general public, and in business and professional circles his name is an honored and respected one.

Mr. Moore was married at Broken Bow, in June, 1905, to Miss Elizabeth Bell. Mrs. Moore was born and reared in Custer county, Nebraska, and is a daughter of Isaac and Mary (Newman) Bell, who homesteaded in this region at a very early day. Mr. and Mrs. Moore have one son, Paul Gibson, who

was born January 5, 1915. Mrs. Moore is a member of the Christian church, of which Mr. Moore is an attendant. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias. He has taken an active part in Democratic politics since coming to Nebraska, and has been a member of a number of committees and a delegate to numerous county and state conventions.

WILBER E. TOBIAS, who is a well known and highly respected citizen of Custer county and one of its substantial farmers and stock-raisers, belongs to the early settlers of the community and has passed thirty-eight years here. Wonderful changes have been wrought in that time and, in a way, they may be typified by a comparison between Mr. Tobias' first home, a little "dugout," on a lonely, wind-swept prairie, with his present handsome rural residence of modern construction and convenience, situated within easy distance of centers of civilization and progress.

Wilber E. Tobias was born October 6, 1869, at El Paso, Woodford county, Illinois, and is a son of Israel C. and Cynthia (Ellis) Tobias, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Indiana. Israel C. Tobias lived on a farm until he was twenty-one years old and then went into a general mercantile business. He conducted stores at Washington, El Paso and Streator, Illinois, and also, for nine years, was a commercial traveler for a well known business house. He came to Custer county, Nebraska, in November, 1880, securing a homestead in section 35, township 20, one mile north of the present little city of Sargent. He remained on his farm until 1901, when he moved into Sargent, where he conducted an implement business until he retired. Of his ten children the following survive: Alvira, who is the wife of J. H. Hagerty, a retired resident of Lincoln, Nebraska; Sophia, who is the wife of S. L. Perrin, a retired resident of Sargent; Flora, who is the wife of A. Z. Perrin, of Lincoln; Leota, who is the wife of Thomas Hartley, of Sargent; Wilber E., who is the immediate subject of this review; Blanche, who lives at Lincoln, Nebraska; Ava, who was married first to Frank Phillips, and after his death, to Thomas E. Sheldon, who is in the restaurant business at Sargent; and LeRoy, who is in the clothing business at Chappell, Nebraska, and who married Mina Cole.

Wilber E. Tobias was eleven years old when the family came to Custer county, beginning life here at an inopportune time, as the win-

ter of 1880-81 was especially severe. The settlers of that period went through great hardships because of the unusually rigorous winter and the difficulty in securing food-stuffs. A great majority had come from milder climates and were in no way prepared for the cold and storms that ensued, the result being that in many cases there was great suffering. Of that first winter Mr. Tobias has a very vivid memory. It was the first time he had ever lived in a house under ground, and probably that was accepted with boyish enthusiasm, as a part of the great adventure of pioneering. However, it was also the first time that he found himself completely snowed under, for when the only door to the dugout was opened, the great volume of packed snow filled the apartment entirely. No provision had yet been made within for the not unusual business of digging out, and the family had to submit to a wait for kind neighbors to look them up (a very usual pioneer custom) and give help. Mr. Tobias is of the opinion that the presence of his attractive sisters had something to do with their speedy release, as several of their swains in the neighborhood accomplished it.

Mr. Tobias attended school and helped his father, and he has a very enviable reputation for practical good sense and untiring industry. He has been very enterprising, not only in regard to his farm industries, but also in the matter of farm improvement, and there are few places in Custer county that can compare with his in appearance, all his buildings being modern in every particular.

On October 6, 1896, Mr. Tobias was united in marriage to Miss Gertrude McCormick, a daughter of Thomas and Julia (Smith) McCormick, both of whom were born in Ohio, whence they moved to the vicinity of Blakesburg, Iowa, and later they came to Nebraska. Mr. McCormick was a farmer all his active life and his death occurred in 1900. The mother of Mrs. Tobias resides at Grand Island, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Tobias have four children — Clarice, aged eighteen; Clive, sixteen years; Gladys, thirteen years; and Helen, six years.

Mr. and Mrs. Tobias are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics he is a Republican, but he has never had any desire to serve in public office, his close attention to his own affairs showing where his main interest lies. He is greatly interested in developing high-grade stock and he has pure-bred Jersey cattle and registered Duroc-Jersey hogs.



Mrs. JOHN DRESEL.



JOHN DRESEL.

JOHN DRESEL, who lives in the vicinity of Callaway, is one of Custer county's frugal, progressive farmers. He was born May 8, 1861, in Monroe county, Ohio. His father, Christian Dresel, was born on the French border near the Switzerland frontier. His mother, Elizabeth (Seabaugh) Dresel, is a native of Germany. Christian Dresel was a tailor by trade and after he came to the United States, his marriage to Elizabeth Seabaugh was solemnized in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. John Dresel had one brother and one sister — Lewis Dresel and Louise (Dresel) Shoemaker.

John Dresel earned his first money by carrying water to a threshing crew. When he was a small boy his mother died. When four years of age he had a miraculous escape from being killed by lightning. During a thunderstorm he and his father took refuge under a large oak tree. The lightning struck the tree, threw both of them several feet and prostrated them upon the ground, leaving young John in a dazed and senseless condition for several hours. One freak of the lightning was to tear one of the father's shoes entirely from his foot. At the age of seventeen years John secured a position on a street-car line, where he worked about ten months, driving horses.

Mr. Dresel came to Custer county in the fall of 1885 and filed a contest on the 160 acres now owned by John Cameron, adjoining the old Olive Ranch.

August 27, 1911, at Broken Bow, Mr. Dresel married Mrs. Maggie (Vance) Lewis. Mrs. Dresel has two sons by a former marriage. The elder son, Edwin P. Lewis, married Mattie Riles and is now living in La Center, Kentucky, where he owns a large garage. He and his wife are the parents of two bright children, a boy and a girl. Mr. Lewis is a member of the Methodist church, is a Mason and a Woodman, and he gives his political support to the Democratic party. The younger son, Herbert H. Lewis, is, at the time of this writing, a member of Company B, One Hundred and Ninth Supply Trains motor-storage depot, at Camp Haliford, Baltimore, Maryland. In 1913 he went to Kansas City and took a three months' course in an automobile school, prior to his enlistment in Company L, Fourth Regiment, Nebraska National Guard. March 29, 1917, under Captain L. J. Butcher, he was stationed at Ashland, Nebraska, for guard duty at the railroad bridge. Later he was sent to Camp Cody, where he was transferred to the Motor Department.

Mr. Dresel sold his first farm to Mr. Cameron, the present owner, and then bought 320 acres on Spring creek, northwest of the

old Young land. There he resided until August, 1918, when he sold the place to Ernest Lowe. He made the sale on the 14th day of August and on the 19th of the same month bought 193 acres two miles west of Callaway, for which he paid eighty-five dollars per acre. Mr. Dresel and his wife are splendid people, highly respected in the community. They are affiliated with the Baptist church, and in politics Mr. Dresel is aligned in the ranks of the Democratic party.

HENRY S. BRODINE. — In proportion to its population, Custer county can boast of as great a number of substantial and progressive citizens as any county of its size in Nebraska, and among this number is found Henry S. Brodine, the owner of a farm of excellently cultivated land, which, from the time that he settled on it as a homesteader, he has operated with such judgment as to have made him a successful and substantial man financially.

A sturdy Swede, Mr. Brodine was born in the stalwart community of Blekinge, January 18, 1862. He is a son of Swan and Enger (Jenson) Brodine, who passed their entire lives in their native land. The father was a tailor by vocation, an occupation in which he was engaged throughout his life, although he saw much military service and during a long number of years was in the Swedish army. There were two children in the family: Henry S. and a son who died in infancy. The parents were members of the Lutheran church.

Henry S. Brodine received a public-school education and was variously employed in his native land until he reached the age of twenty-seven years. Up to that time he had made little progress, for while he had been industrious, energetic and saving in his resources, the opportunities did not seem to come to him that would make for advancement, and he therefore came to the conclusion that he would find conditions more satisfying in this country. He arrived in the United States in 1888 and came immediately to Custer county, Nebraska, where he settled on a homestead farm, in section 15, township 19, not far from the town of Sargent. On this property he has continued to be engaged in agricultural pursuits to the present time, and through good management, hard and persistent work and application of modern methods along intelligent channels and in an enterprising and energetic way, he has developed a farm that compares favorably with any in the locality, and the ownership of which not



FREDERICK C. EMPREE AND FAMILY

only assures him of a substantial income but also places him in the same class with the other well-to-do men of this locality. Mr. Brodine has good buildings and other modern improvements of all kinds, and in his work he exemplifies the modern agricultural spirit that has contributed so greatly to Custer county's development.

Mr. Brodine was married in June, 1886, in Sweden, to Miss Ingery Carlson, who was born in that country and whose parents passed their lives there. To this union there were born six children: Charley, who is a farmer near Kent, Nebraska, married Lizzie Rider; Oscar, who is still a bachelor, is a farmer near Sargent; Harry is an eligible young bachelor and assists his father in the work of the home farm; Alma is the wife of Frank Power, a farmer near Walworth; Clara is the wife of Arthur Debusk, a farmer near Kent; and Vina is the wife of Ed. Hill, a farmer near Deaver, Wyoming. Mr. Brodine is a Republican in politics, but not actively interested in public affairs, save as a good citizen. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and he and his wife, as well as their children, are members of the Lutheran church.

FREDERICK C. EMBREE.—It is a natural desire, common to us all, to know something about our kinsfolk. A genealogy is a kind of analysis of our particular tribe, so that we can consider the elements of which we are composed. If a person belongs to a good family he ought to be proud of it and should take pride in having its history preserved. The progenitors of the Embree family in America were three brothers, passengers on the historic "Mayflower." The records show that the family ancestors were French Huguenots who immigrated to England more than eight hundred years ago. On the maternal side the subject of this record is likewise descended from Mayflower stock, as the ancestors of the Harris and Lyon families were among the passengers on that famous bark.

Frederick C. Embree was born in Washington county, Iowa, August 23, 1864, and was a lad of seven years when brought to Nebraska, so that most of his life has been spent in this state. For thirty-four years he has resided in Custer county, where he has made a success of his business ventures and at the same time has retained the respect of all with whom he has come in contact.

The father of our subject was Noah Embree, who was born in Vermilion county, Illinois,

and who was seven years old when he accompanied his parents to Washington county, Iowa, where he grew to manhood and became a farmer, residing there until 1870, when he settled in Otoe county, Nebraska. In 1893 he came to Custer county, where five sons had preceded him, and here he bought the Penn ranch, near Callaway. His wife died at this place, June 21, 1898, and Mr. Embree remained there until 1907, when he came to live with his son Frederick C., and here he passed away March 24, 1908. He was married in Keokuk county, Iowa, June 17, 1858, to Miss Margaret Lyon, who was born in Jefferson county, Iowa, July 25, 1841. She was a daughter of Frederick F. and Rachel (Harris) Lyon, the former a native of New York and the latter born in Illinois.

The grandfather of F. C. Embree was Jesse Embree, who was a native of Preble county, Ohio, and who, when a young man, went to Vermilion county, Illinois, where he married Mary Hollingsworth. In 1840 Jesse Embree moved to Washington county, Iowa, where he became a successful farmer and where his death occurred in 1858, his wife having passed away in 1851.

Frederick C. Embree is one of a family of eight children, two of whom died in infancy; Allen L. lives in Sunnyside, Washington; Oliver H. is a resident of Fullerton, California; Frederick C., of this review, lives in Merna; Jehu W., presiding elder in the Methodist church, lives at Hastings, Nebraska; Noah M. is at Athens, Georgia; and Mary, who became the wife of George A. Shaw, died in Seattle, Washington, July 6, 1910.

Frederick C. Embree received a common-school education in Otoe county and began an independent career as a farmer when seventeen years of age, so that he has harvested thirty-nine crops and at the time of this writing has part of the fortieth crop planted. On April 25, 1884, he arrived in Custer county and located on a pre-emption claim in Ortello valley. He at once saw the possibilities of stock-raising in this county and has dealt extensively in stock of all kinds since that time. Percheron and Shire horses, Aberdeen-Angus cattle, and Poland-China hogs have received especial attention. Mr. Embree is an expert in the judging of stock and has often topped the market in the amount of sales and in weight and quality.

In Otoe county, Nebraska, on April 9, 1884, was solemnized the marriage of Frederick C. Embree to Miss Altana S. Myers, who was born in Bureau county, Illinois, June 22, 1866. Her parents were Samuel H. and Electa

(Wick) Myers, the former a native of Newark, New Jersey, and the latter born in Illinois. The father of Mrs. Embree was a farmer and is now living retired in Portland, Oregon, at the age of eighty-one years. His wife died in Iowa, many years ago.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Embree has been blessed with the birth of eight children, two of whom died in infancy; Jesse S., a graduate of the Palmer School of Chiropractics, at Davenport, Iowa, is successfully practicing his profession at Fremont, Nebraska; Ernest N. and Wilbur M. are married and farming in this county on the old homestead in Ortello valley; Maude and Mabel are twins, the latter having graduated from the Merna high school and the former passed away at the age of seventeen years; and Mattie is a senior in Merna high school.

Mr. Embree is the owner of 1,260 acres of land, all in Custer county, and his present position of affluence is due entirely to his good judgment and industry. He resides on a beautiful farm of 220 acres adjoining the city of Merna and known as Cedar View Stock Farm. Fraternally Mr. Embree is a thirty-second-degree Mason and also a member of Tangier Temple, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Omaha. He is affiliated also with the Merna lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, with its adjunct organization, the Daughters of Rebekah, and also with the Merna Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, of which Mrs. Embree is worthy matron.

Coming to the county in an early day, Mr. Embree is familiar with the pioneer conditions and has not only been an eye-witness of the changes that have taken place but has also contributed his full share to the development and upbuilding of the country. A man of temperate habits, of fine physique, and pleasing personality, a fluent conversationalist, and a student of events, he would have made a success of life had he chosen a professional career. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Bank and the Farmers Elevator of Merna and is one of the county's substantial citizens.

CHARLES W. GARRISON.—In the Sargent district, where farming opportunities blossom twelve months in the year, resides Charles W. Garrison, who has been in Custer county long enough to remember Indian scares and to tell stories of pioneer days that would refute any idea you might have that Custer county farming in the days of the '70s and '80s was one continued picnic.

He was born in Pennsylvania, August 26,

1879, and is a son of David and Louisa (Hyatt) Garrison. Both parents belonged to the old Keystone state. The father was a blacksmith by trade, and followed that occupation in his native state, for a long period, or until 1886, when he came to Custer county, Nebraska. He also served as a Union soldier in the days of the Civil war. He was a member of the Fourteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, in which he rendered strenuous service for nearly four years. In his army life he had an experience at Andersonville prison, and there he contracted disease which disabled him for the rest of his days, and for which he was given a pension. In the fall of 1886, in addition to his homestead, David Garrison bought a pre-emption claim, and on this he lived until 1906, when he rented his land and moved to Sargent. There he died in December, 1912. His widow still lives in Sargent, where she is a member of the Methodist church. They were the parents of three children—George lives on a fruit ranch at Vaancouver, Washington; his wife's maiden name was Bertie Kantzman; Lizzie is the wife of Ed. Pulliam, an automobile and horse dealer, and they now reside in Sargent.

Charles W. Garrison received a good common-school education, and has the faculty of using his education to best possible advantage. He has lived continuously in Custer county since 1886, excepting three years spent in Colorado. On his return from the Boulder state he bought a farm, and this he has been operating ever since. Recently he bought the David McGugin farm, and now he is farming and raising stock more extensively than before. He recalls that when he was a small boy the Omaha Indians came along on their way back from the reservation, and called at the Garrison home and demanded something to eat. While they were friendly, yet they succeeded in scaring the inhabitants almost as badly as if they had been hostile and on the war path. They were not welcome visitors at any of the homes in the Loup valley.

In 1905 Mr. Garrison married Miss Angie Marsh, at Taylor, Nebraska. She is a daughter of Eugene and Emma (Cummings) Marsh, who were early pioneers of the Cummings Park district—the park, in fact, was named for her parents.

HENRY G. STOKES.—If the ability to do hard work cannot be designated as talent, then it is one of the best possible substitutes for that desirable possession. Things do not turn up in the world until someone turns them up; and industry and perseverance lead

to success, as in the case of Henry G. Stokes, a resident of Custer county since 1883 and now the owner of 1,300 acres of well cultivated and valuable land, his home place being in section 22, township 17, near Sargent.

Mr. Stokes was born in Jefferson county, New York, September 25, 1856, and is a son of Robert and Sarah (Bowery) Stokes. His parents, natives of England, belonged to the sturdy and reliable class of farming people who have done so much to extend that country's reputation to other parts of the world where they have taken up their habitation. They immigrated to the United States about the year 1856 and settled in Jefferson county, New York, where they continued to be engaged in farming during the remainder of their lives. They were highly respected in their community, as honest, God-fearing people, and were consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, while in politics Mr. Stokes was a Republican. They were the parents of fifteen children, of whom six are still living: Isaac still follows farming in Jefferson county, New York; Hattie is a resident of Otsego county, New York; William, formerly a farmer of Jefferson county, is now living retired in New York; Simeon, who is also retired after years of agricultural work, is a resident of Watertown, New York; John lives retired in Jefferson county; and Henry G. is the only one of the family to make a home in the west.

Henry G. Stokes was educated in the public schools of his native community and was reared as a farmer, a vocation which he adopted as soon as he reached his majority. He was drawn to the west by the wonderful stories he had heard as to the opportunities offered young men of ability and industry, and as to the fertility of the country for farming purposes, and in July, 1883, he took up a homestead in the southeast quarter of section 22, township 17, this consisting of a tree claim and pre-emption claim. While he has bought and sold land largely, he is still the owner of his homestead, which is included in his holdings of 1,300 acres, and his landed estate in itself gives some idea as to the volume of success which has attended his efforts since he took up his residence in Custer county. Mr. Stokes is still engaged in farming and stock-raising, and the manner in which he carries on his operations gives evidence of his thorough knowledge of his vocation and of conditions pertaining to the country in which he has made his home for so long a period. He is accounted one of the progressive representatives of agricultural interests here, and

modern inventions always receive a fair trial at his hands.

On December 25, 1879, in Jefferson county, New York, Mr. Stokes was united in marriage, to Miss Nellie Hovey, a daughter of Joseph and Minerva (McQuain) Hovey, and they are the parents of four children: Ethel is the wife of E. M. Boss, assistant school inspector of Lincoln, Nebraska; Georgia is the wife of William Bondurant, who is engaged in the wholesale and retail confectionery business at Kirksville, Missouri; and Misses Marie and Anna, the two younger daughters, reside with their parents. Mr. Stokes is a Republican and is one of his community's public-spirited men, although interested in civic affairs only as a good citizen.

C. J. DAVIS. — One of the good neighbors living in the vicinity of Arnold, on a tableland farm, is C. J. Davis, a native of Allen county, Ohio. He was born in 1861, and is a son of Peter and Mary M. (Lewis) Davis, very estimable people, of Christian character. The father was born in 1830, in Ohio, and he died in the year 1875. The mother died in 1892, at the age of sixty-three years. The father belonged to the Christian church and the mother was a member of the United Brethren church. Farming was the occupation of Peter Davis, although he worked for a time in a saw mill. He was considered a successful man and served at different times in such offices as county commissioner, town treasurer, etc. Politically he was a Democrat. He owned 160 acres of land and conducted farming according to the general methods of farms of that size. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, Ellen, John, W. V., James P., Frank, Jasper, Samuel, Clinton, Henry, and C. J. (the subject of this sketch.)

During his early life C. J. Davis had a varied experience. He received a fair education and very early laid the foundations of the rectitude and probity that have marked his life during his manhood years. He worked on the ranch, he rode the range in Kansas and when he arrived in Custer county he had but little of this world's goods, but he had an indomitable spirit and was not afraid of hard work. On May 20, 1891, he led to the marriage altar Miss Cora M. Judkins, a native of Hancock county, Indiana. Mrs. Davis was born in 1868, received a good education and has made an excellent helpmeet for her husband. She belongs to a well known and influential family, most of whom live in Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs.



CHALMERS G. EMPFIELD AND FAMILY

Davis have always maintained a hospitable, Christian home, into which the following children have been born: Flora Downing lives at Bayard, Nebraska, where her husband is employed in the irrigation work; Elva and Alma are at home; Cloice is deceased; Bernice is teaching school in Lincoln county; X. A. is deceased; Irené is at home and is attending the high school at Arnold.

The family home is maintained on the old homestead, upon which is a fair grade of improvements. Here Mr. and Mrs. Davis passed through the privations and hardships of early years. Here they made their accumulations and grown the stock with which the farm to-day is equipped. The hogs are a good grade of Poland Chinas. Here in Custer county Mr. and Mrs. Davis have been enabled to rear their children in a most creditable way. Three of the children have been graduated in the Arnold high school and all have been reared to the principles of Christianity and high morality. The family are faithful members of the Baptist church. In politics Mr. Davis is an independent voter. He is a good neighbor, kind and obliging, and both he and his wife enjoy the confidence of a large circle of friends.

CHALMERS G. EMPFIELD, who resides at Anselmo, is widely conceded to be the foremost builder and contractor of Custer county. Within the last fourteen years he has built many monuments to his enterprise and skill all over the county and up and down the Burlington Railroad from Hyannis to Litchfield. The story of his life as follows is replete in interest and incentive.

Chalmers G. Empfield was born in Brush Valley, Indiana county, Pennsylvania, July 21, 1868, which date brings him to the even half-century line. He is a son of Rev. Jackson and Jane (Pitman) Empfield, a very respected couple of substantial influence in their local community. His early years were spent in Pennsylvania, where he had recourse to the common schools and often attended summer schools, by which means he secured a very liberal education—one that has enabled him to conduct successfully the business of his life career. When seventeen years of age Mr. Empfield began teaching school, and he taught with success in his native state for two years before coming to Nebraska. He came to Nebraska in the spring of 1887 and located in Custer precinct. Here he located a homestead and engaged in farming and stock-raising,

working at the carpenter trade during odd times, and on two different occasions he taught winter school. He thus managed to "keep things going" and make accumulations. He wisely made investments in Custer county land, which he always considered fine security for an investment. He was successful financially, and in the spring of 1905 he found himself in possession of 1,040 acres of land. In the June time of 1901, tired of single life, he led to the marriage altar Miss Carrie B. Waddington, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Waddington, and since that time she has presided graciously over his home and contributed very materially to his social and financial success. The Empfield home has always been comfortable and hospitable, and it is the domicile of an influential family. Mr. and Mrs. Empfield have five children—Hazel Leona, Vera Blanche, Lela May, George Chalmers, and Weir Samuel. These are bright, healthy children and give promise of succeeding to the usefulness and respected station of their parents.

In the spring of 1905 Mr. Empfield moved to Anselmo, where he at once engaged in contracting and building, which he has followed with remarkable success during the intervening years. To-day it can be said that his building operations outrank those of any other contractor of the county. For the last seven years he has confined himself almost exclusively to brick buildings, and the following structures stand to-day to his credit: The Williams & Christian Block, the James Lindly store building, the Masonic Temple, and the school-house, all in Anselmo; the Security State Bank and the Moore Brothers' big garage at Broken Bow; the high-school building at Litchfield; the L. P. Rose building and the Security State Bank building in Arnold.

Socially the Empfields are well connected in their home town and prominent in several of the lodges. They have a beautiful modern home in Anselmo, with a considerable amount of other town property to their credit. They also have 1,440 acres of land, all of which insures a coming time when retirement from business activity will be easy. Their property, clear from incumbrance, demonstrates that energy and judgment, whether exercised on the farm or in trade occupation, finds its reward in Custer county. In the time-honored Masonic fraternity Mr. Empfield has received the thirty-second degree of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite and for twelve years has been secretary of Anselmo Lodge, No. 258, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

ISAAC A. RENEAU. — Closely identified with many important interests of Custer county, Isaac A. Reneau, who has conducted a real-estate and abstract business at Broken Bow for more than a quarter of a century, may be numbered with the early settlers for he came in 1884 and settled first on a pre-emption and later on a homestead, situated fifteen miles southeast of Broken Bow. Since that time he has borne his full share of responsibility in developing the natural resources of the county, has been truly public-spirited, and has done much for movements favoring progress in every way.

Isaac Alexander Reneau was born near Tompkinsville, Monroe county, Kentucky, March 11, 1859. His parents were Rev. Isaac T. and Mary Gibson (Wood) Reneau, both of illustrious and Revolutionary ancestry. On the paternal side the line is of French-Huguenot extraction and its American history is traced to Phillippe Francoise Renault as the earliest American founder, he having come to the Louisiana French colony more than sixty years before the American Revolution, having been appointed by Louis XIV, of France, director general of mines for Louisiana. In 1712 large grants of lands in that territory — now in the states of Illinois and Missouri — were made to the West India Company by this confidential agent of the French king, and at a little later date Renault received extensive grants direct from the French crown. In 1744 Renault returned to France, and he died in 1756, at his private home in Paris. The management of the St. Louis Exposition, in recognition of the valued services and research of this early contributor to the development of the state, had on exhibition a bronze statue of Monsieur Renault, together with an original wooden spade found in Renault mine, some thirty miles out of St. Louis. His younger brother, Jacques Louis Renault, the Huguenot, was banished, but was protected by his powerful brother, and he became the head of the American family of the name, the orthography having been changed to Reneau — but pronounced exactly the same — and this spelling has been adhered to through four generations, passing the original Family Bible down to Rev. Dr. Isaac T. Reneau.

Rev. Dr. Isaac T. Reneau was educated as a physician and after some years of medical practice he entered the ministry. For nearly fifty years he was earnest and faithful in church work. He was a cousin of General Jesse Lee Reno, who was killed at the battle of South Mountain, Maryland, in the Civil war, and of Major Reno, of the Custer mas-

sacre tragedy; also a brother of the late General Nathaniel S. Reneau, of the Southern Confederacy, who lies in the American cemetery in the City of Mexico. Many other men important in the country's political, as well as military, history belonged to the same family.

Rev. Dr. Isaac T. Reneau married Mary Gibson Wood, daughter of Colonel Thomas Wood, and granddaughter of Major Samuel Wood. The latter came from England in 1755, later became secretary to General Washington and served under him during the Revolutionary war: his marriage to Miss Sarah Reaves took place at the home of General Washington. Distinguished members of this family are in the military service of the United States to-day. Dr. Reneau's death occurred in 1885, at his home, at Albany, Kentucky.

Isaac A. Reneau had common-school and academic advantages at Albany, Kentucky, and Chanute, Tennessee. He was twenty-three years old when he first visited the west, pausing for a year near Tekamah, in eastern Nebraska, where he engaged in farming — first as farm hand and later for himself — covering a period from October, 1882, to April, 1884. He then headed west in his lately acquired "prairie schooner", and landed in Custer county May 29th of that year; and this has been his home ever since. For more than three years he worked on ranches in Custer county, and in 1887 he took a position with the newly organized Ansley Banking Company, as their special farm-loan examiner, which position he held about five years, after which, as stated above, he entered into business for himself, in Broken Bow.

On May 8, 1889, Mr. Reneau was united in marriage to Miss Clarissa M. Blowers, and they have had four children, namely: Vivienne Valerie, Meredith Thurman, Helen Thorne, and Thomas Henry, all surviving except the eldest. The son Meredith, a University of Nebraska junior, is a volunteer in the air service of the American Expeditionary Forces and has been privileged to fly over the identical spot in the beautiful, but now devastated, valley of Picardy, France, from whence his forebears migrated to become American citizens. He is a member of the Third air service squadron, selected to accompany the army of occupation on the Rhine.

Mr. Reneau, with force and energy far above the average, has always held his own as a money-maker, and yet he has directed his activities in a public-spirited way and along charitable lines rather than for mercenary ends, the overburdened farmers of the early '90s, the widows, orphans and unfortunates, being the silent beneficiaries. He

was secretary of the Custer County Relief Association during the 1894-5 drought period; was a member of the board of supervisors; member of the board of education and city council of Broken Bow; was one of the organizers, and for several years was secretary, of the Central Nebraska Cattlemen's Association; was for many years principal owner and manager of the Broken Bow Abstract Company; was secretary of the Republican state central committee 1912-14, and a member of the same committee 1912-16; member of the executive committee and president of the Broken Bow Commercial club; member of the executive committee and an active worker for many years in the Custer County Agricultural Association and was its president 1913-14, at the time of the destructive cyclone that demolished all buildings from the grounds, and was the active manager in planning and constructing new buildings on the fair grounds at Broken Bow.

Mr. Reneau is a sound Republican in his political faith, but of the most progressive type, and for years he has been known among his friends over the state as the "Teddy" of Custer county. He has never desired any public honors for himself but is a loyal and husbands to overcome the many obstacles hearty worker for those candidates in whom he feels confidence, and at the present time, as in the past, he is active in using his influence to strengthen party ties along more modern ideas to meet public emergency.

Mr. Reneau is now rounding out his thirtieth year on the same homestead, in Broken Bow, in which his children were born and reared. However, since the disposition of most of his Broken Bow interests, he has lived the uneventful life, developing his Island Park ranch on the Middle Loup river, where some day he hopes to entertain all of his numerous old-time friends and neighbors at a popular watering resort.

MRS. ADA WOLSLEBEN.—Of the women of Custer county whose fortune it has been to reside in this section during the past thirty or more years and to have witnessed and taken part in the wonderful advancement made along agricultural and other lines, mention is due Mrs. Ada Wolsleben, the daughter of a pioneer of 1885. She has passed her life since childhood among the developers of this now fertile region, and in the work that has resulted so satisfactorily has herself borne no inconsiderable part.

Mrs. Wolsleben was born in Elkhart county, Indiana, October 24, 1876, a daughter of

William and Sarah (Smith) Shettron. Her father was born in Ohio and as a young man moved to Indiana, where he met and married Miss Smith, a native of Pennsylvania, their home for some years being in Elkhart county, where Mr. Shettron was engaged in farming. Like numerous other ambitious men, anxious to rapidly accumulate property, during the '80s he finally answered the call of the west, and in the spring of 1885 he came to Custer county and settled on a homestead near West Union. For a number of years he worked industriously and intelligently in tilling his acres, and out of his hard labor he developed a farm of substantial size and superior quality, the while he accumulated a fortune that assured him of all the material comforts during his declining years. On the old homestead, Mrs. Shettron was called to her final rest May 1, 1913, and not long thereafter Mr. Shettron sold his property, since then having made his home with his children. His family consisted of eight children, of whom six are living, namely: Nellie, who is the wife of John Hargan, a farmer near Sargent; Mrs. Wolsleben; Milton, a retired farmer of Sargent, whose wife was Miss Lucy White; Maud, who married Miles Boyle, a railroad man, and lives at Laramie, Wyoming; Lucy, the wife of Bert Dickson, a retired citizen of Cherry county, Nebraska; and Pearl, the wife of William Keptler, a farmer at Burton, this state. The father of these children is a man held in the highest of esteem in his community, where he has won respect and confidence by the honorable manner in which his life has been spent.

Mrs. Wolsleben was a child of about four years at the time when her parents came to Nebraska, in 1880, and established their residence in Merrick county, where they remained five years and where Mrs. Wolsleben acquired her rudimentary educational discipline in the pioneer schools. She was nine years of age at the time of the family removal to Custer county, in 1885, and here she profited duly by the advantages afforded in the schools of the period. She grew up on the homestead, where she learned the meaning of life in a frontier community, and was taught the thousand-and-one accomplishments by which the women helped their fathers, brothers and that arose in their path. She was married March 6, 1908, at Council Bluffs, Iowa, to Charles Wolsleben, who died in December, 1916, leaving her with three children: Bertha, Marie and Freda. By a former marriage Mrs. Wolsleben is the mother of one daughter: Mattie Pfrehm, who is completing her education. Bertha and Marie Wolsleben are at-



WILLIAM F. FISHER AND FAMILY

tending the public schools. Mrs. Wolsleben has a wide acquaintance in the vicinity of her home, which is in section 33, township 17, near Sargent, and during her long residence in this community she has gained and retained a wide circle of friends.

WILLIAM F. FISHER.—There are few men better known throughout Custer county than William F. Fisher, who owns 706 acres of valuable land, well stocked with cattle, horses, and mules, as the result of years of industry and enterprise, as Mr. Fisher came to this section of Nebraska a poor man. He was born in Marshall county, Kansas, September 30, 1864. His parents were Frederick J. and Mary J. (Triplett) Fisher, the latter of whom survives and lives at Western, Saline county, Nebraska. Frederick J. Fisher was born in Vermont and died at Western, Nebraska, April 12, 1918. By way of Kansas he came to Saline county, Nebraska, in 1865, and he bought eighty acres of land from the government, while later he purchased a quarter-section from other settlers. Upon discovering that his home site was railroad land, which was not considered a safe investment, he moved a half mile down the creek and kept on acquiring land through purchases made with money gained by his skill as a hunter and trapper. He sold a great many deer hides and beaver and mink skins in those years. He was much more enterprising than many of his pioneer neighbors and is credited with bringing the first harvester into the grain fields of Saline county. Of his family of thirteen children the following are living: Mary J., who lives at Fairbury, Nebraska, was married first to Joseph Preston and second to Clinton Holcomb; William F. is the immediate subject of this review; Joseph W., who is a farmer near Western, married Stella Badman; Linnie is the wife of Fred Wheeler, a farmer in Lincoln county; Daniel, who is a farmer near Broken Bow, married Mamie Adams; Francis G., who is a farmer near Western, married Emma Kizer; Guy E., who is a farmer in Saline county, married May Turner; Carrie is the wife of David Kizer, cashier in a bank at Western; and Violet is the wife of Henry Kizer, a farmer near Western, Nebraska.

William F. Fisher grew up in Saline county at a time when hardships were many and great courage and resourcefulness were needed at all times. During boyhood he attended school three months in the year, walking long distances, as the schoolhouses were then from three to five miles apart, and for many months

he herded cattle over the old Mormon trail. He passed through the notable drouth of 1894 and experienced many other hardships and had innumerable adventures, but he escaped difficulties with the Indians, although many of the settlers were driven off their homesteads and even killed. As mentioned above, when Mr. Fisher came to Custer county he was yet a poor man, but success has attended his efforts and he is now one of the leading stock men of the county, as well as a substantial citizen in every way. He is a Democrat in politics but is not a seeker for office.

In 1894 Mr. Fisher married Ella Belders, who was born in Holland, January 31, 1875, and they have fourteen children, a fine, vigorous family, concerning whom record is here given: Frederick J., who was born January 19, 1895, is a bachelor and remains at the parental home; Gertrude, who was born February 22, 1896, is the wife of Ernest Gibson, a farmer living in Custer county; William C., who lives at home, was born September 9, 1897; Clarence D., who was born March 3, 1899, enlisted for service in the world war, and served as a member of Company A, Third Engineers, American Expeditionary Forces in France. The other children are all members of the parental home circle, and their names and respective dates of birth are here recorded: Edward, October 25, 1900; Bessie, January 15, 1902; Ella, November 5, 1903; Homer, March 12, 1905; Arthur, November 15, 1906; Harvey, November 5, 1908; George W., May 9, 1911; Orvie V., October 11, 1912; Woodrow, July 17, 1914; and Elgie B., February 9, 1916.

OMER T. STORY.—Many of the younger generation of agriculturists in Custer county have passed their entire lives either on the farms which they now operate or have been born in the immediate vicinity, with the beneficial result that throughout their careers they have been familiar with conditions existing here and have not been called upon to unlearn any methods which in another case they might have followed in some other community. In this class is found Omer T. Story, who was born on his father's homestead south of Sargent, February 20, 1894, and who is still engaged in farming and stock-raising in this immediate community.

Orvel B. Story, the father of Omer T. Story, was born in Indiana December 3, 1855, and as a young man he went to Missouri and engaged in railroading. From that pursuit he turned his attention to farming. Prior to

coming to Nebraska he had lived in Missouri and Illinois, and on the 6th of February, 1885, he came to Custer county, where he settled on a homestead near Somerford. He continued his farm enterprise until the time of his death, which occurred November 24, 1914. In addition to this he also operated the eighty acres which had been homesteaded by his wife, and his operations were carried on in such an energetic and able manner that he became one of the substantial and leading farmers of his community. He was a Democrat in his political views, took a public-spirited interest in civic matters, and was an active worker in the neighborhood church, of which he was deacon, while his wife, who died in 1903, served for some years as secretary.

On the 4th of July, 1888, was solemnized the marriage of Orvel B. Story to Fanny Pierce, and they became the parents of three children—Era, who is the wife of Frank King, a farmer of King City, Missouri; Georgia, who is the wife of Jim McIntosh, a farmer on Boggs Table, Custer county; and Omer T., whose name introduces this sketch.

Omer T. Story was educated in the common schools of the country near Sargent, and grew up on the homestead, where his father instructed him in all the matters pertaining to the successful cultivation of the soil and the proper handling and raising of live stock. He adopted farming as his vocation when called upon to make a choice for his career, and has continued to follow this occupation. While he is still classed among the younger representatives of his vocation, he has already achieved marked success, and his past achievements point toward a prosperous career in farming and stock-raising. While he has followed his vocation in a general way, he has paid particular attention to the raising of short-horn cattle, a department of his work in which he has met with success, and he is already accounted somewhat of an authority upon the subject.

Mr. Story was married October 25, 1916, at Broken Bow to Miss Nellie Wolsleben, daughter of Carl L. and Lena (Lorenzen) Wolsleben, natives of Germany who immigrated to this country as young people. Carl Louis Wolsleben was born near Berlin, Germany, on the 12th day of July, 1854, and was reared and educated in his native land. At the age of twenty-two years he entered the German military service, in which he continued three years. In 1880 he came to America and upon coming to Nebraska he made as his destination Papillion, Sarpy county. In 1883 he married Miss Lena Lorenzen, and in 1888 he

came with his family to Custer county and located at Somerford. In this locality he passed the remainder of his life, as a successful exponent of farm enterprise. He died December 11, 1916, his wife having passed away in the year 1904, and their children having been eight in number. Mr. and Mrs. Story are the parents of one child: Virginia L., who was born February 8, 1918. Mr. Story is a Republican.

T. W. BASS, D. D. S. — In point of continuous service Dr. Bass is the oldest practicing dentist at Broken Bow, where he has been well known to the people of this community as a skilled member of his profession since 1899, when he was entering upon his career. He was born in Steuben county, Indiana, November 23, 1867, and is a son of Alexander and Lamira (Holcomb) Bass, natives of that state.

On both the paternal and maternal sides, Dr. Bass belongs to families that settled in Indiana during the Hoosier state's early history, and for the most part his ancestors were farming people, although his paternal grandfather was a local Baptist preacher. His father was born in 1837 and married in Indiana, where his mother was born in 1845, and they came to Nebraska in 1883, first settling in Hamilton county, but subsequently removing to the vicinity of Broken Bow, in Custer county. Mr. Bass continued to be engaged in farming operations until the time of his retirement, and his last years were passed at Broken Bow, where he died in 1903, Mrs. Bass having passed away two years before. They were faithful members of the Baptist church and Mr. Bass was a Democrat in his political views. Of the ten children in the family, eight still survive.

The education of Dr. T. W. Bass was initiated in the public schools of Indiana, but when he was sixteen years of age the family removed to Nebraska and he accompanied his parents to the farm in Hamilton county. In the district schools there and the high school at Grand Island he continued his studies, and finally he entered the Omaha College of Dentistry, in which he was duly graduated. He was successful in passing the examination at the state board meeting in 1899 and in that same year established himself in practice at Broken Bow, where he has since been located, now being the dean of his profession here. As in medicine and surgery, the science of dentistry is constantly developing new phases of usefulness, and in order to secure success the dentist of to-day must keep fully abreast

of the latest achievements of his profession. This Dr. Bass has not failed to do, and it is one of the reasons why he has attained such a large patronage during the twenty years of his practice and why he has retained uniform confidence. Dr. Bass has also been an advocate of organization among the dental practitioners of the state and has done some valuable and constructive work in this direction. In political matters he is a Republican, but his profession has played such a large part in his life and has demanded so much of his attention that he has been left little time for outside affairs, so that politics has been a field which he has not cared to enter. In fraternal matters he has shown a somewhat greater interest, being a prominent member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which organization he has passed all the official chairs. He is past grand master of the Nebraska Grand Lodge and has been a representative to the sovereign grand lodge on four occasions.

Dr. Bass was married in October, 1893, at Grand Island, Nebraska, to Miss Josephine E. Thralls, who was born in Michigan. Mrs. Bass was educated at the Grand Island high school and a commercial school, and prior to her marriage to the Doctor was connected with the *Custer County Chief*. To this union there has been born one child: Ethel, the wife of Carl Abbott, bookkeeper in the Broken Bow State Bank. Dr. and Mrs. Bass are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

MRS. SADIE E. BAILLIE, who has spent many years in Nebraska and since 1882 has been a resident of Custer county, is well qualified to speak good words of both state and county. The daughter of a pioneer business man and the wife of another, and living in different sections, she had experiences that many others did not meet with, and her reminiscences, which cover a period, of thirty-six years and more, are exceedingly interesting. Mrs. Baillie is well known over Custer county and here has many friends, especially at Westerville.

Mrs. Baillie was born near Ithaca, New York, where her father conducted a hotel. Her birth took place December 5, 1862. Her parents were William D. and Rebecca J. (Ryno) Lefler, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of New York. Mrs. Baillie has two sisters—Mary, who is the wife of George Whitman and lives in Michigan, and Annie, wife of John Tisdale, of Pleasanton, Nebraska. Mrs. Baillie was

yet a child when her father sold his hotel at Ithaca and moved his family to Hartford, Michigan. There he opened a meat market, which he conducted until 1875. He then settled in a neighboring village that never grew to be more than a hamlet and now is forgotten. The family remained in that village only a short time, the father in the meanwhile becoming interested in Nebraska, and removal was soon made to a farm near Sweetwater, this state, but after one year on the farm, Mr. Lefler moved into Loup City and carried the mail from Loup City to Seneca. He was a Republican in his political views and was affiliated with the Knights of Pythias.

While living in Michigan, in girlhood, Sadie E. Lefler attended the public schools, and it was after the family moved to Loup City, Nebraska, that she married. Two years later she came to Custer county, which has been her home ever since. While circumstances preserved her from many of the pioneer hardships of those early days, she well remembers the attending disadvantages and how her sympathy often was called out for the overtaxed pioneer women of her acquaintance. In the midst of the present comfortable prosperity that prevails in Custer county, it is well, perhaps, sometimes to recall those days. Always a kind and helpful neighbor, there are many who have reason to kindly remember Mrs. Baillie.

At Kearney, Nebraska, December 19, 1880, Sadie E. Lefler was married to William B. Baillie, a son of William and Jeanette (Lawson) Baillie. He was of Scotch ancestry, a college-bred man and was educated in Scotland. At the time of marriage he was conducting a general merchandise store in Loup City, and they continued to live there until 1882, when they came to Custer county. Here Mr. Baillie opened a drug store in the town of Seneca, the name of which town, through his influence, was changed to its present form, Westerville. Later Mr. Baillie conducted a drug store at Berwyn, and he also entered a timber claim, which is now the property of his widow. Mr. Baillie died in 1902 and is survived by one son, Raymond C. Baillie.

OSCAR M. JUNE.—There are many young farmers in Custer county who claim the county as the place of their nativity. In the case of the young ranchman named above this statement is true. Here he was born, and here his wife was born, here their children were born, and here they have lived all their lives. Accordingly, Custer county is in-



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debted to them for all of the service rendered during the intervening years.

Oscar M. June was born in 1889 and is a son of Isaac and Ida (Lear) June, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Iowa. The father died at the age of fifty-nine years, but the mother, at the age of fifty-one years, is still living in Broken Bow. In their family were six children: Frand lives in Dunning; Oscar M. is the subject of this sketch; Myrtle Loun lives on a Custer county farm; Minnie Shoemaker lives at Broken Bow; and Millie also lives in Broken Bow. A half-brother and half-sister, Elmer and Ella Carpenter, are living in Custer county and Stella, Nebraska, respectively.

Isaac June homesteaded in Custer county thirty-one years ago. He had practically nothing when he arrived and began improving his farm. He and his wife came directly from Ohio to this county and brought with them nothing but the determined spirit by which the difficulties of the west are always overcome. He was a veteran of the Civil war, and he was residing at Anselmo, in this county, at the time of his death.

Oscar M. June received his education in this county. Here he received also his training for farming and stock-raising, and here he formed the habits of industry by which he has accumulated what might be considered a fair start for a man of his year. In 1910 he took up a homestead upon which he put fair improvements and made final proof. He has 160 acres under cultivation, rents 320 acres, has forty-seven head of cattle, and fifty-five head of hogs, with a contingent of horse power equal to the demands of the place. He married Miss Vera Potter, who, as stated above, is a native daughter of this county. She comes of a splendid family and in every possible way has been an invaluable assistant to her husband. She has presided over her home and done well her part in their joint operations. Two children have been born to this union. Kenneth is eighteen months old at the time of this writing and Carl died in infancy. Mr. June is an independent voter, owes affiliation to no party, and is proud of the fact that he can claim Custer county as his native heath.

JOHN A. GSCHWIND.—No proper alignment of Custer county farmers could possibly be made that would not put John Arnold Gschwind in the first rank. While his name is a foreign extraction and suggests that Württemberg and Tyrol blood flows in the veins, he is, nevertheless, a native-born Amer-

ican and thus far practically all his life has been spent in Custer county.

John was born in Cincinnati, September 16, 1873, and belongs to the crop of Buckeyes that have made that state famous. His father, Gustave Gschwind, was a thrifty, frugal German. His mother, Frances M. (Kaser) Gschwind, was a native of Switzerland. In the family of the father and mother were five boys and four girls—Gustave A., Eustace, Henrietta (deceased), Hermena Bransch, John A. (the prosperous Custer county farmer this sketch describes), Herman A., Flora T. (deceased), Frances Bass, and Carl F. The father's advent into the United States dates back as far as 1868. He first settled in Cincinnati, but afterward moved to a farm and followed farming for his occupation for the remainder of his days. He came to Custer county in 1882 and located on the South Loup river, six miles northwest of Callaway. Then began some of the pioneer experiences that are not hard to remember. Before their habitation was completed the family moved in with a pioneer named Frederick Schreyer, who was one of the characters of an early date. He had a two-room house, half sod and half dugout, and in these two rooms, eighteen people managed to live until Mr. Gschwind could excavate and roof a dugout. The third day in the county they were treated to a gun play, for which no charge was made, but which seems to have been thrown in to make the entertainment and reception of newcomers of special interest. Some cowboys, who had been previously well liquored, drove a herd of ponies through Chris Nelson's corn. For this they had been reported to the boss. A day or two later the cowboys found Chris at the postoffice and everything was staged for a row. Gschwind and Schreyer were present and interfered in behalf of Chris. In the shuffle that ensued, Schreyer was shot in the side. The wound, however, was not fatal.

John A. Gschwind was nine years old when his Custer county career began. He had the opportunities of the early day and received his education in the first schools of the county. He inherited habits of thrift and frugality, and these, applied with his accustomed vigor, have made his farming operations a signal success.

December 21, 1909, Mr. Gschwind married Theresa J. Safranek, daughter of John Safranek and Amelia E. (Martin) Safranek, who were substantial people living near Merna. Mr. and Mrs. Gschwind have now a splendid home, the life of which is greatly augmented by four bright sons, who are typical young Americans

of the third generation. They are Carl F., Paul A., John A., Jr., and Herbert A. The Gschwind holdings consist of 468 acres, splendidly improved with a good farm home and all necessary accessories and equipment.

Recalling early days, Mr. Gschwind says he earned his first money by herding sheep, on foot, for Chris Nelson, who still lives in Triumph township. Chris had an old dog which would not follow anyone except himself, but Arnold fastened a rope to the dog, and led him around for the moral effect of the dog upon the sheep. If the sheep got into a field of corn, that was all there was to it. The corn belonged to the sheep. The combination of boy, dog, and rope could not get them out. Those experiences are past and the former days are gone forever, but the passing years have used John well. The days of his retirement will be spent in comfort. All that he has, has been made in the county by farming and stock-raising. Mr. and Mrs. Gschwind are members of the Lutheran church.

EDWARD F. MORGAN—In relation to settlement and continuous residence, this title line introduces practically a new-comer — one whose residence in the county is of but eleven years' duration, and yet one who is one of the present-day factors and bids fair to hold his own and fulfill all that is expected of a Custer county food producer.

Edward F. Morgan was born in De Kalb county, Missouri, in 1879, and is a son of John M. and Alice A. (Arnold) Morgan, the former of whom was born in 1850 and the latter in 1860: in their family were three children, of whom Edward is the eldest; Byron M. lives on a farm near Merna; and Mina works in a bank at Unadilla, Nebraska. The father belonged to the Republican party, was assessor, member of the school board, road overseer, and is now food administrator at Unadilla. He is also a Woodman and Mason. He started with but little capital and has been one of the world's productive workers.

Edward F. Morgan came to Custer county in 1907. Here he bought 800 acres of unimproved land and he has put on good improvements since that time. On the place he runs eighty head of cattle, all of which are a good grade. He breeds Duro-Jersey hogs and his horses are of good Percheron blood. Following in the footsteps of his father in the matter of community service, he is a member of the school board and director of the Arnold and Anselmo Telephone Company.

In 1903, at Syracuse, Nebraska, was solemn-

ized the marriage of Mr. Morgan to Miss Hilma Johnson, who was born in 1880, in Sweden, and who is a woman of intelligence and gracious personality. Mrs. Morgan has been at all times a true helpmeet to her husband, and has given him effective co-operation in his earnest endeavors. She holds membership in the Presbyterian church. Mr. and Mrs. Morgan have four very promising young children, who lend happiness to the family home, and whose names are here entered in respective order of birth: Vera, Lyle, Harold, and Verle.

Mr. Morgan says his first money was made in raising hogs down in Otoe county, this state, and prior to the time that he commenced farming operations for himself he worked out at almost anything that came to his hand. His accumulations are the result of his own labor, and since he is young in years it requires no prophet to foresee that the start already obtained will ensure a competency for the years of his retirement.

WATT WILLIAMS, farmer, stockman, and real-estate dealer at Oconto, is one of the representative men of Custer county, is largely self-made, and now has ample fortune. He has spent practically his entire life in Nebraska and cherishes a real son's pride in and affection for the state. Mr. Williams was born in Will county, Illinois, July 6, 1880. His parents were Richard and Anna Williams, the former of whom was a native of Wales. They had eight children, namely: Mrs. Stella Watkins, Mrs. Ida Wheeler, Georgia (deceased), John, Watt, Mrs. Anna Patterson, Mrs. Blanche Ramsey, and Mrs. Gertrude Hussey.

Watt Williams was five years old when his parents came to Nebraska as pioneer settlers. His father located on Redfern Table, eight miles west of Oconto. In those days a lack of water, when the natural springs went dry, caused a great amount of inconvenience and some actual suffering, and Mr. Williams describes with vividness the different measures used and the economies practiced in relation to securing and keeping a necessary amount of the life-sustaining fluid. Nine miles was a long distance to haul water by the barrel, but the settlers in many sections could procure none in any other way in the arid regions. Mr. Williams remembers when a neighbor living four miles away, put down a well, not reaching water until a depth of 450 feet, and he recalls how rejoicing prevailed because there would be five miles less of hauling to do. Lack of water was not the only drawback of the prairie country during his boyhood, for he



WATT WILLIAMS

can remember when rattlesnakes could be found almost anywhere, and it is reasonable to suppose that not very welcome was the appearance of such a reptile before a little bare-footed boy herding cattle a long way from home. However, he grew so accustomed to the snakes that he became an adept in killing them, and he believes that the first money he ever had was a dime paid him by a "tenderfoot," for a fine set of rattles. When fourteen years old Mr. Williams went to work on the Watson ranch at Kearney, at a salary of seven dollars a month, a wage considered fair at the time, and he kept on, in spite of a physical disability that incapacitated him for eight months. He developed a frugal habit that resulted in his gradual accumulation of capital, and this he invested in the horse business, at first in a small way but later on a larger scale. In the course of time he became generally interested in stock. He now owns 700 acres of fine land and has additionally two handsome residences in the town of Oconto, as well as his business office. Whenever his farm duties do not claim him he may be found at Oconto, where he has built up a very satisfactory real-estate business. In common parlance, Mr. Williams has "made good," although when ten years old, he was suddenly afflicted with blindness, and for an entire year his sister Anna had to guide his steps. He feels indebted to the skill of Dr. Michaels, of Callaway, for the restoration of his sight, but a recurrence of the trouble in 1895, made him again almost helpless for a period of eight months. A naturally cheerful disposition and an ambitious and sturdy spirit, helped him through those dark days.

Mr. Williams was married May 22, 1899, at Lexington, Nebraska, to Miss Zula Van Cleave, who is a daughter of Henry and Jane (Shelley) Van Cleave, and they have a family of four children: Irvin L., who was graduated from the Oconto high school in the class of 1918; and Harold A., Merle, and Wilma O., all of whom are attending school at Oconto. In politics Mr. Williams is a steadfast Republican. He belongs to the Oconto lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

HENRY O. PIERCE.—Two generations of the Pierce family have resided on the farm in section 31, township 19, and the present occupant, Henry O. Pierce, is in every way maintaining the reputation of his pioneer father, the late James Pierce, who came to this community of the west in 1880. The family have always manifested a spirit of public enterprise and progress and its contributions to the

development of the locality have been such as to entitle them to mention as benefactors of their community.

James Pierce was born at Charlestown, Massachusetts, and as a youth went to sea, being for twelve years a sailor in the dangerous business of whaling and for two years employed on a passenger vessel. In his native locality he married Jane Hunt, who was born at Somerford, England, and about the year 1857 they removed to Minnesota and settled on a farm in Mower county. Mr. Pierce was a hard-working and capable man, but in Minnesota he did not make the success which he desired, and, looking for a new community in which to locate, he chose Custer county, Nebraska. He came here in August, 1880, and secured a homestead and a tree claim at Somerford postoffice, but not until the following year did he bring his family to locate permanently. Mr. Pierce became one of the substantial and influential men of his locality, and was appointed postmaster, a position which he retained twenty-seven years. During the first year it was necessary to carry the mail from Westerville free of charge, this being a requirement of the government in order to obtain a postoffice, and this work was principally done by William Gundy. On account of the severity of the winter of 1880-81 the pioneers suffered extremely, not only from the cold but also because of the shortage of flour, which was not to be obtained at any price. The flour mill at the Loup had been closed down on account of ice freezing the water in the mill wheels, and the nearest mill in operation was at Grand Island, 110 miles away. This could not be reached, because of the heavy snow. However, like the other sturdy pioneers, they managed to pass through these hardships and others, and eventually were able to obtain all the necessities and some of the comforts of life. In their later years the parents were surrounded by all the conveniences, and the evening of their lives was filled with contentment and pleasure. Mr. Pierce died, on the homestead place, March 11, 1910. He was highly esteemed in the community, because of his many sterling traits of character. Of his eight children, seven are living: Frances, deceased, was the wife of Orvel B. Storey; George G., who is single, is a resident of Somerford postoffice; Thomas L., who is single, resides with John D. Knight, on Boggs Table, Custer county; Alfred W., who married Minnie Knight, is a farmer at Somerford; William A., who married Etta Stevens, is a farmer north of Sargent; Henry O. is the immediate subject of this sketch; Elizabeth J. is the wife of John D. Knight, of Boggs Table;

and Jesse, who married Margaret Knight, is a farmer at Somerford.

Henry O. Pierce was born in Mower county, Minnesota, November 7, 1871, and attended the public schools in his native community until he was ten years of age, at which time he was brought to Custer county. After he had completed his studies in the country schools, he took up farming as his life's work, and at the time of his father's death he secured the old homestead, in section 31, township 19, which he has since improved until it is modern in every feature and highly improved. He has engaged impartially in farming and stock-raising, but recently has made somewhat of a feature and specialty of raising and breeding Polled Durham cattle, a field in which he has won marked success. He is considered one of the most progressive of the agriculturists of this locality, and is a man of the highest personal and business integrity. Interested in civic affairs and possessed of profound public spirit, he has frequently been called upon to serve in the capacities of public importance, having been school treasurer for one term, member of the school board and moderator, and at present he is a member of the town board and is township treasurer. His political faith makes him a staunch Republican.

CHARLES SWANSON. — You might ride all day and pass a hundred farms, and not find one better improved or showing more signs of thrift and prosperity than the Swanson farm near Walworth.

Charles Swanson was born in Sweden, December 13, 1861, and is a son of Sam and Stava (Kant) Swanson. The surname of the wife was taken from her father's soldier name. Each soldier has to adopt a name to designate him from another regiment, a peculiarity of Swedish custom that is strange to us in America. Both the father and mother were of Swedish lineage for many generations. They never came to the United States. He was a laborer but provided well for his family, in which were five children, four of whom are living. Charles and two of his brothers are the only ones that immigrated to America. One of these brothers is living in Indiana, and the other in Nebraska, near Kearney.

Charles Swanson came to the United States when twenty-one years of age, which was in December of 1882. His first stopping place was in Indiana, where he worked to get money to pay for his fare to this country, he having borrowed the requisite sum to pay his passage.

He lived and worked in Indiana until the spring of 1887, when he came to Custer county and homesteaded in sections 2 and 3, township 20, range 19, which homestead he still owns. Altogether he is the proprietor of 960 broad acres, on which are splendid improvements. It is a beautiful place, unusually well supplied with buildings for all requirements of stock farming. This place is known as "Cedar Slope," and in addition to his agricultural enterprise, Mr. Swanson buys and sells cattle and hogs, from which he has been constantly accumulating. At one time he made a specialty of horses and mules, and was once the owner of over 200 head which he raised and which he sold in Grand Island. He recalls that the first mule that he ever shipped to Grand Island sold for \$400, which advertises the fact that it must have been a pretty good mule. His ability to buy and sell at the right time, as coupled with his keen judgment of stock, has served him well and enabled him to make the business profitable.

August 28, 1895, Mr. Swanson was united in marriage to Maggie Abbott, at Abbott's ranch in Loup county. She is a daughter of John and Jane (Warner) Abbott. Her parents were very prominent Kansas stock-growers, and withal very estimable people. They now reside in Taylor, Nebraska. To Mr. and Mrs. Swanson five children have been born, and of the number three are living: June is the wife of Thomas Rittenhouse, on the Swanson ranch, and Esther and Irma remain at the parental home.

Look around these premises and see the buildings, note the field and see the stock, and then recall that when Mr. Swanson landed in the county his cash capital consisted of \$3.35. The first summer he worked for sixteen dollars a month and hired eight acres of land broken on his claim. He built his sod house alone, went in debt for a yoke of oxen, and used pond water for his stock and himself for three years. He lived alone and kept bachelor's quarters for seven years. After he had secured enough money to buy a drilling outfit for putting down wells, he followed that business for a time and drilled most of the wells put down in the early days in this vicinity. His success in putting down wells gained for him the sobriquet of "The Groundhog."

Politically Mr. Swanson affiliates with no party, as he is independent in his thinking and in his voting. He is a member of the Swedish Lutheran church, in which he has been a director for eight years past. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, is an Oddfellow and also is affiliated with the Modern Wood-



JOSEPH HAEFFELE AND FAMILY

men of America. He is known throughout the north region of the county as a splendid man, successful in business and the father of a contented and happy family of children.

JOSEPH HAEFELE.—Down on what is known as the Ryno Table, where is located in his own home the McKinley postoffice, live Joseph Haeefe and his industrious, hard-working family.

Joseph Haeefe was born November 20, 1863, in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, and he is a son of John F. Haeefe, a native of Würtemberg, Germany. His mother, Justina (Ruth) Haeefe, was born in Strassburg, Alsace-Lorraine, and was a daughter of Peter Ruth, a man of strong character and one well known in Strassburg. Of the children of John F. and Justina (Ruth) Haeefe ten are living at the time of this writing, namely: Jacob, John F., Frederick J., George, Rudolph M., Wilhelm, August, Mary, Mrs. Catherine Davis, and Joseph.

John F. Haeefe came to America when eighteen years of age. He was a blacksmith by trade and located in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Those were the days of the Buchanan presidential administration, and money was something often talked about but seldom seen. Mr. Haeefe worked for some of the farmers, and on one occasion he worked for one man long enough to earn a cow, which he accepted in lieu of money due him for wages.

Joseph Haeefe, who is familiarly called Joe, earned his first money when he was but eight years of age, by picking pieces of slate out of the coal-breaker at the Sugar Notch anthracite mines in Pennsylvania. He continued to work in the mines until he was twenty-one years of age. Within this period he worked in all departments of coal-mining and learned every phase of the operation by which coal is taken from the bowels of the earth and placed in the bins of the retailer for city marketing.

Joseph Haeefe was married April 24, 1889, at Broken Bow, Nebraska, to Cora B. Booth, who was born in Michigan, is a daughter of Charles W. and Nancy Booth, her father having removed to Michigan from the state of New York. Mrs. Haeefe is a member of a family of nine children—Mrs. Electa Barrett, Edwin C., Alfred J., Mrs. Cora B. Haeefe, Charles W., Ernest R., Mrs. Grace M. Coulter, Mrs. Elizabeth Shup, and George M.

Mr. Haeefe arrived in Custer county, Nebraska, in 1885 and immediately appropriated 320 acres of Uncle Sam's domain, by filing on a homestead and entering a tree claim at the

same time. For four years Joe kept bachelor's hall, and he then threw up his hands and said that he had "had enough." The result of this surrender was the marriage recorded above. Mr. and Mrs. Haeefe have eight children: Elizabeth G. is the wife of Jacob Koch, a farmer living near Merna, and they have three sons and one daughter. Mr. Koch is prominent in the local ranks of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is independent in politics. Ruth M., the next younger daughter, is the wife of Everett Fuller, a farmer living near Berwyn, and they have one child. Mr. Fuller is an Odd Fellow and is independent in politics. Charles W. Haeefe, a private in Battery C, Three Hundred and Thirty-ninth Regiment, Eighty-eighth Division of Field Artillery, is "somewhere in France" at the time this sketch is being prepared. Ralph M. Haeefe is a popular young bachelor. Joseph W. Haeefe is a student in the public schools and lives at home. Esther O. also is in school and remains at the parental home. Herbert H. and Lottie L. are likewise under the parental roof and are pursuing their studies in the splendid school of the neighborhood.

Mr. Haeefe has long been very actively identified with public affairs in his county. He is a live promoter and supporter of every enterprise that contributes to the upbuilding of the community. He has been a school officer for twenty-five years, being one of the organizers of the old Custer Canyon district No. 237. For the last nine years he has been postmaster of the McKinley postoffice, which is located at his home. He is the precinct committeeman of the Council of Defense, and is a member of the local organization of the Ancient Order of United Workmen at Callaway.

Mr. Haeefe has a beautiful farm home in Custer canyon, where he settled in 1885. He is the owner of 880 acres of good land and has accumulated this valuable property through farming and live-stock operations in Custer county. His children are industrious and have given valuable assistance on the farm. At present the Haeefes are milking thirty-five cows, and Mr. Haeefe says that this is the business that brings the money in Custer county.

JOSEPH BARTU.—The prominent citizen named above is foreign born and is one who in America has made good. He was born June 18, 1874, in Moravia, and is a son of Joseph and Mary (Kriz) Bartu, both natives of Moravia. The father was a tailor by occupation until he came to the United States, in

1885. The family settled first in Fillmore county, Nebraska, where they worked on a farm for relatives, to pay the amount of their passage to this country. In 1886 Joseph Bartu, Sr., returned to the tailor's trade, and he worked two years at his old-country occupation. In 1888 he moved to Valley county and homesteaded a forty-acre tract bordering on Custer county, just east of Comstock. Here the family lived until 1899, when they moved over into Custer county, on to the land where the subject of this sketch lives at the present time. The parents lived here until their death, the father's death having occurred July 22, 1912, and that of the mother on August 13, 1913. Of their three children Joseph is the youngest. The others are Frances, wife of Frank Visek, who lives near Comstock, and Mary, wife of Joe Zurek, who lives in Wisconsin. Mr. Bartu is a Democrat in politics and a member of the Z. C. B. J., a Bohemian lodge.

Joseph Bartu, the subject of this sketch, was married January 15, 1890, to Frances Nedbalek, at Burwell, Nebraska. Mrs. Bartu is a daughter of John and Mary (Rajda) Nedbalek, who were early settlers in Custer county but who are now living at Burwell, this state. In the home formed as a result of this union are seven children — Emma, who is employed in a hospital at Hastings, Nebraska; and Joseph, August, Agnes, Adolph, Jerry, and Henry, all of whom are at home. The early years of the Bartu family were fraught with difficulties and drawbacks, and losses were encountered. In speaking of these losses, Mr. Bartu recalls that in 1898 he suffered the loss of nine stacks of grain by fire, which perhaps was the worst loss ever encountered in any one year. Another time he lost many cattle, and on several occasions the crops have failed, yet to-day the showings on his home place, which consists of 520 acres, well improved and well stocked, indicate that he has succeeded in spite of drawbacks. He still feels that Custer county is a great county and a place where any man can succeed if he is made of the right kind of stuff. Both Joseph Bartu and his wife are highly regarded by their neighbors.

ACHILLES D. JOHNSON. — In according recognition to the early settlers of Custer county, mention should be made of Achilles D. Johnson, who has been a resident of the county for thirty-eight years and who has not only been an eye-witness of the vast changes that have taken place but has also been an important factor in the development of his community.

Achilles D. Johnson is a native of the Buckeye state, his birth having occurred in Harri-

son county, Ohio, March 30, 1854. His parents were Achilles D. and Elizabeth (Lukens) Johnson, the former born in Virginia and the latter in Ohio. The marriage of the parents was solemnized in Ohio and there the father passed away in 1864. In the following year the widowed mother removed with her children to Iowa and established a home in Mahaska county, three miles from Oskaloosa, the county seat. On a farm in that county Achilles D. Johnson, subject of this review, was reared to manhood, and, in 1880, he came to Custer county, Nebraska, where he secured a homestead in section 30, township 18, range 21, and took a tree claim in section 19 of the same township. Here, amid the pioneer conditions that existed at that time, Mr. Johnson began the task of developing a farm and building a home. The first residence was in keeping with the times and was constructed of sod, this being the family home for many years. Success attended his efforts and the farm has been brought to a high state of cultivation; the sod house has been replaced with a frame building, a second frame house being completed for one of the sons; and the property is one of the well improved farms of Custer county. Mr. Johnson is owner also of a ranch of 2,500 acres in Blaine county, and farming and stock-raising are carried on extensively.

In Custer county was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Johnson to Miss Minnie Davidson, a native of Tama county, Iowa, and they became the parents of four children: Two died in infancy: Floyd A., who is assisting in the operation of the home farm, married Opal Small and they have three children; Earl D., who resides on the ranch in Blaine county, married Lura Kellenbarger, and they have one child.

Mr. Johnson was reared in the gracious faith of the Society of Friends and has not sought affiliation with any other religious denomination. In politics he casts an independent ballot; fraternally he is connected with Merna Lodge No. 171, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and both of his sons are members of the Masonic lodge, the father and sons exemplifying in their daily lives the beneficent spirit of the time-honored fraternity.

Mr. Johnson was among the first settlers in this part of the county and his circle of friends is co-extensive with his circle of acquaintance.

OMER E. HEMPHILL, who is an extensive farmer and stock-raiser in Custer county, owns a large body of land and is numbered with the substantial and representative men



ACHILLES D. JOHNSON AND FAMILY

of this section. From an experience of thirty years in the county and taking part in its wonderful development, Mr. Hemphill feels proud of what has been accomplished in a comparatively short time.

Mr. Hemphill was born in Grundy county, Missouri, June 15, 1871, and is a son of Levi and Emeline L. (Stucker) Hemphill, the former of whom was born in Illinois, in which state the Hemphill family has been prominent for years, and the latter of whom was born in Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Levi Hemphill had eight children, but some died in infancy, and the following named survive: Benjamin F., Omer E., Mrs. Rosa C. Kimberling, and Edgar.

When Omer E. Hemphill was three years old his father moved to the east central part of Iowa and settled in Washington county, where he was engaged in farming about thirteen years. It was there that young Omer E. went to school and also learned farm methods in a practical way—knowledge that later proved very useful, although with changed climate and conditions, and scientific experimenting, some of the old methods of the fathers of present-day agriculturists are not considered the most profitable. In 1886 the family moved to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and in 1888 came into Custer county and located four miles south of Oconto. There Mr. Hemphill's father was engaged in farming during the rest of his life, but he died before his industries were more than well started. At that time Omer E. Hemphill was nineteen years old, and he remained at home and did his part in the subsequent adjustment of family affairs.

Mr. Hemphill was married April 12, 1899, in Dawson county, Nebraska, to Miss Anna P. Vetter, who was born in Wisconsin and is a daughter of Albert and Louise (Gruel) Vetter. The father of Mrs. Hemphill was born in Germany and her mother in Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Hemphill have one daughter, Zina L., who is an accomplished young lady. She was graduated in the Lexington high school and in 1918 was graduated in the Nebraska State Normal School, at Kearney. At present she is devoting herself diligently to the study of stenography and typewriting, having modern ideas about a business career for young women, whereby they may become useful and independent, whatever changes of fortune may take place. The family home is situated on Buffalo creek, nine miles west of Oconto, where Mr. Hemphill owns 420 acres of fine land. He carries on general farming and takes considerable pride in his excellent stock. While not particularly active in a political way, he has always been a loyal citizen and is wide awake

to every movement that will be particularly beneficial to Custer county.

SHIPTON G. ORCHARD.—Sixty-five years ago, on the 24th day of March, 1853, the subject of this sketch began his earthly career, in the good old state of Illinois, which has given so many valuable citizens to the middle west. Mr. Orchard is a son of Shipton and Rhoda (Green) Orchard of which parentage he is the only living representative. The father died before the son and namesake was born and the mother subsequently contracted a second marriage. As a result of this marriage there is a half-sister, Mrs. D. Thurman, who resides in Oregon. Young Shipton G. Orchard, after the death of his father, went to make his home with an uncle in Iowa, where he received his early education in the schools of Des Moines county and where also he began his first farming activities.

In 1880 Mr. Orchard was united in marriage to Miss Nancy Ellen Dunbar, a daughter of Thomas and Pauline (Thurman) Dunbar. A large family was the result of this union, but the angel of death has visited the home four times. Of the living children the following is a brief record: Minnie is the widow of Richard Miller and lives in Omaha; Joseph married Mary Dobesh and they reside in Custer county; Ethel married George Haines; Elsie married Earl Gross and is located at Wahoo, this state; Eltie, at the time of this writing, is in Camp Grant, Illinois, where he is doing special work for the government; Aurylon and Verlie Vay are teaching in the same school, in the Bethel Union district, northeast of Broken Bow. Uneeta and Loyd are in the Ansley high school. The children who died in infancy were: Zephia May, six weeks old; Lucy, two years old; Hughie, two years old; and Leona, six months old.

Mr. Orchard owns a splendid half-section of well improved land, on which he maintains his attractive home and does a profitable farming business. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and the family are faithful members of the Christian church in Ansley. They are highly rated and well respected by all who know them. The entire family constitutes a contribution that Custer county appreciates.

PETER JANESOFSKY, whose splendid farm, located in section 19, township 17, has been accumulated through persistent and industrious labor, is one of Custer county's self-



MR. AND MRS SHIPTON G. ORCHARD

made men. He started out in life with few of the advantages which youth considers its just due, but his career has been singularly prosperous and satisfying—one in which he has overcome obstacles and handicaps and has realized the most gratifying rewards of agricultural life.

Mr. Janesofsky was born June 29, 1868, at Sepat, Bohemia, and was still an infant of a few months when brought to the United States by his parents, also natives of that country, where the father had been a small farmer and a mason by trade. The elder Janesofsky settled on a homestead in Saunders county, Nebraska, and engaged in farming, but being possessed of no capital he found it necessary to add to his income by working at his trade, in order that his family might live. Long before he had proved up on his claim, he met his death, while working at his trade, a fall from a scaffold resulting in injuries from which he did not recover. Peter Janesofsky was still little more than a baby when his father died, so that all the advantages enjoyed by other lads of his age were denied him, and his mother was not even able to send him to school, which he attended only six days. Naturally his education was not of the best, but in the passing years he has been a close observer of events, a student of human nature, and a reader on subjects of interest and importance, so that he has a good working education and a large fund of general knowledge. As he grew up, he worked for his elder brother, on his farm in Sarpy county, for two years, and then came to Custer county, where he secured a timber claim. He was getting well started when his trees died, and he changed his claim to a homestead. On this place he now lives, and this has been his home since about 1898. He has brought this property to a high state of cultivation and has improved it with good buildings and up-to-date equipment, so that it is one of the valuable tracts of the vicinity. Farming with him has been at once a business, a study, and a matter of pleasurable occupation, and in the industry he has found the medium through which he has worked out an admirable success.

Mr. Janesofsky was married August 12, 1893, to Miss Mary Kuklis, of Valley county, Nebraska, a daughter of Joseph and Barbara (Perta) Kuklis, natives of Bohemia. To this union there have been born seven children: Emma is the wife of William Weiman, an agriculturist of Round valley; Miss Barbara, who remains with her parents; Minnie, who is the wife of Adolph Kokesk, a farmer of Valley county; Katie and Mary, who are at the pa-

rental home; Joseph, who assists his father in the work of the home farm; and Frances, who is attending school. The family belongs to the Catholic church, in the faith of which they were reared and up to the teachings of which they live. Politically, Mr. Janesofsky is a Republican.

JOSEPH STEFKA.—Give a man of Bohemian blood a chance to work, and he will do the rest. This is especially true of the subject of this sketch, who resides in the Bohemian settlement near Comstock. Joseph Stefka was born in Bohemia September 4, 1850, and is a son of Frank and Anna (Sefcik) Stefka. The parents, both natives of Moravia, and old-country farmers by occupation, were never induced by the call of the new world to leave their native land. It was in Bohemia that young Joseph Stefka began his career and laid the foundation of character and honesty which has marked his career in the new world. It was in the land of his nativity that he was married, in June, 1872, to Rosa Gerzova. There, too, she died, leaving him with two children. A few years later he remarried, this time to Anna Sefcik. The bride's parents were Bohemian by birth and were farmers by occupation. They lived and died in the land of their nativity.

In 1884 Mr. Stefka turned his face westward and crossed the ocean to this land of opportunity. Here in Custer county he bought a homestead relinquishment from Frank Pacas, and upon this place he lived until 1893, at which time he bought 320 acres south of Comstock. He is living at the present time on this latter place, where he raises cattle and hogs in considerable numbers and does a general farming business along lines that mark him as both thrifty and practical. He agreed to pay \$100 for the homestead right of Frank Pacas but had only eighty dollars with which to make payment. He gave a shotgun and fur coat for the balance. He worked as section hand for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. In order to do this work, he walked from his homestead, nine miles northwest of Comstock, several times, and by this employment he earned the money with which to start his farming operations. In this way also he bought the yoke of oxen which was his first team and which gave him his start in life.

Mr. Stefka is the father of seven children, as the result of his two marriages: Joseph, Jr., married Mary Simek and they live at Holly, Colorado; Rosa, unmarried, lives at Lee's Park; Frank also lives at Lee's Park;

John lives at home; Rudolph married Lucy Kriz; Anna is the wife of George Rohdy and lives at Lincoln, Kansas; Thomas is single and lives at home. Mr. and Mrs. Stefka were members of the Protestant Episcopal church in Bohemia, but have never transferred their membership to any church in this country. He is independent in politics and delights in the fact that he votes for the candidate who in his judgment is best qualified for the office.

JAMES A. O. THOMAS.—After many years of wandering and varied and interesting, though unprofitable, experiences, James A. O. Thomas located at Broken Bow in the spring of 1905, and since that time he has prospered in business and gained established standing among his fellow citizens. For thirteen years he has been proprietor of the Broken Bow laundry, and while this business is in no way related to that of newspaper work, in which he was engaged for many years, Mr. Thomas has made a success of his operations and is eminently satisfied with his present condition.

James A. O. Thomas was born September 19, 1854, at Winchester, Indiana, and is a son of James and Mary (Milner) Thomas, the former a native of Ohio and a cabinetmaker by trade, and the latter born in Randolph county, Indiana. The only child of his parents, James A. O. Thomas was a rather independent and self-reliant lad, and when only eight years of age he was earning money by taking care of two newspaper routes for the Grand Rapids *Daily Democrat*, at that time under the management of Editor Burr. A rich source of income for the newsboy at that time was the old recruiting station, in 1862, at the fair grounds, where the soldiers would mount the diminutive lad on a box, buy his papers and make much of him. Perhaps these experiences led him into a career of journalism. At any rate, in the fall of 1868, when not yet fourteen years of age, he left the parental roof and entered the printing establishment of Heldbrook & Coulter, which firm at that time was publishing the *Cherokee Sentinel*, at Baxter Springs, Kansas. He remained with that firm three years, at the end of which time he had mastered the printer's trade, and he then became a journeyman printer and traveled throughout the country, as far east as Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Dayton, Ohio, where a number of his relatives resided. He worked two years at Richmond, Indiana, and a like period at Gallia, Ohio, and in 1876 he crossed the plains to Virginia City, Nevada, where he went to work on the *Territorial Enterprise*,

with which newspaper he remained a year. At that time the big silver mines were just being opened up, and the country was somewhat "wild and wooly," while the life of a newspaper man was not always one of undisturbed peace and quietude. Mr. Thomas next went to Stockton, California, where for a few months he visited with an uncle, Nathaniel Milner, who had crossed the plains to the gold fields in 1850, with a bull train. In 1891 Mr. Thomas left San Francisco and came to Nance county, Nebraska, where for a year he was engaged in farming. At that time Brad Slaughter, George Mickel, John J. W. McClelland, Clarence Braid, and others started the *Fullerton News* and "rescued" Mr. Thomas from farming, placing him in charge of the enterprise. Everything went well until the drouth year, when the concern went into bankruptcy, and Mr. Thomas again found himself free to make a choice of occupation. In the spring of 1905 he came to Broken Bow, where he invested his capital in the Broken Bow Laundry, a venture formerly operated by George Eads. He has continued to conduct this business with increasing success to the present time, and the support that he is receiving at the hands of the public makes evident the fact that he is delivering high-class service and that he has firmly entrenched himself in the confidence of his fellow citizens.

FRANK E. LOVEJOY.—Of the many honest, industrious farmers who are the boast of Custer county, not a few have passed the greater part of their careers in the vicinity of Sargent, and a list of these would be incomplete without the name of Frank E. Lovejoy. Mr. Lovejoy is one of New England's contributions to this region, having been born at Orford, New Hampshire, July 2, 1865, a son of John H. and Mary (Lamprey) Lovejoy, natives of the same place.

When a young man, John H. Lovejoy followed farming in the summer months and school teaching in the winter terms, and this he continued for a number of years, but he found his school work tedious and unremunerative and his returns for his farm work disappointing, with the result that he finally decided to seek a locality more appreciative of industry and ambition. In the early '80s, traveling alone and afoot, from Grand Island, Nebraska, he came into Custer county, where he homesteaded a tract in section 7, township 19, which was located by Frank Ingram, county surveyor, for five dollars and he also had a tree claim and a pre-emption. After he had



WILLIAM H. MACKLEY AND FAMILY

located, he walked to Grand Island to file on his land, and subsequently he sent for his family, who arrived in 1882. From that time forward Mr. Lovejoy engaged in farming and stock-raising. He became one of the influential and well-to-do men of his locality, and did his full share in assisting in the county's development. At the time of his arrival the nearest bridge on the Middle Loup river was at Loup City, fifty miles to the east, and the first bridge at this point was built at West Union by popular subscription, being later turned over to the county. Mr. Lovejoy was a contributor to this and other public-spirited enterprises, was justice of the peace and held other township offices for many years, assisted in the organization of the Methodist Episcopal church, and of this he was a member of the board of trustees. He also helped organize the cemetery at West Union, and was president of the cemetery association for a number of years. In politics he was a Republican. Mr. and Mrs. Lovejoy were the parents of eight children, as follows: Emma, the wife of Frank Washburn, a New Hampshire farmer; Mary, the wife of Rev. Charles Sharp, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, at Garden City, Kansas; Frank E.; Amy, the wife of George Brown, president of the Farmers Bank at Sargent; Hattie, the wife of Fred Wittemyer, a farmer of Boulder, Colorado; George, who is deceased; Alice, single, a resident of Sargent; and James, also unmarried and living at Sargent.

Frank E. Lovejoy attended the grammar schools of New Hampshire, and was seventeen years of age when he accompanied his mother and the other children on the long journey from their New England home to the unsettled country of the Nebraska frontier. He assisted his father and brother in the development and cultivation of the homestead, and took up farming when he reached manhood, this and stock-raising having since constituted his occupations. He is now the owner of the original homestead filed upon by his father and has made a handsome property out of it, productive and well improved, with good buildings and up-to-date equipment. He is a close student of his vocation, belongs to the Farmers Union, and as a business man his integrity has never been doubted. Mr. Lovejoy is a Republican. In civic affairs he has shown his public spirit, and the citizens of his community have shown their faith in him by calling him to a number of local offices, he having been township clerk and a member of the town board for the past seven years, and assessor for four years.

Mr. Lovejoy was married September 3, 1890, at Broken Bow, this county, to Miss Mary Douglas, a daughter of James and Margaret (Harkness) Douglas, who were pioneer residents of Antelope valley, near West Union. Mr. and Mrs. Lovejoy are the parents of three children: John, who is a farmer west of Sargent, married Lora Williams; Margaret is a schoolteacher and resides with her parents; and Mabel also is at home. The family hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church.

WILLIAM H. MACKLEY.—Undaunted by the hardships and privations of the early days, this sterling pioneer mastered the difficulties and problems of early farming on the Tallin Table, in the southwestern part of Custer county, and he is to-day one of the substantial, dependable, and highly esteemed citizens of the county.

Mr. Mackley was born in Hardin county, Ohio, on the 4th of February, 1861, and is a son of Christian and Margaret (Keetch) Mackley; the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio. Of the children William H., of this review, is the eldest of the three sons, the others being James and Charles. Though the father was a carpenter by trade, he devoted the greater part of his active career to the basic industry of farming.

The youthful years of William H. Mackley were spent in his native county and there he received his early education by attending the winter terms of school. There he earned his first money by trapping rabbits and quails. He says he doesn't think that he was ever given as much as \$2.50 for spending money during all his boyhood years. What he spent he earned himself, but earning money in those days was almost recreation. All he had to do was to help clear the timber off the land, chop cord-wood, split rails, grub stumps, and burn brush—all of which would be a sinecure for the boy of the present generation. But young William was not afraid of work and all of these things hardened his muscle and inured him to the privations of after years.

In the spring of 1883, when he was twenty-two years of age Mr. Mackley and his brother James came to Nebraska and stopped for a time at Yankee Hill, south of Lincoln, where they rented a farm from a man who furnished everything and gave the boys half of the crop. After laying by their corn, they came out to Custer county and located nine miles south of Arnold, on the Tallin Table. Then they went back, harvested their crop, and when they had disposed of it, started again for Custer.

It was late in December when they arrived at Gothenburg, and they had no easy task in reaching the Tallin Table, where they expected to occupy an old sod house, three miles from their land. This was to be a temporary home until they could build, in the spring time, on their own land. The distance from Gothenburg to their land was about thirty miles. When they started, a storm was brewing. They got lost and had to sleep in their wagons. The storm increased in fury until it became a full-grown blizzard of the merciless type so well known to the pioneer. It was the next morning about ten o'clock before they succeeded in finding the old soddy they were looking for. When they did find it, they found that part of the roof had blown off. They managed to get the roof back on, cleared out the snow, and stabled their horses inside until the storm was over. During the first night in their new home, one of the horses knocked the ash pan out of the stove and set their bed on fire. But inconveniences of this kind never daunted the indomitable spirits of the pioneers. They lived through them and they look back upon these incidents with considerable pride in the fact that they met them, conquered them, and really succeeded in spite of all impediments.

One of the noted days in the career of William H. Mackley was January 15, 1891, when at North Platte, he led to the marriage altar Miss Rose McKenna. Mrs. Mackley is a native of Monticello, Iowa, where she was born June 26, 1862, and she is a daughter of John and Mary (McGarl) McKenna, both natives of Ireland. In the McKenna family were six sons and four daughters, and those now living are C. Anna Waddick, Rose Mackley, Margaret Clark, and John. The religious faith of the family has been that of the Catholic church.

The Mackley home has been blessed with seven children—Margaret, Elizabeth, and Mary are all at the parental home pursuing their studies in the ninth grade of the public schools; James C., who is farming his father's land, married Winifred Sheets; Catherine A., John, and Edward make up the rest of the family circle and are at home with their parents.

During the hardships and privations of early years the Mackleys stayed on their land, never leaving for drouth or crop failure, and to-day the old homestead is still their place of residence. Their holdings have increased until to-day they own 1,120 acres of land and, as a neighbor said of them, "Their house fronts on Easy street." Mr. and Mrs. Mackley have worked together and each has contributed to

their accumulations of the present day. They are well known and highly regarded in the home community. They have reared a fine family of sons and daughters, of whom they can be justly proud. Politically, Mr. Mackley affiliates with the Democratic party.

HENRY H. ANDREWS. — The inherent dignity of New England strength and resourcefulness has been significantly exemplified in the career of Henry Harris Andrews, whose activities along productive lines have been wide and varied and whose powers have come effectively into play in the furtherance of civic and material development and progress in Nebraska during his residence of more than thirty years in Custer county. He has shown distinct initiative and executive ability and has had much more to do with the advancement of Custer county, and especially that of his home town of Callaway, where his interests are manifold and where he is known and valued as a representative and influential citizen.

Mr. Andrews, to whom may well be ascribed pioneer honors in Custer county, was born at Otisfield Gore, Cumberland county, Maine, on the 17th of February, 1859, and is a scion of a family that was founded in New England in the early colonial epoch of our national history. He is a son of David Sawyer Andrews and Mary Elizabeth (Howe) Andrews, both likewise natives of Cumberland county, where they were reared and educated and where their marriage was solemnized. In his native county Davis S. Andrews eventually became an exceptionally progressive exponent of farm enterprise, in which he brought to bear methods and policies not commonly in vogue in the Pine Tree state at that period. He continued his active alliance with farm industry until he engaged in the lumber and cord-wood business in Maine, and in this connection he achieved the success, with comprehensive experience, that fortified him for the broader operations in which he later became prominent in the south. Suffering from a disorder of the heart, he was advised by physicians to seek a less rigorous climate, and under these conditions, when in middle life, he went south and became largely interested in productive timber and lumbering operations in Virginia, where for many years he was associated in this line of enterprise with General Fitzhugh Lee and Daniel Lee. In his lumbering operations in the Old Dominion Mr. Andrews gave special attention to white-oak car lumber and red-oak railway ties, as well as lumber used in the manufacturing of sugar hogsheads. There he continued his lumbering

activities for a period of fully eighteen years, but the summer months he customarily spent in the north. He was a man of fine character and of exceptional ability, so that he naturally became prominent and influential as a citizen, the while he commanded unqualified popular confidence and esteem. He was seventy-three years of age at the time of his death, which occurred in Maine, his wife having preceded him to eternal rest, her death having occurred about the year 1889. Mrs. Andrews likewise was a representative of a sterling New England colonial family, and she was a kinswoman of Elisha Howe, the inventor of the first sewing machine, the initial trial of which was made by his sister, in the same section of Maine in which the subject of this review was born. David S. and Mary E. (Howe) Andrews became the parents of ten children, of whom only two attained to maturity — Henry H., whose name initiates this article; and Florence May, who became the wife of Dr. Andrews, of Auburn, Maine, and who passed her entire life in the old Pine Tree state; she and her husband are survived by three children — Arthur, Harold, and Helen. Arthur Andrews, who gained no little celebrity as "the boy astronomer of Maine," constructed his own telescope and used for this purpose tools that were sent to him by his uncle, Henry H. Andrews, to whom this review is dedicated. With this telescope young Andrews made observations that formed the basis of many important scientific articles published in leading astronomical journals. He finally opened a chemical laboratory at Auburn, Maine, and after our nation became involved in the great world war he did a large amount of practical and scientific research and experimental work for the government, as well as for his native state. Prior to his enlistment in the aviation corps of the United States navy, he had served as assistant pure-food commissioner of Maine. Harold Andrews, the younger of the two boys, took a course in engineering at Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York, and became an expert on gasoline engines. In connection with the world war he entered the United States navy, in which he gained the rank of ensign. Miss Helen Andrews has been a successful and popular teacher in the public schools at Auburn, Maine, and has recently taken a special course of study in the celebrated Barnard College.

David S. Andrews held unswervingly to the faith of the Republican party, and, as may well be imagined, was stalwart in his allegiance to the late James G. Blaine, the distinguished statesman from Maine, of whom he was a close personal friend. Mr. Andrews was influential

in politics in his native commonwealth and served as a member of the Maine legislature. He and his wife were earnest members of the Congregational church. It is interesting to record that Henry H. Andrews, of this review, has in his possession a letter of introduction that was given to his father by Hon. Sidney Perham, a former governor of Maine, and addressed to James G. Blaine. This letter was further made, through Mr. Blaine, to serve as Mr. Andrews' introduction to the late Henry Gassaway Davis, former United States senator, and had pertinence to the early lumbering activities of Mr. Andrews along the Virginia Central Railroad, controlled by Mr. Davis and his son-in-law, the late Stephen A. Elkins.

The boyhood days of Henry Harris Andrews were passed principally upon his father's farm in Maine, and his preliminary educational discipline was acquired through the medium of a private tutor. At the age of sixteen years he entered the Fredericksburg Military Academy, with the intention of preparing himself for admission to the historic University of Virginia. Later, however, he continued his studies by entering Hallowell Classical Academy, to prepare for matriculation in Bowdoin College, and it was almost by accident that he deflected his course and became a student in the Maine State College of Agriculture & Mechanic Arts, which is now the University of Maine. In this institution he was graduated as a member of the class of 1881, and in the same class was graduated Miss Lillian Mary Ring, who later became his wife. He received the degree of Mechanical Engineer, and thereafter he completed a fourteen weeks' course in Eastman's Business College at Poughkeepsie, New York, where he also served as a private tutor in drawing. During the ensuing period of about two years Mr. Andrews was associated with his father's lumbering business in Virginia, and he then accepted a position as mechanical draftsman for the Henry R. Worthington Pump Company, of Brooklyn, New York, where he remained about two years. The failing health of his father then caused him to go to the latter's aid in connection with business affairs. In Virginia he finally assumed the position of bookkeeper in the banking house of Conway, Gordon & Garnett, at Fredericksburg. In this institution, which was founded prior to the Civil war, he effected a revolution in the archaic system of operations, and brought the bank up to a high state of efficiency. He severed this connection after a period of about two years, and then came to Nebraska.

Mr. Andrews arrived in Nebraska on the

last day of May, 1887, when he made his appearance at Callaway, Custer county, and was inducted as cashier of the Bank of Callaway, the same having been founded by Silas H. Burnham, who came from the same part of Maine as did Mr. Andrews and who is now president of the First National Bank of Lincoln, Nebraska. Mr. Andrews continued as cashier of the Bank of Callaway until its voluntary liquidation of business, in October, 1896. The bank paid all obligations in full and was one of the very few able to do this in that period of financial panic. It has been claimed on good authority that at the time there was not another bank in Nebraska that could have thus paid in full, and the fact offers a specific tribute to the able executive management of Mr. Andrews.

While still cashier of the Callaway bank Mr. Andrews became Nebraska state agent for the Oxford County Loan Association of Norway, Maine, which aided greatly, through its well extended financial loans, in the development and progress in several counties in Nebraska. Mr. Andrews has thus been identified with real-estate interests for many years, and has associated himself also with virtually all important enterprises that have conserved material advancement in Callaway. Thus it may be noted that he was actively concerned in the organization of the Callaway Milling & Manufacturing Company, of which he was the first secretary; and the Callaway Building & Loan Association, the business of which was eventually closed by him in a most successful way. He has continued as representative of the Oxford County Loan Association, and in connection with his extensive operations in the extending of farm loans he has been representative also of the Security Investment Company, of Lincoln; Benson, Myers & Company, and the Peters Trust Company, of Omaha, as well as the Forgan Investment Company, of that city. He now gives his attention primarily to the insurance and real-estate business, and he has large and important landed and industrial investments in Nebraska and other western states.

In January, 1919, Mr. Andrews was elected president of the Nebraska State Irrigation Company, and he is largely concerned with development interests in Scotts Bluff county, as well as in other counties of the state. He is the owner of valuable farm land in Custer county, as well as valuable realty at Callaway.

Unflinching in his allegiance to the Republican party and influential in its local councils, Mr. Andrews has never consented to become a candidate for political office of any kind. He

and his wife are communicants of the Protestant Episcopal church and are leading members of the parish of Holy Trinity church at Callaway, of which he was one of the organizers and of which he has served almost continuously as a member of the vestry. He is now treasurer of the parish and here he served twenty-four years as superintendent of the Sunday school. Mr. Andrews has received the thirty-second degree of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of the Masonic fraternity, and of his other Masonic affiliations brief record may here be entered: Parian Lodge, No. 207, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, in which he has passed all the official chairs and of which he was secretary for fifteen years; Hastings Consistory, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite; Clara Chapter, No. 222, Order of the Eastern Star; and Tehama Temple of the Mystic Shrine. He is serving in 1919 as grand sentinel of the Nebraska grand chapter of the Eastern Star, and as worthy patron of the local chapter, of which Mrs. Andrews is secretary at the present time. He is affiliated also with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Royal Highlanders, and the Modern Woodmen of America. He served two consecutive terms as president of the Old Settlers' Association of Custer county. In connection with war activities Mr. Andrews is prominently identified with the American Protective League, of which he is chief for Custer county, and he has been a prominent force and executive in connection with the Custer county war work of the Red Cross, Young Men's Christian Association, Home Guards, etc. He has been for the past two years the chairman of the Callaway Chapter of the Red Cross. Mrs. Andrews is the present regent of David Conklin Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, at Callaway, this being the only chapter in the county, and she has been a leader in the Red Cross activities in the county during the war period.

In October, 1890, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Andrews to Miss Lillian Mary Ring, who was born and reared at Orono, Maine, and who is a daughter of Edwin T. and Zebiah (Harvey) Ring, both of whom died in that state. Mr. and Mrs. Andrews have but one child, Louise Elizabeth, who is the wife of Lieutenant Wilber K. Mylar, M. D., a graduate of the Cotner University and of the medical school at Lincoln, he having enlisted for professional service in the United States army and having been assigned to the English service at Thetford Military Hospital, Thetford, Norfolk, England.

In conclusion, as showing the ramifications

of the theory of coincidences, it may be stated that when Mr. Andrews was a boy he accompanied his father to the city of Boston, where they visited the tannery of Sawyer, Hollis & Sawyer, which firm, in connection with its tanning business, had control of large tracts of land in Custer county in later years, hides from cattle raised on these Nebraska tracts having been sent to the Boston tanneries of the firm. One of the tracts thus controlled is that on which the thriving little city of Callaway, the home of Mr. Andrews, now stands, and a member of the holding firm in earlier years was a kinsman of his father. In connection with this New England exploitation in Custer county there have been retained in the county many New England names for ranches.

JOHN H. HARGAN, who in every respect is an admirable specimen of the self-made men of whom Custer county is so proud, owes his success to his own grit, energy, and integrity. He entered upon his career with only ordinary advantages, made his own opportunities, and labored industriously, with the result that today he is one of the substantial citizens of the Sargent community, where he owns a valuable farm in section 25, township 19. Mr. Hargan was born on a farm near Malvern, Mills county, Iowa, October 24, 1870, and is a son of Daniel and Levina (Shepard) Hargan.

The parents of Mr. Hargan were born respectively in Indiana and Kentucky, but when young moved with their parents to Iowa, where they met and were married and where they resided on a farm until 1884. In that year they came to Custer county and located on a homestead five miles north of Walworth, which continued to be their home until the fall of 1888. With the exception of one year, 1892, when he resided at Broken Bow, Daniel Hargan was engaged in farming and stock-raising on this property until 1900, when he retired from active pursuits. He still resides at Sargent, alert in mind and active in body, although he has reached the advanced age of eighty-five years. Mr. Hargan during his active years was a man of industry — one who possessed good judgment and sound business ability and was able to accumulate, in an honorable manner, a goodly share of this world's goods for his comfort in his declining years. Mrs. Hargan died in 1913, having been the mother of seven children, of whom five are living: Rachel, of Council Bluffs, Iowa, the widow of the late Lewis Stewart; Mattie, the wife of James Pointer, a photographer at Mal-

vern, Iowa; Lelia, the wife of Elisha Carson, a farmer of Hunter, Missouri; John H., of this notice; and Frank, who married Lelia Storey and resides at Sargent.

John H. Hargan received his education in the public schools of Iowa and Nebraska, and was fourteen years of age when brought by his parents to Custer county. Since that time he has resided here, his mature years having been passed in the pursuits of the soil and his vocation having brought him personal contentment and material rewards. His farm is a productive one, made so by his intelligent treatment of the soil and his use of the most highly approved modern methods. Inspection will show that his buildings are substantial and in good repair and that his equipment is of the latest manufacture. He raises a good grade of live stock and grows the standard crops, and in both departments, he is a thorough master of his vocation.

Mr. Hargan was married, near Sargent, January 16, 1891, to Miss Nellie Shettron, a daughter of William and Sarah (Smith) Shettron, who came to Custer county in 1885. Mrs. Shettron is now deceased, but the father survives and makes his home with Mr. and Mrs. Hargan. Mr. and Mrs. Hargan have one child, Addie V., who is the wife of Guy Fuller, a farmer near Sargent. Mr. Hargan is not interested in politics as an office-seeker, but is a good citizen and a supporter of public-spirited movements.

JOHN OLSEN. — In the matter of its contribution to America, Sweden has John Olsen to its credit. He is a young and prosperous farmer living in the vicinity of Arnold, in the full-fledged operations of farming as might be expected in the prime years of his manhood. Mr. Olsen is a native of Sweden, where he was born in 1882, and he is the third son of Larsen and Betty Olsen, both of whom were of the sturdy Scandinavian stock. Coming to the United States in 1899, the father died at the age of sixty-four. The mother is still living and is now in Sweden. In this family of which the subject of this sketch is the third born are the following children, Gust, forty years of age, is a coal miner in Colorado. Betty, thirty-eight years of age, lives on a farm in Sweden. John's story is related in this sketch; Augusta, aged twenty-six years, and Marget, aged twenty years, remain in Sweden.

Young John Olsen came to America when fifteen years of age and in coming to Nebraska he made Gothenburg, his destination. Since

that time his attention has been given to agriculture and stock-raising, in both of which he has been eminently successful. He now owns 605 acres of land, has 140 in cultivation, and raises red hogs and a good grade of cattle. His live-stock possessions comprise fifty head of well bred stock hogs, forty-seven high grade cattle, and twelve head of horses, which furnish the horse power for his farming activities. His improvements are good and he has the necessary machinery for all the needs of the farm. July 28, 1915, Mr. Olsen married Emma Olofson, an excellent young lady who was born in the United States and who is a daughter of Erik Olofson. Since the establishment of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Olsen two children have been born into the family circle—Edna, aged three years, and Verna, aged one year (1919). John Olsen and his wife are hard-working, industrious people and are splendid neighbors. In politics Mr. Olsen claims to be independent and declares that his vote goes to the man who he believes to be best qualified for the office.

MILLARD HILL.—The subject of this record is one of the early settlers of Custer county and through his own efforts, marked by diligence and good management, he has achieved success.

Mr. Hill was born in St. Clair county, Illinois, August 21, 1860, and is a son of Thomas and Rebecca (Barton) Hill, the former a native of Tennessee, while the birthplace of the latter was in Illinois. The mother passed away in Illinois, more than fifty years ago. The father came to Custer county in 1887 and spent his last days at the home of his son, where he passed away November 4, 1915, when eighty-three years of age.

Millard Hill spent his boyhood days in his native county and acquired his youthful education in the public schools. In 1885 he heeded the advice once given by Horace Greeley and decided to "go west." In that year he arrived in Custer county, Nebraska, and secured a pre-emption claim on West Table. He experienced the usual hardships which fell to the lot of the pioneers of this region, but he also had the foresight and determination which were possessed in no small degree by the men who laid the foundations for the prosperity and high state of development which exist today. His first home was in keeping with the times, a sod house, twelve by sixteen feet in dimensions and with no floor. In this primitive dwelling the family lived for three years. Mr. Hill, like his neighbors, for several years

hauled water for stock and household use, until a well could be provided. He made his home for twelve years on this place, and he then sold it and bought a farm in Ortello valley. On this land he made extensive improvements, until it became one of the best improved properties in the neighborhood, and here he successfully carried on general agricultural pursuits until February 20, 1917, when he became manager for the Farmers Elevator Company of Anselmo, a position which he has capably filled to the present time. He still retains ownership of his fine farm*of 240 acres, and while living on the farm he was postmaster of Ortello postoffice, which was maintained at his home.

In Custer county Mr. Hill married Miss Alice Orton, a native of St. Clair county, Illinois, and they became the parents of nine children: Nellie is the wife of C. J. Sitler, of Colorado; Clara died in infancy; Albert, who married Miss Jennie Waddington, conducts farming operations in Custer county; Alura is the wife of William Carpenter, who is operating Mr. Hill's farm; Edna is the wife of Dan Parker and they reside in Custer county; M. F., still a bachelor, is assisting in operating the home farm, and Flossie, Wilhelmina, and Garland are still under the parental roof.

Mr. Hill can truly be called a self-made man—one who has made good use of his opportunities and who is to-day one of the substantial men and public-spirited citizens of Custer county.

OTTO FACKNITZ, a substantial and reliable citizen of Broken Bow, is one of the followers of a useful trade who has established a record for good workmanship and fidelity to engagements, and thus he has established himself in a recognized position among the helpful men of his community. He was born March 7, 1880, near Hastings, Nebraska, a son of Fred and Catherine (Kader) Facknitz, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Canada.

Otto Facknitz received his early education in the public schools and was reared on the farm, his first money being earned in plowing corn for a neighboring farmer, who paid him at the rate of fifty cents a day. In support of his statement that he was an industrious and capable lad, he offers in evidence the fact that his work was so greatly appreciated that he was always given the largest piece of pie at meal times. He was married at the age of nineteen years, at which time he left the parental roof and began to work at his trade of



MR. AND MRS. MILLARD HILL

carpenter, which he had mastered while helping his father in the work of the home farm. He also worked on a farm for two years after his marriage, and then went to Clay Center, Nebraska, where he secured employment in the Old Trusty incubator factory, and when he left the latter plant, six years later, he was given a splendid letter of recommendation by his employer, testifying in high terms to his honesty and mechanical ability. From Clay Center Mr. Facknitz went to Dunning, Nebraska, where he leased land and for ten years conducted a stock farm, besides which, at irregular intervals he worked at his trade, as a carpenter. Recently he has moved to Broken Bow, where he has a good business and where he has maintained his reputation as a skilled workman—industrious, painstaking, and possessed of much ability. In connection with the world war Mr. Facknitz enrolled in the United States shipyards volunteers of public service, and he was expecting to be called at any time, but the close of the war rendered it unnecessary for him to serve.

In 1899 Mr. Facknitz married Miss Nellie Keller, daughter of William Keller, a soldier of the Civil war. Mr. Keller was born October 5, 1839, and enlisted in 1861 in Company E, Twelfth Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. He served to the close of the war, and was advanced to the rank of sergeant. He returned to his Pennsylvania home and there married Frances H. Creager, daughter of John W. Creager. They became the parents of four children: Nellie, Cornelia, Edwin, and Frank. Mr. Keller and his family came to Nebraska within the '80s, and Mr. Keller passed his last years at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Facknitz, where he died, and where his widow is still making her home.

SOLOMON D. BUTCHER.—The name, if not the wisdom, of Solomon still abides on the earth, and is located in Custer county. The exponent of this cognomen is Solomon D. Butcher, who from pioneer days has been a resident of Custer county—a homesteader and a photographer, and known, perhaps, to most of the present population. The data of his biographical sketch run something like this: He was born January 24, 1856, in Burton, Wetzel county, West Virginia. He is a son of Thomas J. Butcher, a West Virginian by birth and a Custer county pioneer by early settlement and long residence. His mother was Esther (Ullom) Butcher.

In the family of Thomas J. Butcher were five children. The first and eldest is Solomon

D. Butcher, of whom this sketch is written, Marinda (Butcher) Smith, Anna E. (Butcher) Wabel, George W. Butcher, and Abner Butcher. In 1859 Thomas J. Butcher moved to Winona, Illinois, where for nearly twenty-one years he was employed by the Illinois Central Railroad Company.

S. D. Butcher says that he got hold of the foundation dollar upon which his present fortune is erected by a trapping operation in which he secured a fine specimen of the mink family, the pelt of which netted him three dollars. Mr. Butcher ran the gamut of the common schools and graduated from high school. He took up the profession of photography, which he has plied as a vocation ever since. In addition to his high-school and photographic work he had one term in the Henry Military School of Henry, Illinois. This was during the winter of 1875-6.

In 1880 Mr. Butcher came to Custer county, Nebraska, and located a claim twenty-two miles north of Broken Bow, near where his father also had located. This was in the Middle Loup valley, near Gates. He stayed at this time six weeks, helping his father and family to get settled and to begin western operations. The first task was to dig a room in the clay bank and stretch over it, for a roof, a wagon cover. Then the erection of the regulation sod house commenced. It was laid out on a foundation twenty-one by thirty-one feet. Inexperienced in sod carpentry, Butcher and his father went to work, but it was not long until Solomon D. made up his mind that sod-laying was not the particular form of brick-masonry he would care to follow for a life occupation.

While excavating for a dugout stable, they exhumed a skeleton which seemed to be the remains of a very large man. The larger bones and skull were in fairly good state of preservation. The shape of the skull, as well as the posture of the remains, seemed to indicate that the bones once belonged to an Indian. It was evident that the corpse had been interred in a sitting posture with the face toward the setting sun.

Another incident Mr. Butcher relates is to the effect that about eight days before the house was finished the provisions ran out, and it was, it must be remembered, one hundred miles to the railroad at Grand Island. All that they could rake up in the shape of edible food was a small sack of shorts on which coal-oil had been spilled. This gave the shorts and the shorts-bread a peculiar flavor which was not altogether appealing to the appetite. But Butcher claims that it beat nothing away across the river, and after they became accustomed to



W. B. Butcher



Mrs. S. M. Butcher

it and had a little milk and water to wash it down, it was not more than half bad.

Later, Mr. Butcher relinquished his homestead and returned east, and in the fall of 1881 and the spring of 1882 he took a course in the Minnesota Medical College and Hospital at Minneapolis.

May 16, 1882, he was married to Lillie M. Barber, to which union a son and daughter were born. The son is to-day Captain L. J. Butcher, "somewhere in France" as will be seen by the captain's biography elsewhere in this volume. The daughter is Madge H. Rosso, concerning whom there is a more extended biographical sketch elsewhere.

In October, 1882, Mr. Butcher and his young wife arrived at the father's place on the Middle Loup, and together they began their Custer county career. During the winter Mr. Butcher taught school in the Predmore district and earned money enough to put up the first photograph gallery ever erected in Custer county. It was a unique building, eighteen by twenty-eight feet, made of lath and adobe. The adobe was made of clay mixed with straw. These adobes fashioned a fairly durable, if not picturesque wall, and it could be truthfully said that there was not another art emporium like it west of the Mississippi river. The roof was made of boards with skylights and windows composed of cotton sheeting. The floor was artistic, just as nature had fashioned it. An old wagon-cover was used for a background, but unfortunately the wagon-cover had been knawed by rats and was full of holes. Mrs. Butcher patched the holes, but when pictures were taken the patches in the background persisted in showing.

Necessity has always been the mother of invention, and it was true in this instance. Butcher hit upon the novel plan of taking off those patches and still leaving them on. He wired a coil bedspring to the ceiling of the gallery, and then hung the wagon cover background to the bedsprings. When he wanted to make a picture he set the bedsprings to jumping and this danced the curtain up and down and blurred the background so that the patches were not visible. This was a novel invention, but was never patented. The only objection, or drawback, to the arrangement was the habit that the springs fastened upon Mr. Butcher. To this day he would rather hang to bedsprings—especially when there is a mattress on top of it and the morning is cold—than anything else.

In 1883 he succeeded in getting a postoffice, named Jefferson in honor of his father, which he located in this building so "wonderfully and

fearfully made." The mail came regularly to Jefferson from West Union, a distance of twelve miles down the Middle Loup river. The records show that the postoffices of that day were not the luscious, juicy plums they are under the present administration. Butcher's salary was stamp cancellation, and for the first three months the salary reached the mammoth proportion of sixty-eight cents. Butcher resorted to farm work at fifty and seventy-five cents a day, and did anything else he could, to support the family and keep the brown-gray coyote over the hill and away from the door. Photography, however, was his fad and the particular work he fancied. When anyone wanted a tintype picture, Butcher dropped the hoe or spade so quickly that it broke the handle, and, quicker than it takes to tell the story, he had the customer lined up against the background and the bedsprings jumping.

At the first old settlers' picnic held in the Middle Loup valley in Custer county, which was at the Jefferson postoffice, July 4, 1883, Butcher offered a dozen pictures as a prize for the best-looking baby under two years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Farley had the honor of carrying off the prize, as their little daughter, now Mrs. Mary (Farley) Huffman, was declared the winner by the judges. Mrs. R. G. Carr, Joe Rankin, and Mrs. Jerry Phelps served as judges on that occasion.

In the fall of that year the Butchers added a sod living-room to the gallery, for which they had to haul the sod more than a mile, and exchange two days' work for each one the man and team worked hauling the sod. Mr. Butcher put on a dirt and brush roof, stretching sheeving over the bed to keep it dry. They lived for some time in this "soddy." Butcher claims that it rained oftener during the time they were under that canvas than during any other period of his residence in Custer county. In fact, he says there were weeks at a time when the weather did nothing but drizzle, and often clouds would hang around in that vicinity and sail over his premises every few hours, just to get a chance to rain on that roof. Sometimes in the middle of the night he and his wife would have to pile out of bed, wrap the baby in a quilt, and make their way through the dark and storm to the residence of his father. Sometimes these trips were made when the night was so dark that they could find their way only by the flashes of lightening. The hard part of it all fell to the lot of Mrs. Butcher, who, when the rain was over and the sun came out, had to haul everything out of the house and let it dry on the clothesline and the grass of the front yard. Butcher claims that



L. D. NATION

during his early career they moved around to much that when moving time came the chickens would lie down on their backs and cross their legs ready to be tied. This, however, was probably due to the fact that from the Methodist minister's wife Mrs. Butcher got the eggs for the setting from which those chickens were hatched.

In 1886 Mr. Butcher conceived the plan of getting out a history of Custer county. On this he worked for seven years, making one thousand, five hundred and thirty-five farm views, and also writing sketches of the settlers, in which he detailed their pioneer experiences. These pioneer sketches were unfortunately destroyed by fire, but the plates, or negatives, from which the pictures were made were saved. Butcher immediately commenced compiling data for another book, and in 1901 he succeeded in publishing "S. D. Butcher's Pioneer History and Short Sketches of Early Days in Nebraska."

In 1902 the Butchers moved to Kearney, where they remained for several years. Mrs. Butcher, who for a number of years had been a victim of ill health, finally succumbed to ailments which refused to yield to treatment, and she passed to that realm where pioneering is unknown and where rest and reward await those whose earthly lives merit this eternal compensation. Her death occurred on December 29, 1915. She left many friends, a loving husband and two children to mourn her loss. She was a faithful, devout member of the Christian church for many years, a devoted mother and loving wife.

While in Kearney, Mr. Butcher engaged in photography and handled real estate as a side issue. He also spent much time in compiling data for a history of Dawson county, in connection with the Kearney Publishing & Engraving Company. After spending a thousand dollars in this enterprise, it was finally abandoned for the time being. During that time Mr. Butcher and his son made over 2,250,000 local postcard views for the local trade.

January 24, 1917, at Smith Center, Kansas, Mr. Butcher was united in marriage to Mrs. Laura M. (Brachear) Nation. By her former marriage Mrs. Nation had two children—L. D. H. Nation, and Ruby Lorene Nation. L. D. H. Nation graduated from Central City high school at sixteen years of age, and at eighteen years of age graduated from the Gregg Business College in Chicago, Illinois. When nineteen years of age he was made a professor in the faculty of Story College, at

Portage, Wisconsin. Later he received calls from Cotner University; Mosher-Lampman Business College, of Omaha; Central Business College of Denver, and Isaac Woodbury College, of Los Angeles. He was a finished Spanish scholar and accepted a professorship in a leading California college. He learned every phase of commercial training and business science, teaching eight systems of shorthand. He enjoyed the highest esteem and commendation of every institution with which he was



RUBY LORENE NATION

connected. He was a member of the Christian church, and the Knights and Ladies of Security. He died June 7, 1916, being twenty-five years old. Thus death cut short a very promising career. Miss Ruby Lorene Nation is eleven years of age and in the sixth grade of the Broken Bow schools. She has also reached the third grade in her musical education.

The present Mrs. Butcher is a member of the Eastern Star, the Rebekah Lodge, and the Royal Neighbors. She has passed through the chairs in the two lodges last named. Mr. and Mrs. Butcher and little Ruby are all members of the Christian church. S. D. Butcher took an active part in the Populist movement in Custer county, but was independent in politics during the "scrappy days of the Pops."

J. C. NAYLOR. — Prominent among the early residents of Custer county, one who took a leading part in the development which changed this locality from a practical wilderness to a fertile and productive country, furnishing homes for prosperous families and keeping pace in every way with the world's development, was the late J. C. Naylor, one of the best known attorneys of the early days of the county. He was born April 20, 1842, in West Virginia, and in his early life was engaged in newspaper work, later becoming owner of one of the big freight caravans that operated across the trackless plains of Nebraska, going from Plattsmouth, Nebraska, to Denver. While engaged in this work he took up the study of law, and at the age of twenty-two years he was admitted to the bar. He became one of the best known criminal lawyers of the state, practicing first at York, and later at Broken Bow and Callaway. His death occurred November 20, 1899. He was one of the substantial men of the community and through his integrity and high personal character gained and retained the respect and confidence of the community. Mr. Naylor was married to Jane Kinnard in 1890, and to this union were born two children, James C., Jr., and Jane, who is now the wife of Charles S. Carothers, prominent Callaway business man. Mrs. Carothers is a graduate of the Kearney State Normal, and for four years prior to her marriage she was engaged in teaching in the public schools of the county. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and is the mother of one daughter, Doris.

James C. Naylor, Jr., is one of the well known figures in journalism in central Nebraska, and has exemplified in his career the true spirit of progressiveness and enterprise. He was born at Callaway March 28, 1894, and attended the Callaway public schools, graduating from there in 1911 and later taking some work in the University of Nebraska. On January 1, 1916, he became editor of the *Loup Valley Queen*, at Callaway, which had previously been conducted for fourteen years by Roy R. Barnard. Mr. Naylor made a success of this venture, and is now the head of a corporation, The Central Nebraska Printing & Publishing Company, owners of the *Loup Valley Queen*, the *Kearney Democrat*, and the *Oconto Register*, of which publications he is the editor. Mr. Naylor is unmarried and makes his home with his widowed mother, in Callaway.

Mr. Naylor is a Democrat, but has found no time to enter politics as a candidate for public

office, although, in the daily routine of his work, his influence may be counted upon to advance the interests of his party. He is public-spirited and has marked civic pride, and his work in behalf of beneficial movements in his community has always been of a constructive character.

WILLIAM POLAND. — The pioneer settles in the Sargent region of Custer county had many difficulties to encounter in the early days, but they were, in large part, hardy and persevering men, and many have lived to triumph over all obstacles and discouragements. Among these there have been individuals from all parts of this and other countries, all alike struggling to acquire a competence. Many have developed into excellent citizens, public-spirited and alive to the best interests of their community, and in this class is found William Poland, who settled in Custer county in 1883 and who is now a resident of the suburbs of Sargent.

Mr. Poland was born August 22, 1858, in Knox county, Missouri, a son of Jehu and Margaret (Reishman) Poland, natives of Ohio. Jehu Poland was a farmer, first in Ohio and later in Missouri, from which latter state he enlisted for service in the Civil war, in which he fought bravely through four years of struggle. During his army life he contracted a serious disease, from which he never recovered and which finally caused his death, when he was about fifty-seven years of age. He was a Republican in politics, and he and his wife belonged to the Free Methodist church. In 1884 Mr. Poland came to Custer county and located on a homestead seven miles northwest of Sargent. There he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring three years later. Mrs. Poland survived him until 1902, and of their eleven children seven are now living: Mary A., the wife of Thomas Moore, a retired citizen of Guthrie, Oklahoma; William; Melvin, a farmer of the vicinity of Taylor, Nebraska, who married Etta Ott; Effie, the wife of Burton Hardenbrook, a barber of Douglas, Wyoming; Lillie, the wife of Thomas Banford, a dairyman of the same place; Vivian, a farmer of the Walworth community of Custer county, who married Hattie Vanderveen; and George, who farms seven miles north of Sargent, the maiden name of his wife having been Maggie Vanderveen.

The educational training of William Poland was secured in the public schools of Iowa, where he was brought up on his father's farm, and at Harper, that state, he married Mary E.

Todd, a daughter of William and Nancy (Lamasters) Todd. Mrs. Poland's parents were born in Kentucky, went to Iowa about 1846 or 1847, and were always farming people, Mr. Todd dying at Oskaloosa, Iowa, in 1900. The Todds came to Custer county about 1886 and bought land, living here until 1898, when they returned to Iowa. Mr. Todd was a Democrat and a member of the Free Methodist church, to which Mrs. Todd, who died in California, in 1913, also belonged.

Shortly after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Poland came to Custer county, where, in 1883, they settled on a homestead seven miles northwest of Sargent. On that property they resided about fifteen years, during which time they experienced all the hardships and vicissitudes incidental to pioneer life. During one particularly depressing period, when there was no money circulating in the county, they actually existed on the sum of five cents. Only the barest necessities were to be secured, and when meat was desired on the table, the only course to pursue was to take the family rifle and secure a partridge or a jack-rabbit and much of this kind of meat was dried for summer use. In the early days the Polands had the only well in the community, this being 230 feet deep, dug by one Collins, who consumed three weeks in the task. Mr. Poland assisted in hauling the lumber for the first building at Taylor, and in other ways shared in the early events that preceded general settlement. He was persevering and industrious, made his labors count for something, and eventually developed a good property, but in 1897 he moved to the suburbs of Sargent, where he now carries on general farming. His career has been a successful one, and he is held in high esteem in his community, both as a skilled farmer and as a man of integrity and public spirit.

Mr. and Mrs. Poland became the parents of five children, of whom four are living: Clara is the wife of Charles Shaw, a machinist of Lincoln; Charlie, who married Gertrude Moore, is a farmer of the Walworth community; Nancy is the wife of Arthur Miller, a machinist of Lincoln; and Lloyd, single, resides at home and assists his father in the operation of the farm.

PRATT J. HARMAN.—Here is a home-grown, self-made man who is young in years, who has scored his initial success and whose life record, like that of almost any other youthful scion, is largely bound up in the record of his sire.

Pratt J. Harman was born on the Lafayette Harris place near Walworth, Custer county. He arrived in the fragrant month of June, 1890, a year subsequently to the practical end of the pioneer period, and yet his life has not been all roses and June sunshine. He is a son of Gustave and Lena (Bullard) Harman, the former a native of Germany and the latter a representative of several native-born generations through the Empire state. This excellent couple have transmitted to their progeny the desirable characteristics of two distinct races. The father, who was a farmer most of his life, came to the United States when but sixteen years of age, and in his youth he followed farm work most of the time. There were exceptions, however, and the exceptions consisted of railroad grading—in fact he took part in grading the Burlington line in Custer county, through Broken Bow, and still later worked on the grade of the Comstock and Sargent branch of the same road. He went to Brown county in 1876 and there worked for Major Morris and other cattlemen. There, at Ainsworth, he was married in 1879, to Lena Bullard, whose father lived, and still lives, in the state of New York. Mrs. Gustave Harman, mother of the subject of this sketch, was but thirteen years of age at the time of her mother's death. It was the next year after their marriage that Mr. and Mrs. Harman came to Custer county and began farming the place belonging to Lafayette Harris, where their son, Pratt J., was born. In the fall of 1890 they bought relinquishments of John Cain and they own that farm at the present time. This place they made their home until 1904, when they moved to the farm where they now live. Mr. Harman added to the original possessions until he now owns 640 acres of well improved farms. Good buildings have just been completed in section 13 for the use of Pratt J. Harman, who does a general agricultural and stock-raising business. In the spring of 1907 Mr. and Mrs. Gustave Harman went to Idaho Springs, Colorado, but they returned to Nebraska that fall, locating in Sargent.

Pratt J. Harman returned to Custer county with his parents and began the farming operations in which he is engaged at the present time. He is the only child in his father's family. He received his early education in the schools of Sargent, and later took a business and normal course in the Broken Bow Business and Normal college. He has never married and has given practically all of his time to farming, except for a term or two when he taught school, as so many others



THEODORE LIEBS



MRS. THEODORE LIEBS

have done — making teaching a stepping-stone to some other profession or occupation. He also had a contract for carrying mail between Sargent and Berwyn, which he held for more than one year. He is at present engaged in farming the place which his father first bought. He comes of a prominent family, his father and mother have both held the offices of moderator and school director for some time in district No. 100.

Concerning the romance and experiences of early days, Pratt J. Harman states that when his father was paying attention to his mother prior to their marriage, he took her to a dance several miles distant from home, with an ox team. He also recalls their experiences in the dry years, when, after a dry summer, they found themselves in possession of more hogs than bushels of corn. Another year forty acres of wheat averaged two bushels an acre. On one occasion the father was caught in a blizzard which came up so suddenly that the wind turned the wagon around before they could turn the horses. They reached the barn with difficulty but could make their way from the barn to the house only by following a wire that had been previously placed for that purpose. These hardships are over and the young man faces the prospects of better times in the years that are to come.

THEODORE LIEHS, who is accounted one of the leading and prosperous agriculturists of the Mason City community, is one of the self-made men of Custer county, and his experiences here have been diversified and interesting, ranging from the days of sod houses and frontier conditions to the comforts and civilization of modern life. Mr. Liehs is a native of Germany, and was born October 26, 1858, a son of Fred and Maggie (Reeder) Liehs. His father, who was a grocer and won a modest business success, passed his entire life in his native country, both he and his wife having been born in Saxe-Holstein, Germany. By his first marriage he became the father of two children, of whom Theodore survives, and after the death of his first wife he was again married, Julius, the son of this marriage, having, at last reports received, been still living in Germany. The family belonged to the Lutheran church.

Theodore Liehs received his early education in the public schools, and was variously employed in his native land, principally in his father's store. When he was twenty-six years of age he decided to try his fortunes in the United States, and accordingly he made his

way to this country, where he arrived with but a small amount of money and with even less knowledge of the conditions and the language of the land of his adoption. When he arrived at Chicago, he found his financial resources exhausted, but he was able to borrow one dollar, with which he managed to continue on to his destination at Clinton, Iowa, where he obtained employment in a lumber yard and later in a butcher shop. One of his first acts was to return the borrowed money to Chicago, for Mr. Liehs' entire career has been characterized by the strictest honesty and utmost fidelity to engagements and responsibilities. During the four years that he worked at Clinton he saved his money carefully, and when he came to Custer county, in the latter part of 1887, he was able to make a payment of \$300 on a pre-emption of 160 acres, the purchase price of which was \$800. This property formed the nucleus for his present large holdings, for when he had his indebtedness cleared off he began buying more land, and to-day he is the owner of 640 acres, all located in the Mason City community. At the time of his arrival he took up his residence in an old sod house, and for a number of years he accepted his share of the hardships and discomforts of frontier existence, but as his finances improved he began to install comforts and conveniences on his land, and these culminated in the building of a comfortable and commodious residence, large and substantial barns, and well equipped outbuildings. His land is under a high state of cultivation, and through his good management and agricultural ability it yields large crops. In addition to his general farming operations, Mr. Liehs has been successful in the breeding of cattle, hogs, and horses, and is accounted a good judge of live stock. His success rests entirely upon his own efforts and merit, as he has worked his own way to his present enviable position, unaided by influential friends or outside financial support.

In 1882 Mr. Liehs married Miss Maggie Craiger, who was born in Germany, and to this union there were born three children, of whom two are living: Annie, who is the wife of Louis Kuehnle, a farmer in the state of Washington; and Fred, who was educated in the district schools of Custer county, has spent his entire life in agricultural pursuits and is now his father's chief assistant in the operation of the home farm. Mr. and Mrs. Liehs and their children are members of the Lutheran church. In politics Mr. Liehs maintains an independent stand. In connection with the nation's participation in the world war Mr.

Liehs has shown his loyalty by giving liberal support to the various agencies through which the government has been upheld in its war preparations and activities.

SOREN SORENSSEN.—Many of the early settlers in Custer county came to this section in the hope of securing land on which they could carry on agricultural industries, but there were others who, already equipped with a useful trade, realized that their services would be in demand in the development and upbuilding of a new country. Thus men like Soren Sorensen, who were skilled in different trades and were ambitious to get ahead in the world, left Denmark and other European countries for growing communities in the great country across the Atlantic ocean, and in the course of time many of these found full opportunity for their mechanical skill. Mr. Sorensen came to America in 1881 and located at Grand Island, Nebraska.

Mr. Sorensen was born May 5, 1857, in Denmark. His parents, S. and Cassie (Jensen) Sorensen, passed their entire lives in Denmark. They had seven children and the following are living: D. C., who lives at Elva, Nebraska, is a bricklayer by trade; Mrs. Eliza Peterson remains in Denmark; and Christ likewise lives in Denmark. By trade the father was a cabinetmaker.

After settling at Grand Island, in Hall county, Nebraska, Mr. Sorensen worked at the carpenter trade, which he had learned in his own country, and he soon found his time well occupied. As population increased, houses had to be erected, and he was called to other places to complete work and some times he put up the first houses in a hamlet that soon grew into a town. This was the case at Litchfield, in Sherman county, where he built the first house, in 1890. In 1910 Mr. Sorensen came to Mason City, and since then he has been engaged in the business of selling lightning rods.

In 1884 Mr. Sorensen married Miss Anna Walker, who was born in Iowa and who died in 1898, leaving two children: Frank, now a farmer in Oregon, and Estella, the wife of John Goodenfelda, who conducts a hotel in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Mr. Sorensen was married the second time in March, 1910, when Mrs. Anne C. Robertson became his wife. She was the widow of Robert Robertson, who was born in Denmark and who died in Custer county, Nebraska, August 5, 1904, the Robertsons having come to this county in November, 1891. Mr. Robertson was a well-to-do farmer and left a good property, Mrs. Robertson later

adding to the farm acreage. Mr. and Mrs. Robertson became the parents of eight children, concerning whom the following brief record is consistently entered: Charles operates the home farm in Custer county; Mrs. Mary Arp resides at Mason City, this county; William and Fred are progressive farmers in this county; Matt is a resident of Hazard, Sherman county; Lewis H. was a gallant young son of Custer county who sacrificed his life on the battlefields of France, and is accorded a tribute in following paragraphs; Hans is associated in the work and management of the home farm, in Custer county; and Letitia is the wife of Nels Stanter, a farmer of this county.

Mr. and Mrs. Sorensen hold membership in the Lutheran church, and they are well known throughout their section of Custer county, where they are held in unqualified popular confidence and esteem. In politics Mr. Sorensen maintains an independent attitude, as he does his own thinking and decides for himself in regard to the qualifications of candidates for public office. He is affiliated with the Mason City lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

LEWIS H. ROBERTSON.—Here is consistently given a memorial tribute to the late Lewis H. Robertson, who entered the military service of the United States on the 5th of October, 1917, and who went with the American Expeditionary Force to France, where he was one of the heroic and gallant young Americans who fell in battle on the 26th of July, 1918. After having been cited for bravery, he gave his life that future generations might be blessed with the freedom and liberty which his native land has enjoyed for more than two centuries. From an appreciative estimate that appeared in a Custer county newspaper at the time of the death of this gallant young patriot are taken the following extracts:

Corporal Lewis H. Robertson was born at Davey, Lancaster county, Nebraska, January 4, 1888. When he reached the tender age of three years he moved with the family to the Black Hill Basin, in the fall of 1891, where he resided until seven years ago, after which he spent part of his time at Hazard, Nebraska, in partnership with his brother Matt. His father died three years after the family arrived in the Basin, August 5, 1894.

Corporal Robertson's premature departure is mourned by his mother, Mrs. Anne C. Sorensen, and five brothers and two sisters. He will be missed also by a host of friends and many army comrades.

Corporal Robertson entered the army October 5, 1917, going as an alternate from Hazard, Sherman county, Nebraska, with the following men who were his comrades at Camp Funston: Ray Hennis, Lawrence Larson, Henry Rasmussen, William Rasmus-

sen, Ernest Jacobson, Chris H. Pierson, Earl Eckley, Joe Horak, Walter Cadwalder, and Henry Pillen.

At Camp Funston he served in Company K, Three Hundred and Fifty-fifth Infantry, and distinguished himself as a promising soldier, and was transferred to Company G, Fourth Infantry, United States Army, at Camp Newport News, Virginia, five weeks later sailing for France, arriving in France April 15, 1918. He was well thought of by his officers at Funston—Captain Moore, First Lieutenant Melville, McClellen, Schooks, and Orchard. He was also praised by his officers in France—Colonel Harvey, Second Lieutenant R. C. Erwin, Sergeant Case, and First Lieutenant J. A. Crawford. The Fourth Infantry, United States Regulars, was in the thick of the recent drive of the allies in which they crowned themselves with high honors. It was in this conflict that Corporal Lewis H. Robertson died in action, July 26th, at the hopeful age of thirty years, one month, and twenty days. More detailed accounts are lacking at this time. All we know is that he slumbers amidst vast armies of fallen heroes on the sacred soil of France. Could he speak, the following perhaps would be his message to us:

Where I have fallen upon my battle-ground

Let me there rest—nor carry me away.

What holier hills could in these days be found

Than hills of France to hold a soldier's clay?

Nor need ye place a cross of wooden stuff

Over my head to mark my age and name;

This very ground is monument enough!

'Tis all I wish of show or outward fame.

Deep in the hearts of fellow countrymen

My fast, immortal sepulcher shall be,

Greater than all the tombs of ancient kings.

What matters where my dust shall scatter then?

I shall have served my country oversea

And loved her—dying with a heart that sings.

This whole community with one accord has nothing save praise to offer in commemoration of Corporal Robertson. Everywhere one hears the sincere remark that he was an ideal soldier, an ideal man. He asked for no exemptions and refused to be a slacker. He was confirmed in the Danish Lutheran church at Black Hill Basin, December 25, 1902. He has endeavored since then to live a consistent Christian life.

For the second time it becomes our sad but sacred duty to place a golden star upon our service flag. With hushed breath and subdued heart-beat we change his star of true blue to one of gold, in commemoration of his faithful service and the sacrifice of his young life on the altar of his country. For as Jesus, our Saviour, himself says: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Sleep well, dead lad, knight of the azure blue!

Sleep well, thy stately sleep amid the bloom!

Love holds thee dear; Faith hails thee leal and true:

Proud honor weaves rich chaplets for thy tomb.

Dead in the splendor of thy golden youth,

Dead in the promise of thy dawning day,

Yet ne'er to die, immortalized in truth,

A living star in freedom's sky always!

Deathless to ride, in never ending flight,

Through vaulted domes of spanless spaces far,

Close to the founts of quenchless, radiant light,

Where, glory-crowned, God's fadeless heroes are.

They hold thee not—these hills where thou wast

born,—

Nor yet these hearts that love thee, warm and

dear;

Now art thou ray of that eternal morn

That breaks in ceaseless splendor, year on year.

HORACE G. LANG has proved himself the possessor of a large amount of that excellent quality of manhood and that self-reliance which, united with perseverance and industry, have enabled him to become one of the valued men of Custer county.

Mr. Lang was born at Grafton, Grafton county, New Hampshire, August 3, 1862. His father, Gilman Lang, was a native of New Hampshire and became a manufacturer of edged tools, an occupation which he followed until 1872, when he became a resident of Taylor county, Iowa, where he spent the remainder of his days, passing away at the age of seventy-one years. In New Hampshire he married Miss Nancy Ellwood, and she passed away at Broken Bow, Nebraska, at the age of seventy-one years. They were members of the Methodist church and were the parents of three sons, all of whom became residents of Custer county: George W., who was a farmer, is now deceased; Warren J. is a resident of Broken Bow; and Horace G. is the subject of this sketch.

Horace G. Lang was a lad of seven years when the home was established in Taylor county, Iowa, and there he was reared to manhood, acquiring his education in the public schools. In 1883 he came to Custer county and secured a homestead, making his home in a sod house for five years. He then sold the place and bought his present farm. Here he owns 625 acres, under a high state of cultivation, and on the place he has erected a splendid set of improvements and carries on general farming and stock-raising. Mr. Lang was one of the very early settlers of Custer county and shared in the hardships of the pioneer days. He hauled water from Broken Bow, twenty-one miles away, and the lumber in his house was brought from Kearney. He hauled oats to Kearney and sold them for ten cents a bushel, besides carrying them up two flights of stairs.

In Custer county Mr. Lang married Miss Clara Vincent, a native of Indiana. At her death she left five children: Rowena is the wife of Clarence Dunn and resides at Callaway; she is the mother of two children and her husband is in the national army at the time of this writing; Ione is the wife of Wallace Blakeman, a farmer of Custer county, and they have two children; Blanche is the wife of George Edwards, a farmer of Custer county, and they have two children; Elfa is the wife



ELLIS W. GIVEN AND FAMILY

of Frank Yohn, of Corliss, Wisconsin, and they have one child; Clara is unmarried and resides in California.

For his second wife Mr. Lang married Mrs. Martha Twell, whose maiden name was Martha Dunn. She is a native of Taylor county, Iowa, and is a daughter of J. B. Dunn, a prominent citizen of that county. Mr. and Mrs. Lang have a son, James G., who is a lad of fourteen years and who is assisting in the operation of the farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Lang are members of Baptist church and in politics Mr. Lang is a Republican, though in local affairs he casts an independent ballot. He has never aspired to public office but has rendered efficient service as a member of the school board and helped to organize the school district.

Mr. Lang is a son of Gilman Doe, but, not liking the name, he applied to the proper authorities and had his name changed to Lang, his grandmother's maiden name having been Langley.

Horace G. Lang is one of the influential men of his community, his word is as good as a bond and he is always found ready to aid any cause that has for its object the upbuilding of his adopted county.

ELLIS W. GIVEN. — Of the many honest, industrious farmers who are the boast of Custer county, not a few have passed the greater part of their careers in the vicinity of Merna, and a list of these would be incomplete without the name of Ellis Welch Given. Mr. Given is one of West Virginia's contributions to this region, having been born in that state February 10, 1866, and he is a son of Robert E. and Rachel M. (Jordan) Given, of whom more specific mention is made on other pages of this volume.

E. W. Given was reared to the discipline of the farm, in Illinois and Nebraska, and accompanied the family to Custer county in 1884. Under the direction of his father he learned the best methods of farming. He operated the home farm for several years while the parents were still living and after their death he came into possession of the old homestead. New improvements have been made, and the property to-day is among the finest in the neighborhood. Mr. Given is the owner of 240 acres, devoted to mixed farming.

December 25, 1895, Mr. Given was united in marriage to Miss Katherine Jacquot, a daughter of Nicholas Jacquot, a record of whom will be found elsewhere in this history.

Mr. and Mrs. Given are the parents of three children: Brooks Elliot, Ardetta Deborah, and Robert Ellis, all of whom are at home. The family are members of the Methodist church and in politics Mr. Given is a Democrat. Mr. and Mrs. Given represent two of Custer county's earliest families and are held in the highest of esteem by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

J. W. RAY. — A man of some prominence, a successful farmer, a generous and obliging neighbor, is named in this paragraph, and to tell the life story we go back to Lucas county, Iowa, where on the 23d day of February, 1867, he made his debut into the world. He is a son of Jesse and Margaret (Thomas) Ray, both of whom were natives of the Buckeye state, splendid people of sterling qualities and well respected in the community of their home.

Mr. Ray has been a farmer all his life. His education, which is of a liberal character, was received in the public schools of Kansas and Nebraska, and at the early age of thirteen years he started out to make his own way in life. His success has been in keeping with his energy and dauntless spirit and has reached a grade often displayed in the county of opportunity where he has his present home.

The father, Jesse Ray, came to Nebraska in an early day, and homesteaded in Hamilton county. From that county he eventually moved back to Iowa, and from the latter state he later removed to Kansas. He and his wife were devoted Christian people, members of the Methodist church. To them were born eight children, five of whom are still living. The subject of this sketch and his sister, Mrs. Lloyd Foster, are the only ones living in Custer county.

On April 19, 1891, J. W. Ray was united in marriage to Martha Patterson, at Dodge, Nebraska. The parents of Mrs. Ray were Nebraska pioneers, having come into the state in 1868 and having settled and homesteaded in Dodge county, where they continued to reside until their death. The mother died in the fall of 1912, the father having passed away June 1, 1901. Mrs. Ray is the only daughter living in Custer county. She has a brother living in Dodge, Nebraska.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray have four children: Mabel is the wife of James Ralls and lives in Loup county, and Ruby, Eunice, and William are at the parental home. Mr. and Mrs. Ray have lived on the present place eighteen years. He has a fine stock of cattle, good horses and a well improved farm of 320 acres,—a very

creditable showing for the opportunities that have been afforded him. He and his excellent family are highly respected by their neighbors, and their present energy will insure to Mr. and Mrs. Ray a competency for early retirement. Mr. Ray gives his allegiance to the Republican party, and he is counted as one of the staunch supporters of the political regime represented by that party. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, from which he derives all the social and pecuniary benefits.

STEPHEN A. DEAN.—Living in the vicinity of Broken Bow, in one of the splendid farm homes that adorn the middle section of the county, is Stephen A. Dean, who here enjoys the distinction and rating of a first-class farmer, an upright citizen, and one of the spirits to be consulted in connection with the promotion of any public enterprise.

Stephen A. Dean was born in Johnson county, Iowa, March 5, 1861, and is a son of Wesley and Casandra (Zike) Dean. The father was a native of Ohio, but the mother came from Kentucky. They became the parents of seven children of whom three are still living—Stephen A., Mrs. Alta J. Moats, and Mary B. The father died when young Stephen was eleven years of age and the mother moved to Iowa City, where she gave her children a high-school education, thus furnishing them good equipment for life.

After finishing his education, Stephen A. Dean returned to the old farm in Johnson county, Iowa, and began farming operations. He had everything to learn, for he had never farmed before, but, being twenty years of age, he went at it with a youthful will and enthusiasm that conquered all difficulties and made things come his way.

Following the natural course of humanity, on June 30, 1885, Mr. Dean was united in marriage to Miss Nellie E. Strang, a young lady of the home vicinity. Mrs. Dean was a daughter of James B. and Julia (Bailey) Strang, both natives of the Empire state. From the time of their marriage, the Deans maintained an ideal home, and three children, all boys, made their advent into the family circle: Ervin E. was placed in class 2, division B of the final draft for service in the world war; Roy C., as a member of the One Hundred and Sixty-eighth Aviation Squad, was in France when the war came to a close; and Harry O. was assigned to class 2 in the final military draft. Mrs. Dean was called to the life eternal in the year 1902.

Mr. Dean came to Custer county in 1882 and pre-empted a quarter-section of land, five miles northwest of Broken Bow. He made proof on the claim and was the first one to receive title for his land in this section. Mr. Dean later returned to Johnson county, Iowa, and bought from his mother the old home place, upon which he continued to farm and to raise and feed cattle and hogs, but in the meantime he kept his Custer county land rented, and continually added to its improvement. November 26, 1903, he wedded Miss Ruth J. Thomas, who, like his first wife, was born in Johnson county, Iowa. She is a daughter of Robert M. and Malinda (Jones) Thomas. Three years after his second marriage Mr. Dean returned to Custer county, where he took up residence upon his pre-emption claim. This was in 1906, and since that time the Dean family have been continuous residents. They now have 280 acres of land, on which is one of the most attractive farm homes in the county. The land is in a high state of cultivation and Mr. Dean is rated as one of the foremost of the progressive farmers of the county. The family are members of the United Brethren church and are faithful constituents of the local Grange, to which they have contributed energy and leadership. In politics Mr. Dean is rated as a Democrat, but he is a man of broad information and strong convictions, and accordingly issues and candidates must make an appeal of sincerity if they secure his support.

ABEL H. FORD.—As a living example of what resolute working, earnest endeavor, and indomitable perseverance will accomplish, Abel H. Ford stands prominent among the worthy citizens of Custer county. Coming here in 1887, with no capital save that represented by his personal qualities and characteristics, he has worked his way uninterruptedly to a position of independence, and his status to-day is that of a substantial citizen and prosperous agriculturist.

Mr. Ford is a native of Iowa, where he was born April 6, 1860, a son of Jackson and Elizabeth (Savage) Ford. There were seven children in the family, of whom five are living: James B., a salesman, of Des Moines, Iowa; Abel H., of this review; Oscar, engaged in farming in Kansas; Della, the wife of J. T. May; and Anna B., the wife of Roy Minor, who is engaged in mining near Bisbee, Arizona. Jackson Ford was for many years a farmer in Iowa, but he is now living in retirement in Colorado, at the advanced age of eighty-four years, while his wife, who is sev-



MR. AND MRS. STEPHEN A. DEAN



Mrs. John A. Devine



John A. Devine

enty-four years of age, makes her home with her son Abel. The father is independent in political views, and has never been identified with fraternal orders.

Abel H. Ford was given a public-school education in Iowa and was reared on the home farm. Like many farmers' sons, he was attracted by railroading, and for five years he followed that vocation, only to return to the soil. In 1887 he came to Custer county and settled on a homestead twenty miles northwest of his present property, residing thereon until 1911, when he sold out and purchased his farm in section 36, township 19, range 19, where he has developed a splendid property and made many modern improvements. Mr. Ford follows general farming, in addition to which he raises considerable live stock, and in both departments he has shown himself thoroughly familiar with modern methods of procedure. Through fair dealing and honorable transactions he has built up an excellent reputation in the community, and has gained popular confidence and respect as a public spirited citizen. He is independent in politics, and has no fraternal connections.

In 1887 Mr. Ford married Miss Martha D. Roberts, a daughter of William and Cynthia (Billings) Roberts, of Iowa, and three children have been born to them: Charles F., a farmer six miles northwest of Sargent, married Loula Kenyon; Mamie E., is the wife of Ed Jameson, a farmer of Custer county; and William H. resides at home and assists his father in the operation of the home farm.

JOHN A. DEVINE. — There is all of consistency in entering in this history a definite tribute to the memory of the late John A. Devine, whose were pioneer honors in Custer county and whose character was the positive expression of a strong, loyal, and noble nature. He "stood four-square to every wind that blows;" he wrought well as a member of the world's great army of productive workers; he was content to follow the even tenor of his way without ostentation or any desire to come into the white light of publicity, and he made his life count for good in all of its relations. To the civic and industrial development and upbuilding of Custer county Mr. Devine contributed his quota, and as a citizen he commanded the fullest measure of popular confidence and esteem.

John A. Devine was born in Ireland, on the 2d day of February, 1845, and he was sixty-three years of age at the time of his death, which occurred at his old homestead, near

Oconto, Custer county, in 1909. Mr. Devine was a child when his parents immigrated to America from the fair old Emerald Isle, and the family home was established in Schuylkill county, Pennsylvania, where he was reared to manhood and where he acquired his early education. There was solemnized his marriage to Miss Bridget Ann Sharp, and somewhat later they established their home at Streator, Illinois. In the latter state they continued their residence until 1889, when they came to Custer county, Nebraska, and settled on the homestead which is still the abiding place of Mrs. Devine and three of her children. Here Mr. Devine instituted the reclamation and development of a farm, and here he and his wife endured their full share of the hardships incidental to pioneer life. The passing years brought to them independence and prosperity, and there was not denied to them the fullest measure of good will and esteem on the part of the community in which they lived and labored to goodly ends. It has been consistently said that the word of Mr. Devine was as good as his bond, and thus he fully deserved the high esteem in which he was uniformly held. His religious faith was that of the Catholic church, of which his widow likewise is a devoted communicant, and in politics he gave his allegiance to the Democratic party. Mrs. Devine is now one of the venerable pioneer women of Custer county and here her circle of friends is limited only by that of her acquaintances.

In conclusion is entered brief record concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Devine: Charles is a resident of the state of Illinois; Frank, who has the management of the old home farm, is individually mentioned on other pages of this volume, as is also James V., who is cashier of the Farmers Bank of Oconto, this county; Joseph remains at the old home farm and is associated in its work and management; John, the youngest son, is a dentist by profession and is engaged in practice in the city of Cheyenne, Wyoming; Martha, the widow of Joseph P. Berry, maintains her residence at Oconto, Custer county; Anna is the wife of James Noon, of Joliet, Illinois; and Mary, who is now with her mother on the old homestead, has been a successful and popular teacher in the public schools.

ALEY SHAFER, who is one of the enterprising and industrious young farmers and stock-raisers of Custer county, is well known and well established in the above industries, while in a more personal way he is regarded



Mrs. ANTON DOHESH



ANTON K. DOHESH

with sentiments of highest esteem in the community in which he lives: Not every young man would have proved so unselfish and resourceful as was he — in the face of a domestic calamity — the death of his beloved mother — and his younger brothers and sisters, who have been craefully reared and are a credit to the community, entertain for him justifiable gratitude and affection.

Aley Shafer was born February 12, 1887, four miles north of Comstock, Custer county, Nebraska. He is the third in a family of twelve children born to his parents, Ghile and Dolly (Arnold) Shafer. The father was born in Ohio, where he grew up on a farm and in 1883 he came to Custer county, where he home-steaded and also took a tree claim. For many years he carried on farming and stock-raising with success. In 1915 he retired, and since then he has lived at Comstock. He is a Democrat in his political views. To his marriage with Dolly Arnold, who died in February, 1909, the following children were born: Nora B. is the wife of F. M. Tykward, a railroad man of Whitefish, Montana; Eliza J. is the wife of C. H. Tucker, a farmer near Ord, Nebraska; Aley is the subject of this sketch; Ralph O., who is a farmer near Comstock, married May Hammond; Hilda is the wife of Henry Edler, a farmer near Bennett, Iowa; Grover C., who is a farmer near Comstock, married Alta Day; Alfred K., who conducts a draying business at Comstock, married Georgia Andrews; Everett lives at Comstock; Dolly fills a position as bookkeeper at Whitefish, Montana; Robert W. and Addie make their home with the subject of this record; and Arnold lives at Comstock.

Aley Shafer obtained his early education in the public schools at Comstock. He has always been interested in agricultural pursuits and at the present time is farming 220 acres in Custer county. His stock interests are important and he makes a specialty of Duroc hogs. He owns valuable realty in the city of Comstock.

Mr. Shafer has never married. Circumstances were such when his mother was taken away, that he was called upon for care and devotion in behalf of the small children left motherless, and it was then that the "big brother," Aley, took charge and with the help of his sister-in-law, Mrs. May (Hammond) Shafer and R. O. Shafer, a home atmosphere was created that compensated the children in part for the loss they had sustained in the death of their natural protector. At this time the father was busy with his railway contracts, being in business with his brother, who had a contract with the B. &

M. Railroad, on the Lane cut-off. This brother was later accidentally killed, by the discharge of a revolver that fell on the rails.

Mr. Shafer is a Democrat in politics and fraternally is prominent in the order of Modern Woodmen of America, in which he has been chief forester for the past eight years.

ANTON K. DOBESH. — Down in the Ansley section where this particular member of the Dobesh family resides, it goes without saying that if his name is Dobesh he is a substantial citizen, worthy of all credit and confidence. There are few names more potent in farm and business circles than that old-country name of Dobesh, which has been honored by other men as well as the subject of this sketch.

Anton K. Dobesh was born in a dugout on the old Dobesh homestead in Custer county, Nebraska, in 1883, and comes of rich old-country blood, as is shown in the sketch of his father, Anton P. Dobesh, on another page of this volume.

Anton K. Dobesh married Miss Clara E. Bristol, who was born in Iowa, in 1882, and they are the parents of five bright children, all of whom are at home, their names and respective ages, in 1918, being here noted: Rupert, eleven years; Clara M., eight years; Veronika Virginia, six years; Portia L., three years; and Anton K., Jr., one and one-half years. The first three children are now attending the public schools and the two younger children may be said to be arbiters of the household affairs in the Dobesh home.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Dobesh began life in a sod house, but are to-day the owners of one section, or 640 acres, of good land, which is in a high state of cultivation and equipped with good improvements. The sulendid outfit of modern farm implements is well housed in machine sheds, and every possible convenience of modern farming is in evidence. Good grades of live stock, including Poland-China hogs and Red Durham cattle, are well featured and made prominent in the live-stock operations, conducted in connection with diversified agriculture.

This family, like other families of the same name, bears a splendid reputation, and Mr. and Mrs. Dobesh are counted as very valuable citizens and neighbors. Mrs. Dobesh is a member of the Baptist church. Mr. Dobesh affiliates with no political party and announces that he is an independent voter and considers well the man to whom he gives the favors of his franchise. He is living on land which he bought from his father.

Patriotic appeals of the war drive have been met with generous response in liberal contributions on the part of Mr. and Mrs. Dobesh. Two near relatives of the family are in the war service at the time of this writing—Lawrence Bristol, brother of Mrs. Dobesh, is at Camp Ward, and Arthur Dobesh, a cousin of Anton K., is in the aviation corps and is in France. Prior to her marriage Mrs. Dobesh was a successful and popular teacher in the Custer county schools, and she thus continued her work in the pedagogic profession for six years.

HUDSON J. FRASER. — One of the substantial men of affairs living in the eastern portion of Custer county is the subject whose name appears above. Although unencumbered with domestic affairs, Hudson Jay Fraser rendered to his parents a commendable service and has helped to develop the local resources of his community. Mr. Fraser hails from the Empire state. He was born March 9, 1869. He is a son of Charles and Lorinda (Hays) Fraser, both of whom were natives of New York. The father's lifelong occupation was that of farming, although at times he worked in the timber of northern Michigan, where he also did some trapping. In the father's family were six children, three of whom are now living. These, aside from the subject of these lines, are Clara, who lives with her brother on the farm, and Nellie, the wife of R. P. Moore. In the common schools of New York Mr. Fraser received his early education and later he attended school at Grand Island, Nebraska. He never married but has chosen to follow all these years the path of single blessedness.

Hudson Jay Fraser came with his parents to Custer county at the age of twelve years. The father located the homestead which is still the family home and upon which Hudson Jay Fraser made his home until 1897, when he bought land near Westerville, where he lived until the 1st of March, 1914. Then he returned to the old homestead to render much needed assistance to his mother. The mother died that same year, her death occurring June 6, 1914. The father had died in August the year before. Charles Fraser had always been active and prominent in local affairs, serving on the school board for a number of years. He was a Democrat in politics and he and his wife were members of the Methodist church. They experienced the common lot of pioneers. Lumber for their house had to be hauled from Grand Island and all the provisions had to be

freighted from the same place. With a horse team it required five days to make the round trip. During the first winter they hauled wood for fuel, from the canyons near Westcott, about ten miles away. Their first habitations were made of sod and in these they passed their pioneer days.

In his youth Hudson J. Fraser herded cattle, for which he earned seven dollars a month, but in spite of privations, droughts and small wages, the family succeeded in making a home in the new country, and to-day their improved and developed farm is a valued Custer county asset.

HENRY B. GLOVER. — One of the widely known and representative men of Custer county who is first and foremost in farming, stock-raising, and promotion of public affairs, is the substantial citizen introduced by the title line. Deserving of more extended mention than these paragraphs can afford, we regret our inability adequately to present the subject and his farm surroundings to the reader who many not know him.

Mr. Glover was born in Livingston county, Illinois, September 24, 1861, and is a son of Samuel L. and Martha J. (Dunn) Glover. Samuel L. Glover is a native of the Empire state, and his wife was born in Erie county, Pennsylvania. Samuel L. Glover removed to Illinois in 1857 and established himself in farming. Prior to that time he had been running a grocery store in Erie, Pennsylvania. He lived in Illinois for thirty years, and then came to Custer county, Nebraska, where he bought the ranch upon which he made his home until his recent death, July 6, 1918. His widow still resides on the ranch and enjoys life at the advanced age of eighty-four years. These parents brought into the world six children, all of whom have done great credit to their home and parentage: Deett is the wife of J. W. McRae, a Colorado farmer living near La Veta; Mary E. is the widow of Elva T. Potter and lives on the old home place; Grace is the widow of Eugene V. Sparks and she, too, lives on the home place; the fourth in the family is Henry B., who is the subject of these lines; Percy D. married Augusta Lower and is farming in the vicinity of Westerville; Sidney L. married Mrs. Lena Peterson, *nee* Christensen, and they also are living near Westerville.

Henry B. Glover was educated in the common schools of Illinois and attended the high school at Dwight, that state.



HENRY B. GLOVER

April 6, 1907, at Lincoln, Nebraska, Mr. Glover led to the marriage altar Miss Corda Johnson, a lady of unusual culture, she being the esteemed daughter of Reuben and Celina (Sisson) Johnson, who were Custer county pioneers, having come to the county in 1894. Here Mr. Johnson purchased part of a school section and leased the rest of it. The section was number 36, township 17, range 18. Mr. Johnson served for several years on the board of supervisors, and his death occurred in 1903. In the Johnson family circle were seven children, five of whom are living. All of the surviving children have their homes in Custer county with the exception of Charles, who resides in Atlanta, Georgia. Charles Johnson was prominent in the organization of a bank at Callaway and also one at Gering, this state.

Mr. and Mrs. Glover maintain an elegant home on one of the best improved farms in the county—a farm whose improvements would compare well with those of the farms in any state, in any locality. Here are big farm houses, one of which was occupied by Mr. Glover himself and the other by his father during his life time and now by his mother and sisters. Here are big barns, extensive sheds and hog houses, the strongest kind of fences, water systems, and every modern convenience, so that the place may well be termed a model farm. The landed holdings amount to 1,080 acres. The stock consists of Poland-China hogs of the large and bony type, fashionable black Angus cattle, and draft Percherons. Some of the cattle and horses are registered in herd and stallion books as aristocratic types.

No children of their own have blessed the home of Mr. and Mrs. Glover, but their benevolent disposition has contributed to the comfort and life equipment of two children whom they have taken into their home—Clarence J. Forte, who came to the Glover home at eleven years of age, is now twenty-one years old and is at the time of this writing, at Camp Funston, in the service of the country; a bright girl, Gertrude Johnson, is now an inmate of the home, where she enjoys all the privileges of a favored daughter.

Aside from being a leading and extensive farmer, Henry B. Glover has always been prominent in politics, as a Republican leader. In 1907 he was elected to the state senate, in which he represented Blaine, Loup, Valley, and Custer counties. He made a splendid record in the senate and has always been counted as an honest, dependable, progressive citizen who could be safely charged with the promotion of all public enterprises.

WILLIS G. WILLIAMS is a Kentuckian by birth, but he has lived in Custer county thirty years and has here made a signal success of his farming operations. He lives in the north part of the county, where he is widely and favorably known.

Mr. Williams was born March 17, 1856, and is a son of William and Mary (Hale) Williams. His father was a farmer who in the early days of the '60s entered the service of his country and served throughout the duration of the Civil war. Little of the father's operations during the war are remembered by the son, but the honorable discharge attested a valuable service rendered. The mother died in Kentucky March 8, 1897. In the parental home were five children, three of whom are still living—Willis G. is the subject whose name is in the title line; George L. is now living at Morrill, Nebraska, where he conducts a farm, the maiden name of his wife having been Linnie Tarleton; and Polly is the wife of John Faulkner, residing in Kentucky.

The early life of Willis G. Williams was passed in Kentucky, where he received a liberal education, and where also his farming activities commenced. He arrived in Custer county, October 19, 1887.

March 14, 1889, Mr. Williams married Mary C. Pfrehm, a daughter of John A. and Mary (Swigart-Miller) Pfrehm, who came to this county in 1879. Mrs. Williams' father homesteaded in section 32, and this property now belongs to his daughter Emma. He also filed on a tree claim at the same time. He was a Democrat politically, and was rated as a splendid citizen. The mother was a member of the German Lutheran church. The parents died in this county, the father in 1885, and the mother in 1899.

Twenty-seven years ago Mr. and Mrs. Willis G. Williams bought the land on which they now have their farm home and do a general farming and stock-raising business. This farm, however, has recently been sold, and they are undecided where they will effect their future location.

Into the family circle of this estimable couple have come eight children: Effie P. is living at home; Minnie A., the wife of Archie Brooks, lives on a farm near Morrill, Nebraska; Claude C., who married Hattie Barger, lives on a farm north of Walworth; Charles R. and Arthur G., and the twins, Earl O. and Essie M., are all at home.

Mr. Williams affiliates with the Democratic party, and in local circles has been very active in everything that will tend to the upbuilding of the community. He has served

as moderator and clerk of school district No. 40 for many years. The family are connected with the Methodist church. Mr. Williams is a member of the Loyal Mystic Legion of America.

In the family story of Mrs. Williams is an incident illustrating some of the difficulties encountered by pioneers. In the early period of their homesteading, the father of Mrs. Williams farmed in Lancaster county in the summer of 1880, while the children remained with the mother at home in Custer county, in order to complete the homestead rights. On one occasion, while the father was away, the mother was herding the cattle by means of ropes, when the cattle became unruly and ran away, tangling the ropes around the feet of Mrs. Pfrehm, which threw her to the ground and broke her hip. This caused her to faint from the pain, and she lay on the ground in the hot sun from ten o'clock in the forenoon until five in the afternoon, when one of the neighbors, who became alarmed at her absence, went out and found her. She never recovered from this injury.

G. W. PENSE. — Here follows in outline the story of seventy-nine years, and brings to the front one of the veterans of the Civil war, a man who has seen the first years of the frontier life and a man who has well earned the reputation and comfort he enjoys at the present time.

G. W. Pense was born in Perry county, Ohio, June 12, 1840. He is a son of John and Nancy (Gammon) Pense. His father before him was a farmer, yet, like most of the men of his generation, he had some trade, and in this instance the father had served as apprentice and learned the cooper's trade, besides which he had occasionally worked at shoe cobbling and was enough of a shoemaker to be able to make shoes for his own family. John Pense moved from Ohio to Wisconsin in 1845, and from there to Illinois, where he resided until his death, which occurred in 1857. In his family were ten children seven of whom are living at the present time, but G. W. Pense is the only one living in Custer county. He has a brother, A. L. Pense, who is now located at Scottsbluff, but who formerly lived at Westerville, Custer county, where he conducted a furniture store when that town was "on the map."

G. W. Pense was educated in the public schools of Illinois but did not have opportunity to pursue his studies as long as desired. Nine months made up the real school privileges that he enjoyed. He made the best

of these, however, and, being of an intelligent, keen mind, he augmented the fundamental principles received in the schools until his education qualified him for all the transactions incident to common life.

September 8, 1861, Mr. Pense married Araminta Black, at Pleasant Green, Illinois. A year later he enlisted in the army, and he served until July 1, 1865, rendering a hard, yet in some ways remarkable, service. He was never wounded or taken prisoner. He was in successive engagements from Perryville, Kentucky, onward, and finally got back to Nashville, Tennessee. During a period of three months there were only five days in which he was not in some battle or skirmish. During his early years he learned the blacksmith trade at which he worked at different times, but he gave it up in Warren county, Illinois and commenced farming.

In 1874 Mr. Pense came from Illinois to Clay county, Nebraska, where he resumed blacksmithing. From Clay county he came to Custer county in 1881. He took a timber claim and lived here until he went to that part of Cherry county which is now Blaine county, where he owned land which is now known as the Rankin ranch. This he sold, and thereafter he bought and sold different properties until he retired from active work. He now lives on the farm of his son-in-law, Monroe Freeman.

During his early residence in Custer county, and also during a few years residence in Sherman county, Mr. Pense became acquainted with the Olivers, Mitchells, and Ketchums, and he is familiar with many of the details connected with the Oliver, Mitchell and Ketchum tragedy. He gives lucid account of the transactions in that connection, which in substance agrees with the Mitchell, Ketchum, and Oliver story recorded elsewhere in this volume.

Mr. and Mrs. Pense became parents of ten children, nine of whom are living at the present time: Mrs. Monroe Freeman and Harry Monroe Pense are the only ones living in this county.

Mr. Pense is the owner of a mining claim in the west and he is confident that this will some day be very valuable. While proving up on his claim he turned his hand to taxidermy, in which handicraft he made a remarkable showing. Some of his work makes splendid exhibition to-day in some of the eastern museums. At the time he lived in Sherman county he employed spare time and winter evenings in different musical entertainments, and he was often called upon to play for dances in Westerville, West Union, and in



PERCY D. GLOVER

MRS. PERCY D. GLOVER

different places in the county. On these trips his daughter, now Mrs. Freeman, accompanied him, and played the cello as an accompaniment to his violin. She was then so small that she had to stand on a chair to reach the instrument. The veteran and the pioneer has performed his service, has reared his family and deserves the rest that he enjoys in the years of his retirement.

PERCY D. GLOVER, who is a substantial citizen of Custer county, Nebraska, a prosperous farmer and stock-raiser at a time when these industries are, perhaps, of more importance than ever before in the history of this country, has lived continuously in Custer county for the past thirty-three years. He came here in 1885, in early manhood, accompanying his father, who came here with capital and invested in land, purchasing the old Payne ranch, which is one of the well known places of the county.

Percy D. Glover was born April 27, 1863, in Livingston county, Illinois. His parents were Samuel and Martha J. (Dunn) Glover, the father having been born near Utica, New York, and the mother in Erie county, Pennsylvania. They had six children, as follows: Deett is the wife of Joseph W. McRae, a farmer, and they live near La Veta, in Huerfano county, Colorado; Mary E. is the widow of Elva Potter; Grace is the widow of Eugene Spafks, who died in 1913; Henry B., who is a farmer and lives on Glover's ranch, married Corda A. Johnson; Percy D., of this sketch, was next in order of birth; and Sidney L., who is a farmer near Westerville, this county, married Lena Christensen Peterson.

In the public schools of Livingston county, Illinois, Percy D. Glover obtained excellent educational training and there he worked on his father's farm until he was twenty-two years of age. He then came to Custer county, on the Payne ranch, which his father bought. Mr. Glover himself bought a homestead right in the same vicinity and on this he lived until 1904, when he moved on his present fine farm, which he has been operating ever since, its location being in section 12, township 17. He has always been a hard-working man and his honest and upright course in all neighborhood affairs has gained him the confidence and esteem of all who know him. He carries on his agricultural operations according to modern methods and has introduced improvements that add to the efficiency of all his farm activities.

In January, 1887, Mr. Glover was united in

marriage to Miss Augusta S. Lower, who was a daughter of Abraham and Catherine (Miller) Lower, who had twelve children. Of these children the following named survive and all are well known and respected in their respective communities: Margaret is the wife of Walter Morrison, who is manager of the Country Club at Kansas City, Missouri; Albert M., who is in the real-estate business at Dwight, Illinois, married Mary Lorigan; Le Roy, who is a farmer in Livingston county, Illinois, and owns a garage at Campus, married Hannah Morris; Frank, who is a farmer near Dwight, Illinois, married Mary Weller; Marietta is the wife of Cyrus Hiddleston, of Cabery, Ford county, Illinois; Lillian is the wife of Thomas Maguire, a farmer near Campus; Grace is the wife of Ben C. Morris, a farmer near Ames, Iowa; and Gertrude is the wife of John Parsons, who is manager of a lumber yard at Piper City, Illinois. Mrs. Glover died in May, 1914, having become the mother of sixteen children, fifteen of whom survive her, namely: Earl, who was born May 19, 1888, and is a farmer on Glover's ranch, married Nellie Johnson; Fay, who was born November 19, 1889, and who is a farmer north of Ansley, Custer county, married Irma Mattley; Guy, who was born March 1, 1891, is a farmer on the family ranch; Ruth, who was born May 12, 1892, remains with her father; Lloyd, who was born December 28, 1893, and who is a farmer on Glover's ranch, married Lena Fountain; Glen, who was born May 14, 1895, is, at the time of this writing, with the American Expeditionary Forces in France, attached to the medical department; and the names and respective dates of birth of the other children are here noted—Rex, October 16, 1896; Frank, February 5, 1901; Ray, March 8, 1902; Seth, July 11, 1903; Ted, December 5, 1904; Max, December 29, 1905; Grace, February 23, 1907; Ralph, July 18, 1908; and Clyde, July 15, 1909. A daughter, born March 23, 1899, died September 20, 1899. Mr. Glover may well be proud of this fine family and he has given his children every advantage in his power. He has always been a Republican in politics, like his father, and at present is serving as treasurer of school district No. 98.

HENRY J. PFREHM.—Heralded in the title line is a German name that belongs to a patriotic American citizen who in all war activities and bond drives has done all that was in his power to do. He is a pioneer of the early days, a homesteader of the virgin soil,



JOHN A. DIETZ AND FAMILY

and a man who in Custer county has expended years of effort and hard toil.

Henry J. Pfrehm was born in Illinois, August 10, 1865. He is a son of John A. Pfrehm, who was born at Swarzbach, Germany, in 1821, and who came to America in 1852. The mother was a native of Wurtemberg, Germany, and born in 1832. She came to America with her parents in 1851, and settled in Petersburg, Illinois. The same fall she was married to a man by the name of Helies, who died in less than a year. Her maiden name was Mary Swigart. In 1853 she and John A. Pfrehm, father of Henry J. Pfrehm were married at Petersburg, Illinois, where they lived until 1868, when they moved to a farm. They were the parents of twelve children, all born in Menard county, Illinois—John G., William, Lewis J., Frank A., George, Anna M., August W., Henry J., Mary, Emma E., Dora K., and Edward P. The family lived on Indian creek until 1871 when they moved to Petersburg, and they lived in Illinois until 1879, when they moved into the vicinity of Crete, Nebraska, where they stopped but a short time, and came on, making final settlement in West Union, Custer county. Here they settled on the southwest quarter of section 32. The father filed on this homestead June 16, 1879, and then returned to Crete and brought some of the family to the new home. Part of them, however, were left on the farm at Crete, and thus they passed the first winter with the family divided, living in two places. To keep in touch with each division of the family Mr. Pfrehm was on the road traveling most of the winter. Mr. Pfrehm took sick in 1886 and died in December, 1888, his wife surviving him by ten years and passing away in 1898.

Henry J. Pfrehm was married December 21, 1893, to Maggie E. Bitter, a daughter of Louis and Marie (Shark) Bitter, who were homesteaders in this county, near Walworth. Henry J. Pfrehm and his wife have never been blessed with children. They homesteaded near Walworth and now own the claim and home of his brother Frank A., deceased. They have in their combined holdings a half-section of land, one-quarter of which is owned by the husband and one-quarter by the wife. They conduct a general farming and stock business, have good buildings and are respected and highly spoken of by their neighbors. Mr. Pfrehm is a Democrat in politics, and both he and his wife are members of the Methodist church.

JOHN A. DIETZ. — One might travel all day and half the night without finding a more substantial or reliable farmer-citizen than the one who bears the well known name in the title line above. In the central part of the county John, as he is familiarly known by his friends and neighbors, is rated as one of the progressive spirits and foremost farmers.

Mr. Dietz was born in Green county, Wisconsin, in 1864. He is a son of Jacob and Fannie (Meacham) Dietz. The father was a native of Pennsylvania and the mother a native of New York. Both were very excellent people, and at a ripe old age they are living in comfortable retirement in the state of Wisconsin, to which commonwealth the senior Dietz and his family moved in 1856, and where, in 1861, this worthy couple were joined in holy wedlock. It was there that their children, seven of them in number, were born—Walter W. (deceased), John A., Laura L., Mary B. (deceased), Charles H., Nettie L., and Stanley J.

John A. Dietz was a young man when he came to Nebraska, and he located first in Buffalo county, where his residence terminated after two years. From that section of the state he came to Custer county and bought a half-section of land in the Custer Center community, in 1889.

In January of 1888 Mr. Dietz married Jessie M. Taylor, in Buffalo county. She is a daughter of Miner Taylor and Lenora (Stearns) Taylor. In her father's family were the following children: Elisha, Louisa Wiggins, Jerome, Julia Wells (deceased), Alpha (deceased), Allan, Jessie M., Frank E., Hettie M. Jacobs, Nellie E., and Willis W. In 1890 Miner Taylor came into Custer county, where he bought a quarter-section of land near to the holdings of his son-in-law, John A. Dietz, and the two formed a sort of partnership by which they farmed together and together purchased more land until their holdings were rather extensive. The partnership, however, has been dissolved for several years and Mr. Dietz operates 343 acres of well improved land seven miles northwest of Broken Bow. The buildings on this place, including the farm home, are of the first order and make this a very desirable farm, there being none better in the central part of the county. The farming operations are of a general character. Red polled cattle are prominently featured, Poland-China hogs are bred in big-boned types, and all horses, hogs, cattle, or stock of any kind

on the Dietz farm are well fed, receive good care, and are handled under conditions that make them profitable.

In the community Mr. Dietz is rated as unusually prominent. He is a member of the Odd Fellows and the local Grange, and for eighteen years has served as a member of the school board. Patriotic and loyal to the government, he has responded liberally to all the appeals made by different war works—a subscriber to the bond drives, to the Red Cross, to the Y. M. C. A. work, and thrift-stamp drive. In addition to this, two of his boys entered the service, and both were in France, at the time this sketch was being prepared.

In the Dietz home are seven children: Eva L., C. L. (in the service of the United States, in France), Stacey T., Elsie F., Howard S. (in France), Donald F., and Delma L. The family enjoy the confidence and respect of the community in which they live, and are a credit to the county in which Mr. Dietz is a responsible citizen.

JOSEPH LEUI.—Because of the number, importance and variety of his interests, Joseph Leui is accounted one of the most prominent business men of Comstock, and for a number of years has also been largely interested in farming and stock-raising. He is president of the Stock Buying Market, and in numerous ways his connection with civic and business affairs has contributed to progress and development in this thriving community.

Mr. Leui was born September 30, 1871, on a farm in Jefferson county, Missouri, and is a son of Balthazer and Frances (Teodorski) Leui. His father was a native of Switzerland who emigrated to the United States in young manhood and fought as a soldier during the entire period of the Civil war, participating in the battle of Gettysburg and many other famous engagements, but never being wounded or taken prisoner. When he returned from the war he adopted the vocation of agriculturist and settled in Missouri, where he married a native of that state, and resided in Jefferson county until 1874, when he moved to Saunders county, Nebraska. Here he took a homestead, on which he lived for about sixteen years, and then moved to Hayes county, which was his home until the close of his life. He was a man of marked intelligence, industry and business capacity and made a decided success of his ventures. He and Mrs. Leui were the parents of ten children, of whom seven are living: Etta, who is the wife of E. B. Woolley, residing in Hayes county; Joseph; Cath-

erine, the wife of Abner Moore, of Hayes county; Sarah A., the wife of George Moore, of the same county; and Frank, LeRoy, and Fred, all residing in the same county. The father of these children was a staunch Republican in politics, and he and the mother were strongly religious people.

Joseph Leui was but three years of age when the family moved to Nebraska, and he has therefore spent practically all of his life in this state. He was educated in the schools of Saunders county for the most part, and when he began his independent career it was as a farmer, a vocation to which he is still attached in an important way. For two years after leaving Saunders county he was a resident of Brown county, but in 1910 came to Custer county, where he now owns 320 acres of fine land just west of the city of Comstock, and this is well improved and highly cultivated. In addition Mr. Leui is extensively engaged in buying and selling cattle and hogs, and is president of the Stock Buying Market, an organization composed of leading Comstock business men, ranchers and farmers. His standing is exceptionally high in business circles and his associates depend upon his judgment and ability in matters of importance. In the field of real estate he has important connections, and carries on a large and thriving business in partnership with E. F. Skolil, in which he has transacted some large deals. Likewise he has an interest in an implement and plumbing business at Comstock, and also is part owner, with F. J. Skolil, in an automobile and truck business. His time is thus considerably occupied with his private affairs, but he has never been one to shirk the responsibilities of citizenship, and was recently a candidate on the Republican ticket for supervisor of the Comstock district. Mrs. Leui is a member of the Congregational church.

Mr. Leui was married near David City, Nebraska, January 19, 1893, to Miss Eva Allen, daughter of Solomon and Anna (Whitney) Allen, who were pioneer settlers of Butler county. To this union there have been born six children: Foster A., who has been in England with the United States army, being a member of the Eighty-ninth Division of Infantry, was wounded in action November 1, 1918, and up to the time of the revision of this sketch no word had been received as to his condition; Ralph, also a patriotic soldier, with Company B, Machine Gun Battalion, American Expeditionary Forces, in France, was killed in action November 2, 1918; and Robert H., Harvey, Bessie, and Freddie are all at home with their parents.

HARRY M. BENTLEY, who is carrying on farming and stockraising operations in a modern and successful way not far from Sargent, has been a resident of Custer county practically all of his life, and is a product of its schools. He was born at Jackson, Jackson county, Minnesota, October 24, 1877, a son of Isaac and Lucinda (Pinchin) Bentley, the former a native of Chemung county, New York, and the latter of Steuben county, in the same state.

Isaac Bentley in his young manhood learned the trade of stone mason, which he followed with some degree of success until he turned his attention to farming, and at which he has been employed at odd times throughout his career. In 1865 he moved to Wisconsin, where he was employed on a farm for four years, and then went to Iowa, where he resided for a like period. Subsequently he took up his residence in Jackson county, Minnesota, and that was his home until he decided to come to Custer county, the family driving in from Iowa in a wagon. On his arrival here, the father pre-empted land in section 33, township 20, range 17, and settled down to farming, and is still the owner of his original farm, which is largely worked by his son Harry M. While Mr. Isaac Bentley is now eighty-four years of age, he still retains his strength and activity, and during 1918 stacked over 100 acres of wheat. He is also possessed of his faculties, and his memory frequently carries him back to the early days of the county, at which times he relates many interesting reminiscences. During the first four years of his residence in the county, prairie fires burned all the available wood, and the early settlers were compelled to cut heavy weeds and dry them for their winter supply of fuel. Mr. Bentley was forced to travel to Scotia, a distance of fifty miles, to reach the nearest mill, and there were numerous other discomforts and hardships, but he courageously persevered, and has lived to see his locality a prosperous and productive one. Of the five children born to Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Bentley, three are living: Byron, who married Edna Toorey, and is engaged in farming north of Taylor, Nebraska; Harry M.; and Clara, who is the wife of Richard Brockus, of Casper, Wyoming, connected with the Standard Oil Company.

Harry M. Bentley was a child when brought by his parents to Custer county, and his education was completed here in school district No. 207, located in section 32. He has been a farmer and stock-raiser all of his life, and has been well satisfied with his vocation, which has brought him contentment and prosperity, and given him a position among his fellow-

men as a substantial and reliable citizen. In addition to farming his father's land, he is the owner of a well-improved farm of eighty acres, in section 32, township 1, which is under a high state of cultivation and improved with modern buildings and equipment. In politics Mr. Harry M. Bentley is independent, and for the past five years has served his community in the capacity of school director. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and both he and Mrs. Bentley belong to the Royal Neighbors.

Harry M. Bentley was married January 11, 1905, to Miss Jessie Grint, who was born near Sargent, daughter of J. E. Grint an agriculturist east of that place. To this union there have been born three children: Ruth, born July 9, 1908; Verna, born July 5, 1910; and Chris, born October 30, 1912.

FRED KLANECKY is one of the men of Custer county who can point with justifiable pride to their accomplishments in the fields of agriculture and stock-raising. When he entered upon his career in 1899, his equipment, aside from three horses and some antiquated farm equipment, consisted principally of his ability, self-reliance and determination; today he is one of the most prosperous farmers of the Sargent community, although he is but in the prime of life.

Mr. Klanecky was born in the city of Baltimore, Maryland, August 10, 1875, and is a son of Joseph and Anna (Dolezal) Klanecky, natives of Austria. His father was a shoemaker by trade and followed that occupation in the old country, as well as in Baltimore, where he brought his family in 1874. He was making moderate progress when an epidemic of cholera struck Baltimore, after he had resided there three years, and he accordingly fled the city and went to Omaha, where he found employment in a smelter. In 1882 he came to Custer county and located on a homestead in sections 33 and 34, but after he had his family settled on the farm found that he must have money to buy a cow as well as to have a necessary well sunk. As money was scarce in the family as well as in the community, he resolutely walked back to Omaha, where he was again employed in the smelter, and thus earned the money necessary to carry the family through until such time as the products of the farm would furnish the means of a livelihood. Eventually Mr. Klanecky became a successful and prosperous citizen of his community, developed a valuable farm, and lived to see his children all comfortably established in life and living within thirty miles



RESIDENCE OF CONRAD FLEISHMAN

of the homestead. He continued to carry on operations until his death, which occurred December 26, 1913. His first wife died at Omaha, in 1881, and he was again married, his widow, who owns the homestead, now being a resident of Sargent. He had three sons by his first wife and three sons and three daughters by his second marriage, and all the children are married except two. Mrs. Klanecky is a member of the Catholic church, to which her husband also belonged.

Fred Klanecky was seven years old when the family came to the Custer county homestead, and at that time deer were still to be found in abundance, furnishing meat for the family larder during the first hard years. He secured his education in dugout and sod schoolhouses, and in 1899 began farming operations on his own account. At that time he was possessed of three horses, a plow and a cultivator, but went into debt for 160 acres of land and homesteaded 120 acres more. He and his wife both worked industriously and indefatigably, with the result that at the end of seventeen years they were not only free from debt, but sold their farm for \$11,200. At the present time Mr. Klanecky is the owner of 425 acres of some of the best land to be found in Custer county and this he has improved with fine buildings and modern equipment of all kinds. This is in marked contrast to the early days, when his buildings were necessarily of the plainest sort and his equipment the same, and when he was forced to haul water for stock and family use over one-half mile. Mr. Klanecky is one of the intelligent agriculturists of his region, progressive and enterprising, and a man of the highest integrity. He is a Republican in politics, and he and Mrs. Klanecky are members of the Catholic church.

On November 14, 1898, Mr. Klanecky was married to Miss Mary Benda, daughter of pioneers of 1882 in Valley county, who now live at Ord, having retired upon a well-earned competence. Three children have been born to this union, and all remain at the parental home, their names and respective dates of birth being here recorded: Anna, March 31, 1900; Frank, January 17, 1912; Agnes, September 16, 1913.

CONRAD FLEISHMAN.—Among the early settlers of Custer county who have here made good use of opportunities, mention should be made of Conrad Fleishman.

Mr. Fleishman was born in Bavaria, Germany, February 26, 1849, and is a son of Heronomous and Barbara (Haverman)

Fleishman, who spent their entire lives in Bavaria. Conrad Fleishman was reared in his native land and in 1870, when a young man of twenty-one years, to escape Prussian militarism, he came to the United States, landing in New York city. He went from there to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and as he did not have any trade he went to work on a farm, as the means of securing a living. For his services he received fourteen dollars a month as wages.

On October 16, 1876, at New London, Wisconsin, Mr. Fleishman was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Pulaski, who was born in Posen, Germany, August 25, 1853. She was a young woman of nineteen when she came to America and soon after their marriage the young couple went to Door county, Wisconsin, where they bought forty acres of land and where they made their home until they came to Nebraska in 1880. On coming to this state they resided one year in Phelps county, and in 1881 they came to Custer county and took a homestead in section 22, township 18, range 22. Not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made, but they set to work to develop a farm and make a home. Their first house was built of sod and was ten by twelve feet in dimensions. When the family outgrew this primitive domicile, Mr. Fleishman built a second one and later was built a third sod house, which still stands. In 1905 Mr. Fleishman erected a modern, twelve-room, frame house, which constitutes as fine a home as can be found in the neighborhood. For many years he was actively engaged in farming, but he now rents his land and is living retired. He has been successful in his venture as a farmer in Custer county and to-day owns 640 acres.

Mr. and Mrs. Fleishman became the parents of nine children as follows: Anna is the wife of Henry T. Michele, a farmer of Dale valley; George is engaged in farming near the old home; Frank, John, and Theodore are deceased, all having reached young manhood; Agnes is teaching the home school; Matilda, now "Sister Genevieve," is in a convent at Gregory, South Dakota; Leo is in the national army at the time of this writing; and Minnie is a teacher in the Custer county schools. The family are communicants of the Catholic church.

After becoming a citizen of the United States Mr. Fleishman had the usual experiences that fell to the lot of the early settlers, but he bravely met and overcame all obstacles and helped to make Custer county a better place in which to live. Mrs. Fleishman tells of the trip from Phelps county, when they drove an ox team and wagon. She says the



HOME OF GEORGE FLEISHMAN

old sod house had no window when she arrived, though there was a hole left in the wall for the window. These sterling pioneers have lived to see their children all grown and taking care of themselves in the world, and they can look back upon the past without regret and forward to the future without fear.

JAMES B. STONE.—It is not always Germany, Sweden, Bohemia or Ireland that furnishes the elementary thrift that flourishes and blossoms in the new land of the west. England, too, has furnished some of the sturdy sons who have rendered a remarkable service in county development. James B. Stone, whose name heads this paragraph, is a native of England and comes of English blood of rare and ancient lineage. He was born July 31, 1877. His parents were Henry and Sarah (Rich) Stone. The father was a farmer during most of his life, although for twelve years he worked on the Great Western R. R. in England, part of which time he was a foreman. He came to the United States in April, 1886, and made his way to Custer county, where he landed without any money. He homesteaded on Clear creek, where he made his home for twelve or thirteen years. He then moved to Lee Park, where he lived for five years. He sold his homestead to Robert Stone, his brother, and moved into Valley county, where he spent the remainder of his life. He died July 20, 1918. His wife, the mother of James B., still owns the Valley county land but makes her home in Arcadia. There were five children in the family of Henry Stone. They were: Emma, wife of J. W. Christian, lives in Arcadia. Albert married Nettie Potter and is now living in Taylor, Loup county. The third born is the subject of this sketch. Simon married Fannie Jewel and is living in Washington. Fred married Vina Stevenson and is living on a farm near Arcadia, Nebraska. The senior Stone was independent in politics and both he and his wife were members of the Methodist church. Young James received part of his education in England but finished in the schools of Nebraska. With his parents he came direct from England to North Loup and was driven from North Loup to the Robert Stone homestead, east of Comstock. His parents brought with them four children of their own and three children of Thomas Stone, a brother who had lost his wife, which made them a family of seven children, to look after on the long voyage across the water. They were thirteen days in making the trip. Thomas Stone, a brother of Henry and father of the

three children mentioned above, was one of the early settlers of this county. He now lives in Valley county. One of his children remained in England until she was 16 years of age.

John B. Stone was married August 24, 1904, to Minnie L. Luedtke, a native daughter of the West who was born and raised only two miles from her present residence. She is a daughter of August and Roselle (Cook) Luedtke. Her parents were Valley county pioneers. Both are now deceased. In their family circle were five children. He was a Republican in national politics, but independent in county and state.

The Stones maintain a splendid and hospitable home and are hard working and thrifty people, obliging neighbors, always ready to contribute to those who need help and lend active assistance to any worthy cause. For years James B. Stone was a noted "gizzard eater," but the last few years he passes the dainty morsels over to his immediate younger generation, which consists of two sturdy boys and two splendid, blue-eyed girls.

GEORGE FLEISHMAN.—One of the younger agriculturists of Custer county who has made a success of his undertakings is the subject of this review.

George Fleishman was born at Sister Bay, Door county, Wisconsin, September 30, 1878, and is a son of Conrad Fleishman, whose record as a pioneer will be found on other pages of this volume.

Young Fleishman was a lad of four years when the family home was established in Custer county. As a boy he watched the progress and growth, and as a young man he learned the best methods of planting and harvesting, under the guidance of his father. When he reached manhood he wisely chose the occupation to which he had been reared, and while yet under the parental roof began farming for himself. For the past ten years he has occupied his present farm, a valuable tract of 160 acres, under a high state of cultivation, with as good a set of buildings as can be found in this locality, all of which have been put here by the present owner.

For a companion and helpmate Mr. Fleishman chose Miss Anna Bader, who was born in Illinois, a daughter of Stephen and Monica (Sulzman) Bader, natives of Germany, who came to the United States when young people and were married in Illinois. In 1888 the parents of Mrs. Fleishman came to Custer county, Nebraska, and took a homestead north-

east of Anselmo. The mother died in this county, August 9, 1905. The father married again and is still living. Mrs. Fleishman was reared in Custer county, was educated in the district and Broken Bow schools and at the time of her marriage was a popular teacher in the Custer county schools. She has become the mother of three children — Monica, Theresa, and George Conrad.

Mr. and Mrs. Fleishman are members of the Catholic church and are held in the highest of esteem by all who know them.

R. B. SARGENT. — There are few names in Custer county more widely known than the one written above. The Sargents have been a prominent family of pioneers, as six of the boys settled here in early days.

R. B. Sargent was born in Illinois but moved to Iowa when eleven years old. Several of his sisters live there now. When he was twenty-two years old the desire to see the great, promised west led him, with his brother John, to visit this "Great American Desert." They were so well pleased with the prospects that they filed on places and returned to settle up business, and bring stock for the new land. Their glowing tales persuaded others, and soon several of their old neighbors were new ones.

In the spring of 1882 Mr. Sargent built his sod shanty in section 6, township 19, range 18, in what is now known as Sargent valley. Later he sold this place and bought where he now lives.

In July, 1891, Mr. Sargent was married to Lizzie Chrisman, daughter of Joseph and Lucy Chrisman, also pioneers. They have four children: Glenn, Charles, Irene, and Kenneth, and all live at home except Charles, who married Thelma Ross; they now live on their farm.

Mr. Sargent tells of many experiences in early days, when towns were few and far away. He tells of many interesting incidents while hauling cedar posts from the "Dismal Swamps" to sell to the settlers at Westerville, the round trip requiring eight days. On one occasion he and his brother, while making the trip, were caught in a snow storm which covered the ground a foot deep with snow. It took five days to reach home, and provisions were getting scarce. On another trip one of his neighbors lost one of his horses shortly after starting on the return trip but he was equal to the occasion. He threw off half his load of posts; tied the singletree of the one horse fast to the wagon and, carrying the

other end of the neckyoke, a week later he reached his shack.

Mr. Sargent and his brother worked at the blacksmith trade in spare time and made eighty or ninety primitive "antelope" breaking-plows which they sold to their neighbors. With these plows was turned the soil of many of Custer county's first farms. A few of these old plows may be seen in scrapheaps yet. Mr. Sargent also made wells, and some 300 of these are scattered around the county. From 1900 to 1905 he conducted a store and was post-master at Walworth. This was the first store where Walworth now stands.

The Sargents are fine people and their neighbors pay them the homage due to honest, upright citizens, who have rendered their country valuable service.

GEORGE V. ORVIS. — Here is a man that belongs to the north part of the county. He was born in the north garden spot known as West Union, September 15, 1880, consequently the responsibilities of active life are pressing heavily upon him. Just now in the vigor of his full manhood years, he belongs to the generation that must bear the responsibilities and manage the affairs of the present day.

He is a son of John R. and Chaney M. (Sweet) Orvis (See sketch of Bert Orvis). As his birth occurred in Custer county, his life has been lived here. The district school of the country and the high school of Broken Bow bestowed upon him a liberal education and qualified him for all business activities of the successful farmer's career. He lived on his father's place and helped in the affairs of the farm until 1902, when he was married to Jessie C. Garrison, a daughter of George and Amanda (Maple) Garrison. The date of marriage was December 15, 1902. The bride was an accomplished young woman, coming from a well known and substantial family. Her father's people came to Custer county in the fall of 1882 and settled north of Walworth. Her father was a man of unusual experience. He was born in 1840 in Greene county, Pennsylvania, in which her mother was born six years later. During the Civil war the father, George Garrison, was a member of the Third Virginia Infantry, and he served until he lost one eye and was discharged for physical disability. After the war he was a bridge contractor for a number of years; conducting farming operations in Iowa, from which state they moved to this county in 1882, with horses and wagons. The mother died October 26, 1901, and the father May 10,

1908. It is remembered that the Garrison home was the first in the neighborhood that had a shingled roof. The neighbors prophesied at the time it was put on that the first wind would blow it off, but the calamity never happened.

George V. Orvis and his wife established their own home after their marriage and are now heads of a splendid family of good reputation. Of their five children four are living: Fern L., born July 2, 1906; Zoe Geraldine, May 16, 1909; Dean R. and Deo V., twins born March 15, 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Orvis are still to be counted as young people, with many years of active life before them, so far as outer appearances indicate, and the same application of thrift and judgment will compel the oncoming years to bring rich reward.

D. B. EVANS.—One of the familiar spirits of Sargent, long connected with local affairs, who has contributed his part in the years past to the upbuilding of the county and who has had part in early day trials and experiences, is the man whose name spells the headline.

Mr. Evans was born in Douglas county, Illinois, November 3, 1867, the son of John W. W. and Sarah (Smith) Evans. The senior Evans was a native of Wales and the mother a native of Ireland. The combination of Welsh and Irish blood flows in the veins of D. B. and imparts to him the vigorous spirit that has enabled him to survive the experiences of early day life in Custer county. The father, who was a farmer most of his life, came to this country in 1871 and settled on Indian Creek, York county, Nebraska, where he died in 1878. The mother lived until March 4, 1912. They were the parents of sixteen children: ten are living at the present time, but the subject, D. B. Evans, is the only one in this county.

D. B. came to the county in 1885, pre-empted four miles east of Sargent, then homesteaded and later sold out and since that has made his home in Sargent. For nearly twenty-five years Mr. Evans has been road overseer and though not posing as a moral reformer has been "mending the ways" of other people. He is counted as a good road man; for ten years he has served as game warden. During his residence in Sargent he has been the proprietor of a meat market and has also conducted a real estate agency.

Concerning the experiences of the early years, he was once deputized by George Walker, constable, to go down into the Weis-

sert neighborhood and secure a horse thief that had been shot. The thief's partner had been captured and accordingly the dead and the living were brought together. The trial of the living man was before William Sherman. The thief pleaded guilty and was taken to Brown county, where the property had been stolen and where he was afterwards taken from jail by a mob and hanged to a telegraph pole.

These years are gone, the experiences of the untamed years will never return, law abiding citizens have claimed the country. The irresponsible characters who always prey upon the unprotected settler of a frontier country have passed from the stage of action, and honor and virtue to-day reside in the citizenship, and law prevails everywhere. Any man who, like Evans, helped to bring order out of chaos has rendered a tribute to his county and service to his community.

Mr. Evans socially is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workman and the Degree of Honor. For the last few years he has affiliated with the Democratic party.

WALTER S. METCALF.—The name of Metcalf has appeared in this volume in other biographies. See sketches of Plin and Clarence Metcalf.

Walter S. Metcalf is a son of Augustus and Lucia Metcalf. He was born in Wyoming county, New York, March 24, 1860. He received his education in the common schools of New York and Ohio. He was married April 2, 1884, to Eva Parker, at Dennison, Iowa. Mrs. Metcalf is a daughter of James and Julia (Smith) Parker, both of whom were natives of New York state. Her father died at the age of eight-three years, in 1905, and her mother, at the advanced age of nine-two years, is still living and makes her home with the Metcalfs.

Walter S. Metcalf came to Custer county in March, 1883, and commenced farming in the region of New Helena. A little later he homesteaded 160 acres in section 18, township 19, range 19, which is still his home and has been such ever since, excepting the three years when his daughter attended school in Broken Bow, when they moved to that place in order to give her school advantages. After that they returned to the farm. They now own 400 acres in one body, which is well improved and stocked with the best breeds of cattle and hogs. Considerable attention is paid to dairying on the Metcalf ranch and this is found to be very profitable. The general appearances on the farm speak well



GEORGE GROSS



MRS. GEORGE GROSS

for the management and care that the farm has received during the years that it has been in Mr. Metcalf's possession. In local affairs the Metcalfs are counted prominent people and he has held most of the local and precinct offices. He has been a member of the school board in district No. 13 for a number of years. In connection with this school district, Mr. Metcalf contributes a bit of valuable history. May 15, 1898, while school was in session, a cyclone swept over the building, tearing it to pieces, killing one child instantly and wounding several others. The child killed was Anna Fowler. Johnnie Olson had his jaw broken in two places, his collar bone broken in two places and several ribs fractured. Mr. and Mrs. Metcalf cared for him in their own home for a period of six weeks. Their own daughter also was badly hurt.

The Metcalf home has been blessed with one child, Mabel who is now the wife of Floyd Pumphery, making her home in Iowa, Nebraska. The Metcalfs are splendid neighbors, representative people, well posted in present day affairs and have been always helpful and influential promoters of everything that in any way was calculated to benefit the community. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and responsible for much of the good accomplished by the Walworth Sunday-school organized in an early day.

GEORGE GROSS. — The career of George Gross, of Ansley, has been one in which perseverance has triumphed over adversity, character has overcome the disadvantages of lack of early opportunities, and industry has been rewarded in bounteous measure. Few if any of the residents of Custer county have been in greater degree the architects of their own fortunes than has this former farmer and stockman, who now, partly retired from active pursuits, is engaged in selling insurance, his attractive home being on the outskirts of Ansley.

Mr. Gross was born in Pennsylvania, August 22, 1862, and is a son of Josiah and Anna (Dunar) Gross, the former a native of Pennsylvania, and the latter of Ireland, their marriage having been solemnized at Brooklyn, New York. The parents continued their residence in Pennsylvania, until the close of their lives, the father having there followed farming and raising cattle, and there both died when their son George was young. The father was a Republican and a member of the Baptist church, while Mrs. Gross was a Catholic. There was one other child in the family:

Jennie, who married F. S. Yapple, a farmer of Pennsylvania.

Thrown on his own resources at the age of thirteen years, it was but natural that the early advantages of George Gross were not numerous. His education was confined to irregular attendance at the district schools, and he early began to work out among the neighboring farmers, in order to obtain his board and clothes. After three years thus spent he began to receive wages, seven dollars a month being his stipend the first year, out of which he saved the sum of forty dollars. During the year that followed he received nine dollars a month as remuneration for his labor, and out of this managed to put by sixty dollars, with which he came to Saunders county, Nebraska. Wages were better in his new community, for he was given seventeen dollars a month the first year and twenty dollars the second year, and when he came to Custer county, in 1884, he had \$285, all saved by the hardest kind of work. When he lost this money, and was compelled to make a new start, it was a blow that would have discouraged most men, but he courageously settled down to work once more and located on a homestead. In order to hold his new home, and at the same time to make a living for himself, he was forced to seek all manner of employment, but he was willing, ambitious, and capable, and finally managed to get started on his upward climb. He continued to reside on his farm, engaged in general farming and stock-raising, until 1915, by which time he had increased his property to 200 acres, which he still owns. Since the date mentioned, he has lived in partial retirement, at the edge of Ansley, where he has a comfortable home and twelve acres of land, and where he engages in selling insurance for a number of well known companies. During the time that he resided on the farm he erected substantial, modern, and attractive buildings and put in other improvements, and in various other ways contributed to the upbuilding of his community. He is a stockholder in the Security State Bank at Ansley and a director of the State Farmers Insurance Company of Omaha, Nebraska. In writing policies he makes a specialty of fire and automobile insurance. Mr. Gross is a Republican in politics.

In 1888 Miss Gross married Anna Draper, and they became the parents of two children, of whom only one, Roy, is living. Roy Gross, who is the owner of a farm six miles south of Ansley, is one of the progressive young agriculturists of his locality. In 1892 Mr. Gross married Bertha Whitney, who was born at Waterford, Pennsylvania, and they have two

children: Whitney, who is engaged in cultivating his father's farm of 200 acres, and is an enterprising young agriculturist; and Earl, who is connected with the National Refining Company, at Wahoo, Nebraska, as a warehouse man. By a former marriage, Mrs. Gross had three daughters: Mrs. Pearl Lawson and Mrs. Fern Chandler, residents of Wahoo; and Mrs. C. N. Harris, of Ansley. Mr. and Mrs. Gross and their children are members of the Christian church.

OLIVER L. SWICK.—Among the substantial farmers located in the fertile region of the Middle Loup there is none more widely known than the man whose name appears above. Mr. Swick is a native of Ohio. He was born June 9, 1863. He is the son of Jesse and Eunice (McQuisten) Swick. The parents were both natives of Beaver county, Pennsylvania, in which place they were married but later moved to Ohio, where they made their home until about the year 1887. Mrs. Swick died about this time and he remarried, and after his second marriage he came to Custer county and located a homestead near Merna, on which he lived many years, his death occurring at the home of his son Oscar, when he was eighty-seven years of age.

In the family of the elder Swick were nine children, but the subject of this sketch and his brother Oscar are the only ones living in this county. The parents were members of the Christian church and in partisan affairs Mr. Swick was always counted a staunch Republican.

The early days of young Oliver were spent in Ohio and it was here that he received a common school education. In April of 1886 Mr. Swick came to Custer county and since that time has been one of the dependable citizens of the county. May 5, 1891, he led to the marriage altar Miss Hope Gates, a daughter of Stillman and Mary E. (McNeil) Gates, whose record appears elsewhere in this volume.

Since their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Swick have maintained a hospitable home, in which have been ensconced the necessities and most of the comforts of life. It is understood, however, that together they faced the difficulties, trials and hardships of the early days and together have accomplished the success with which they are now credited. Of their nine children eight are living: Alta, is deceased; Harry, who married Ethel Barnes, is at the present time a successful farmer; Hazel is the wife of William Books and lives near Milburn; Arva is the wife of Earl Hatcher, liv-

ing at Lillian; Mary, Esther, and Ruth are all at home; Lois Olive and Louis Oliver are twins.

In the early days Mr. Swick bought a relinquishment, upon which he filed and later commuted. This became the initial holding and early home, where he lived until thirteen years ago, when he sold and came to his present domain, where he owns 1,040 acres of good land. The family are members of the Christian church and he is a member of the Masonic order, independent in politics and withal a worthy citizen held in high repute by his neighbors. Mrs. Swick recalls the scenes of early years when many difficulties presented themselves. Freight was hauled from Grand Island or Loup City. On one occasion they were out of flour for days. A neighbor, George Steele, had gone to Grand Island for a fresh supply. One of the old-time blizzards pounced upon them, and next morning the windows were so full of snow that they could not tell whether it was daylight or not. During this time they ground wheat in the coffee mill and subsisted on whole-wheat bread. Game was rather plentiful and oftentimes wild plums in the canyons made up the entire fruit supply with which the menu of that day was supplied.

GEORGE DREESSEN was born January 21, 1886, in Germany, and is a son of George C. and Matilda (Frins) Dreesen. The parents were both natives of Germany. The father came to the United States when sixteen years of age. Later he returned, married the wife named above, and again, in 1886, with his family, when George was but a babe, came to this country to make their future home. They settled on a homestead in Cherry county, where also they entered a tree claim and pre-emption. Later they sold this land and bought near West Union, where they lived until about twelve years ago, when they moved to Grand Island, where both parents died. In their family circle were ten children, eight of them living at the present time. The father was always a Republican in politics, and the family was connected with the English Lutheran church.

George Dreesen received a common-school education in the West Union and Grand Island schools, and has been a farmer all of his life. He was married December 29, 1909, his wife, Agnes, having been born in 1878, at Grand Island. Mr. and Mrs. Dreesen are the proud parents of three very promising children and one child is deceased: Thelma M., born November 22, 1910; Albert R., born



Yours Truly
P. N. J. Carothers M.D.

September 28, 1912, died October 21, 1912; Dorian M., born March 6, 1916, and Carl L., born February 1, 1918.

Mr. Dreessen is independent in politics, and is a member of the English Lutheran church. Mrs. Dreessen is a member of the Presbyterian church. They are very excellent people and religious discord does not mar the tranquility of their home.

In the possession of Margaret, sister of George Dreessen, is a family record that traces the members of her mother's family back for 450 years. This is, perhaps, the longest genealogy possessed by any inhabitant of Custer county.

PAUL H. J. CAROTHERS, M. D.—Eight years of careful and skilled attention to the health and sanitation of Mason City and its people have enlarged the work of Dr. Paul H. J. Carothers and developed it to a point where it is deservedly accounted a necessary community asset. Since beginning his practice here, in 1910, he has steadily advanced in his calling, and at the same time has contributed to the city a modern hospital and three years of service in the capacity of city physician.

Dr. Carothers was born at Wichita, Iowa, October 23, 1881, and is a son of John H. Carothers, in whose sketch, elsewhere in this work, will be found adequate data pertaining to the family history. The early education of Paul H. J. Carothers was obtained in the public schools of Ansley, Custer county, and in 1900 he was graduated in the high school there. During his youth he had developed remarkable skill as a baseball player, and this was further developed while he was a member of the high-school team. After his graduation he saw a means of livelihood in this direction, and accordingly took up the national pastime as a profession, following it for six years. While he belonged to no regularly organized body, he became widely known as a member of independent teams, and was a general favorite with the "fans" in the various communities in which he played. During this period of his pastiming, he carefully saved his earnings, which were not inconsiderable, for he had no idea of making baseball his life's business. He had studied privately, and in 1906 was able to enter the medical department of Cotner University, Lincoln, Nebraska, where he took a complete course and was graduated in 1910. At that time Dr. Carothers came to Mason City. All young physicians are required to pass through a certain

probationary period before they acquire a practice, but in the case of Dr. Carothers it was necessary that this period be short, as his monetary assets at the time of his arrival totaled forty dollars. He therefore applied himself industriously to his calling, and his energy, together with a pleasing personality and a readily discernible talent for his profession, soon attracted to him a professional business that has continued to grow in size and importance to the present time.

Dr. Carothers makes a specialty of surgery, a field in which he has attained something more than local distinction and reputation. He performs all manner of major and minor operations, some of his cases having been of a most complicated and highly difficult character. In addition to doing post-graduate work at the Chicago Polyclinic, he has had the benefit of study and instruction under the preceptorship of the eminent and distinguished Mayo brothers of Rochester, Minnesota. In 1915 he built a new private hospital at Mason City, a three-story structure with basement, and here he has twenty-one rooms and all equipment of the latest type. Comfort, convenience, and the most skilled attendance are afforded the patients, and the institution is one that would be a credit to a much larger community than Mason City. Dr. Carothers keeps fully abreast of the advancements made in both medicine and surgery, and belongs to various organizations of his profession. He is serving as city physician, an office which he has held for three years, and in which he has been able to give the city the benefit of his trained skill and experience and to advocate a number of beneficial movements. Politically he is a Democrat, and his fraternal connection is with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Dr. Carothers was married January 26, 1913, to Miss Maybelle Chase, who was born at Mason City. She is a daughter of Hiram Chase, a pioneer of this community, where he conducted a drug store for many years—until his death, in July, 1913. Mr. and Mrs. Carothers are the parents of two children: Nadine and Maurine.

JOHN LENSTROM.—From the early days Custer county has been indebted to Sweden for some of the most thrifty blood that flows in the veins of the early pioneers. John Lenstrom is one of the Scandinavian contingent to whom the county is indebted. He was born in Sweden February 12, 1858, of Swedish parents in whose veins flowed the countless generations in that northern land.

His parents were John and Christina Swanson. The father was a carpenter by trade and in the family were five children, but John and his brother Ernest were the only two who ever came to the United States. John's boyhood days were spent in Sweden, where he received a liberal education and where, in December, 1879, he was married to Matilda Thornholm. The next year after his marriage he and his young wife started for America, which was in the fall of 1880. The first year on his homestead is one long to be remembered. There was a drouth and the crop failed. A prairie fire came rolling down on his little home and would have destroyed his home, barn and feed but for the fact that two wagon loads of people came out from Sargent and helped him fight the fire. The land was sandy and of light soil and this added to his difficulties. Then, too, there was no bridge across the river to Sargent, the nearest bridge being five miles west up the river toward West Union. When the weather was warm, it was his custom to wade the river but when it was cold he had to walk up to the bridge and back, altogether a distance of 10 miles. This he did day after day while working for different people in Sargent in order that he might support his family and get started at farming in this new country.

Speaking of those times he recalls that often he was compelled to go into debt, but it is part of the Swedish nature to meet obligations, consequently he met every dollar of his indebtedness. If he could not pay in cash, he worked for the people to whom he was indebted and in one way or another secured the means by which he started his early farming operations. Today he has a splendid farm, is comfortably situated, although not enjoying the best of health. He rejoices, however, that he lives in the United States. His early pre-emption of 135 acres, upon which he lived for eight years, has been sold and likewise a homestead of 120 acres southwest of Comstock, upon which he lived another eight years. Since that time he has bought 160 acres and put on it splendid improvements. This is his home at the present time and upon which he has a good supply of hogs, cattle, and horses.

His children are: Martin, Esther Ellen, John, Alex, Emrick, Conrad, Joseph, and Clarence, three of whom are still at home with their parents. The Lenstroms are dependable people, highly rated as neighbors and in every way an asset to their community.

EDWARD E. GUTHRIE is a representative of the younger generation of progressive

and successful exponents of agricultural industry in Custer county and is specially entitled to recognition in this history of the county.

Mr. Guthrie was born in Chenango county, New York, May 1, 1878. His father, Edward Guthrie, who was a native of Ireland, was left an orphan when quite young and was sent to the home of an uncle who lived in the state of New York. There he grew to manhood and became a wagon-maker by trade. He followed his trade in New York state, and in 1884 he came to Nebraska and settled at Elm Creek, Buffalo county. In the following year he came to Custer county and took a homestead in the northwest part of the county, where he engaged in the cattle business. He died in Custer county nine years ago, at the age of seventy-four years. In New York state he married Mary Brady, a native of the Empire state, and she now makes her home with her son Edward E. Five of the six children born to Edward and Mary (Brady) Guthrie are still living: Nellie is the wife of Joseph Rottgen, of Ohio; Charles is a farmer of Custer county; Edward E. was next in order of birth; Alice is the wife of Elijah Luce, of Merna; and Richard Ralph is a captain in the national army, having seen service in France, but having been sent back to the United States before the close of the war, to assist in preparing troops for service in Europe.

Edward E. Guthrie was a young man of seventeen years when he and his brother Charles engaged in the cattle business. They owned a ranch and were in partnership until 1915, when Edward E. took up farming on the place he now operates and which he had owned for several years. The property is improved with a nine-room house, and this is one of the finest homes in this part of the county, equipped with steam heat, hot and cold running water, and electric lights.

Mr. Guthrie has never married and seems to prefer single blessedness, while his mother presides over the home. The Guthrie family is well and favorably known.

CHARLES MELHAM. — Twenty-eight years of residence in Custer county have accomplished the evolution of Charles Melham from a penniless, homeless and friendless young man with no knowledge of the American language or customs, into one of the best-informed men of his community, a substantial farmer and land-owner, and a highly-respected and esteemed citizen. His career has been a somewhat remarkable one, and in it



MR. AND MRS. EDWARD GUTHRIE

there lies a lesson for the encouragement of the youths of any land who are striving to get a start in life through their own resources.

Mr. Melham is a native of the little-known country of Syria, Asia, and was born in the village of Amcheete, December 4, 1866, a son of Abraham and Mary (Swanson) Melham. He comes of a rather remarkable family, and was born in the house in which the family had lived for 300 years, a small stone structure which had been built by his great-great-grandfather, and which had also been the birthplace of his great-grandfather, grandfather and father. The family lived on the little farm which was rented by them, but in addition to being a tiller of the soil, Abraham Melham was a man of prominence in his locality, where he held prestige by reason of being a natural astronomer, which art, in his country, called for not only a reading of the heavens and knowledge of the heavenly bodies, but the capacity to measure the corn in the field, the wheat in the crop, the nuts on the tree, etc. While it is not the usual thing in Syria to come upon large families, there were eight children in the family of Abraham Melham, but despite his large family the father was able to give his children better educational advantages than generally fall to the lot of most of those of his race. The parents never left their native land, but Charles was ambitious to better himself, and when the opportunity arose bade farewell to his parents, when twenty-four years old, and immigrated to the United States. He arrived October 24, 1890, at Fall River, Massachusetts, and remained there until the following May, when he came to Custer county, Nebraska, arriving here without a dollar and without the slightest knowledge of the country's language. His first work was to operate a medicine wagon for Watkins Remedies Company, and while he was thus engaged one of his first tasks was the mastering of the language of his adopted country, not alone as to speech, but also as to reading and writing. During the seven years that he was employed by the medicine company he saw many houses vacated which are now occupied by people who have grown wealthy in the county. Mr. Melham's wants during his early years here were few, and he wisely and thriftily saved his earnings, which, as soon as they reached appreciable proportions, he invested in land. Soon he engaged actively in farming and stock-raising, using western methods, and kept on increasing his acreage. This system has brought him success, so that to-day he is the owner of 520 acres of highly improved land, on which he carries on farming, making a specialty of raising pedigreed Poland-China

hogs and registered Red Polled cattle. His improvements are of the best, and at the present time he is installing an electric plant, with a fifty-light system, which will be sufficient to light his house, barns, and outbuildings. That he has been able to accomplish so much from such small beginnings denotes that Mr. Melham is a man of initiative resource and strength of character. He is an extra well read man, especially in history, and has made a particularly close study of his adopted country's past, as he is grateful for the chance extended to him by the United States for making a success of his life. This has led him to be independent in politics, for with him country comes before party. He was born and reared in the faith of the Moronic orthodox church, the only branch in all the world of that faith, and while he does not worship in that faith here, he believes in all religious bodies and supports their movements generously.

Mr. Melham was married March 25, 1900, to Miss Jennie M. Reynolds, a daughter of George E. and Amanda J. (Sweezy) Reynolds, pioneers of Custer county, who now reside at Bartley. To this union there have been born four children, of whom three are living: Ralph A., Leo L., and Kenneth, all at home.

OSCAR THOMPSON. — Down in the fertile region of Burr Oak and on a splendid farm that is the stage of very successful farming operations, lives the subject of this sketch, Oscar Thompson who is in middle life and the acme of his manhood years.

He was born in 1875 at Furnace, Scioto county, Ohio, and his good wife, Florence (Woodruff) Thompson, to whom he was married in 1897, was born in the same year. Mr. Thompson is a son of Silas Thompson, who was a native of Ohio, and who departed this life when seventy-seven years of age. He was twice married, his first wife, mother of the subject of this sketch, being Hanna (Gahene) Thompson, who died when forty-two years of age. The second wife was Ellen (Humphrey) Thompson, who passed from this life in the sixty-fifth year of her age.

In the family circle of the elder Thompson were the following children: John maintains his home in Rock county, Nebraska, where he operates a ranch. David is a Custer county farmer, as is also Edgar, and these are full brothers of Oscar. Elbert is a Custer county farmer and Aubrey lives in Ansley, these two being half-brothers of Oscar. Belle Schriver lives in Kentucky. Anna Benedict is in Urbana, Ohio, and Lou Houston lives at Geneva,



OSCAR THOMPSON AND FAMILY

Nebraska. These are full sisters of Oscar Thompson, the immediate subject of this sketch. There are two half-sisters—Cora Hickman, who lives on a Custer county farm, and Maude Bass, whose home is in Omaha.

In Oscar Thompson's immediate family is but one child, a bright young girl, who has come to make cheerful the family fireside. This daughter, Louise, is at present a student in the high school at Geneva, Nebraska.

Mr. Thompson owns 180 acres of well improved land, but he leases additional land and is operating a farm of 300 acres. Only about fifty acres of his own land are under cultivation. His live-stock operations include the raising of hogs, horses, and cattle. He has a full equipment of farm machinery, has good buildings, and an attractive home—in fact everything that goes to make farming a profitable and comfortable occupation. Such surroundings make farm life attractive. Mr. Thompson and his family ride in a splendid motor car and have all modern conveniences. Mrs. Thompson is a member of the Presbyterian church. This is an excellent family that merits the good standing it sustains in the community.

ALBERT MCGREGOR.—Any record of the capable and industrious agriculturists of Custer county who have worked their way to position and prominence would be incomplete did it not contain the name and review of Albert McGregor, who is now engaged in extensive operations on section 33, township 1, in the Sargent neighborhood. For thirty years he has been a resident of the county and during this period has run the gamut of experiences from poverty to affluence and from humble position to independence.

Mr. McGregor was born in Joe Daviess county, Illinois, September 22, 1858, a son of Robert and Isabella (Bankhead) McGregor, natives of Edinburgh, Scotland. From the time that he passed boyhood, Robert McGregor was employed in the coal mines, working his way up through the various grades until the proud time when he donned the lighted cap of the full-fledged miner and was given a man's wages. He was twenty-one years of age when he came to the United States, and followed coal mining in Pennsylvania until 1848, when he went to Illinois. There he engaged in farming in Joe Daviess county and remained until 1884, in the spring of which year he came to Custer county and took a homestead in Douglas Grove, that being his place of residence until his death, in 1887. He

was a Republican in politics, but never held office, while his religious faith was that of the Lutheran church, as it was also of Mrs. McGregor, who survived her husband until 1892. They were the parents of nine children, of whom five are living, but Albert and his brother William are the only ones residing in Custer county.

Albert McGregor was educated in the public schools of Illinois, and as a young man adopted the vocation of miner, which he followed until his coming to Custer county, in 1888. Here he found employment as a farm hand and blacksmith, but even with both these occupations was unable to make both ends meet, and in order that he might earn a little more money for the hard times he would walk four miles night and morning to work on an irrigation ditch, this being outside of the hours devoted to his other vocations. For this added labor he received the sum of forty-five cents per day, and one of the stirring moments of his career was when his pay was advanced five cents per day. Eventually, through his industry and continued perseverance, he was able to get a start, and from that time to the present his rise has been steady and encouraging. He is the owner of a good property located on section 32, township 1, on which he carries on general farming and stock-raising, in both of which departments he has shown himself skilled and well informed. He has been too busily engaged with his private affairs to enter actively into public life, but is a supporter of the principles and candidates of the Republican party, and a citizen who shows his interest in civic affairs by his support of progressive movements.

Mr. McGregor was married in November, 1884, at Taylor, Nebraska, to Miss Jennie Ferritor, whose parents were pioneers of Custer county of the year 1882, in which year Mr. Ferritor pre-empted land six miles northeast of Sargent. He died in the fall of 1912, and Mrs. Ferritor is now a resident of Douglas, Wyoming. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. McGregor: Hugh, the proprietor of a garage at Sargent, who married Stella Edwards; Earl, who married Margaret Tolen, and is now employed in the United States Government's shipyards at Pascagoula, Mississippi; and Cora, Hazel, and Gilbert, who are single and reside with their parents.

ANSON B. HARTLEY, who belongs to that class of men who, more than any other, have a direct influence upon the building up and development of any community—the real estate operators—has resided in Custer



ANSON B. HARTLEY AND FAMILY

county for a period of more than thirty-five years. During a large part of this time he was engaged in farming, but since 1904 he has devoted himself to real estate almost to the exclusion of other interests. He is known as one of the most successful real-estate men in Custer county, particularly at Sargent, where his activities are centered.

Mr. Hartley was born in Westchester county, New York, March 26, 1860, and is a son of Joseph W. and Mary E. (Atwood) Hartley. His father was born at Bellefontaine, Ohio, a son of Dr. Aaron Hartley, and his mother at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, a daughter of John Atwood.

Joseph W. Hartley was one of the successful, prominent, and influential men of his day and one of the best known in Custer county. From New York he removed to Lincoln, Nebraska, where he engaged in the banking business, in company with J. S. Atwood, and continued therein until 1880, when he came to Custer county. On March 15, 1882, he homesteaded on what was then the Jess Gandy ranch, in section 9, township 19, range 19, on the Middle Loup river. There he farmed until 1894, when he was called to Lincoln as general manager and purchasing agent for the Farmers Alliance — positions which he retained to the time of his death, which occurred while he was on a visit to his son Anson B. at Sargent. He was buried at Lincoln. Mr. Hartley was a Republican in politics and at one time served as supervisor for Lillian township. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and very active in church work, donating considerable sums to the building of the West Union and Walworth churches of that faith and in other ways assisting in religious movements. He was also prominent in Masonic and Odd Fellows circles. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, of whom six are living: Carrie is the wife of C. W. Gring, a traveling salesman living near Los Angeles, California; Anson B., of this review, was next in order of birth; Joseph A. is a wholesale and retail dry-goods merchant of Columbus, Ohio; Russell E. is married and is engaged in the dry-goods business at Chillicothe, Ohio; Flora B. is the wife of Charles M. Martin, who is in mercantile lines at Duluth, Minnesota; and Edward, a bachelor, is a railroad man of Spokane, Washington.

Anson B. Hartley received his early education in the public schools of Lincoln, and after his graduation in the high school in that city he engaged in farming. In 1883 he settled on a Custer county homestead, the southeast quarter of section 9, township 19, range

19, and he continued to be engaged in agricultural activities with constantly increasing success until 1904. In the meantime he had been, from the time of his arrival, interested in realty dealing, and he eventually found his interests in this direction so heavy that he deemed it advisable to give his whole attention thereto. On his removal to Sargent, in 1904, he formed a partnership with O. S. Pulliam, and this association continued, with mutual satisfaction, for three years. Mr. Hartley is a heavy landholder, and besides the most beautiful home at Sargent is the owner of a large amount of personal property, all of which he has accumulated through his own efforts and by strictly legitimate means and honorable dealing. Perhaps he has done as much for Custer county in building it up and developing it as any other one man, for during a period of thirty-five years he has steadily and unceasingly sung the county's praises, in endeavoring to induce people to make their homes here and business houses to center their activities in this progressive section.

After reaching his majority, Mr. Hartley found that his viewpoints in politics differed from that of his father, and he gave his support to the Democratic party. He became a somewhat influential figure during the organization of the Populist party, when he worked to great effect in combining the interests of the Democrats and Republicans and patching up their feuds. He has been more of a worker in behalf of his friends and party than a seeker after personal preferment. As a citizen Mr. Hartley has always been glad to assume his responsibilities, and his name is found on the list of those supporting each movement that promises to better his community in a worthy and practical manner.

Mr. Hartley was married March 6, 1884, to Miss Margie Dupray, a daughter of Fred M. Dupray, of the Goheen valley, who settled on a homestead in Custer county in 1883. Of the children born to Mr. and Mrs. Hartley, the following record is given in conclusion of this review: Carrie E. is the wife of W. L. Probert, manager of the Farmers Garage at Sargent, and a dealer in cream and farm produce; Mabel is the wife of George Christensen, an agriculturist carrying on operations about four miles north of Sargent; Alfred A., who enlisted in the aviation corps of the United States army, is, at the time of this writing, in the mechanical department, American training school, at Rockwell Field, San Diego, California; May resides with her parents; Bessie is a school teacher at Casper, Wyoming; Elma B., who is a graduate of the

Sargent schools, is engaged in teaching; Evelyn D. is the wife of William D. Jorgensen, a farmer in the locality of Minden, Nebraska; and Grace is engaged in teaching.

EARL GLOVER, who belongs to one of the old and substantial pioneer families of Custer county, was born May 19, 1888, near Comstock, or its present site, and is a son of Percy D. and Gussie (Lower) Glover. The full history of the Glover family will be found on another page of this work.

Earl Glover has spent his life in Custer county and has always been deeply interested in its substantial development. He obtained his education in the public schools and until 1909 operated as a farmer for his father and then embarked in the same business for himself. Since 1917 he has been farming on his uncle's ranch near Comstock. This ranch is one of the best improved in Custer county and is conducted along modern lines. It contains 1040 acres, giving space and pasturage for all kinds of stock, only of the best, however. The specialties are Aberdeen Angus cattle, Percheron horses, and Poland China hogs. The money value of the shipments from this ranch is amazing. Careful, interested and trained farmers and stock-raisers are absolutely necessary in an enterprise of such magnitude, and along this line Mr. Glover easily qualifies.

Mr. Glover was married October 2, 1913, to Miss Ellen L. Johnson, who was also born in Custer county. Her father, Reuben Johnson, brought his family to Custer county in pioneer days and during life was a farmer on school section No. 36, near Westerville, and there both he and his wife died some years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Glover have no children. They are members of the Christian Science Church. Like his father before him, Mr. Glover has always given his political support to the Republican party. He is a highly respected citizen and, like all the other Glovers in Custer county, has a wide circle of personal friends, because of pleasing personality, friendly neighborliness and sterling character.

FRANK F. GARRISON, the Walworth merchant and postmaster, has lived most of his life in Custer county and here he spent his youthful days during the pioneer times that entailed hardships and privations which tested the metal of the generation to whose lot they fell.

Frank Garrison discovered America in Iowa, where he was born in Taylor county, Septem-

ber 27, 1877. He is the second son of George and Amanda (Maple) Garrison, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. George Garrison was in early life a cabinetmaker by trade, but in later years followed bridge building almost exclusively. He was for years in the employment of the Rio Grande and Kansas Pacific Railroads in Colorado. He built all the bridges on the Kansas Pacific line between Kansas City and Denver. He was the promoter of the Walworth bridge, which was the first built on the Middle Loup river west of North Loup. When he quit the railroad, he settled in Taylor county, Iowa, where he lived until 1882, engaged in farming pursuits. Then, putting his family into a covered wagon, he started the team westward and later landed in Custer county, where he bought a relinquishment from Walter Bedwell and where he gained possession of the land by completing the homestead rights. He engaged in general farming and stock-raising, making a specialty of Short Horn Durham cattle. He was the first man to raise Poland-China hogs in the Middle Loup section of the county. He was affiliated, generally, with the Republican party, a member of the Masonic lodge. His wife, mother of Frank F., died October 26, 1901, and George Garrison, the father, died May 10, 1908. They were the parents of four children. Besides Frank F., these were: George H., who is an engineer in the employ of the Southern Pacific Railroad. He married Miss Pollock, of Sparks, Nevada. Jessie C. married George Orvis and lives north of Walworth. Lulu M. married Bert Orvis and resides west of old West Union.

Frank F. Garrison was educated in the district schools of this county. He had the experiences common to all who have been reared in these western preserves. March 9, 1904, he married Maude A. Gatliff, at Taylor, Nebraska. She is a daughter in a pioneer family. Her people came to North Loup in 1883, and then to Custer in 1884. Her father homesteaded north of Sargent, where he lived for several years. At his retirement he moved to Sargent, where he died, February 10, 1918. His widow, mother of Mrs. Garrison, still lives in Sargent. In the Gatliff family were seven children, six of whom survive this present day. Aside from Mrs. Garrison these are: Georgia, who married A. A. Vindege and lives at Berwyn; Nannie, who married Roy L. Sevier and lives at Sargent; Elsie, who married Ray Leach and lives in Taylor, Nebraska; Nellie, who married Forest Sargent and lives at Craig, Colorado; and Charles, who married Ocia Adams and resides at Sargent.

The home that Mr. and Mrs. Garrison, established at the time of their marriage has been blessed with one child, Howard W., a bright lad who was born May 7, 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Garrison made their home on the old homestead, where they conducted a general farming and stock-raising business, until the year 1913, when he took charge of and became general manager of the Walworth general merchandise store, which he had purchased about two years prior to this time. He is still conducting the business and has made it a profitable country store—a convenience the neighborhood could not well do without. He is postmaster of the Walworth postoffice, is a Republican in politics and he and his good wife have many friends and are well respected in the community.

HENRY N. RAPP.—A substantial farmer and well known and highly respected citizen of Custer county is Henry N. Rapp, who has been a resident of this section for the past twenty years and during the entire period has been engaged in general farming. Mr. Rapp came to Nebraska from Ohio and was born in Jackson county, that state, July 25, 1858. His parents were Christopher and Mary (Spangler) Rapp. The father was born in Germany but the mother was born in the United States. Christopher and Mary (Spangler) Rapp were the parents of ten children and the following eight survive: Peter, who is a farmer near Brownsville, Oregon; John, who lives in Portsmouth, Ohio; Henry N., whose name heads this review; Christopher, whose home is in Fayette county, Ohio; Joseph W., who lives in South Solon, Madison county, Ohio; Katie, who is the wife of Charles Smith, of Dayton, Ohio; Lena, who is the wife of Henry Wells, of Lucasville, Scioto county, Ohio; and Anna, who is the wife of Philip Brust, of Chillicothe, Ohio. Christopher Rapp and his wife were good, Christian people and were members of the United Brethren church. Before the Civil war he voted with the Republican party, but afterward he gave his political support to the Democratic party.

Henry N. Rapp attended the district schools in Ohio and assisted his father on the home farm. Since coming to Custer county he has acquired two quarter-sections of very fine land and has added greatly to its value by the improvements he has made. He has been an industrious man all his life and through hard work, backed by sound judgment, has developed one of the best farms in the county.

Mr. Rapp was married January 18, 1885,

at Piketon, Ohio, to Flora Wilson, who was born in Ohio, July 11, 1865, and who died January 5, 1895, the mother of four children, the youngest being then aged two and one-half years. Concerning the children the following brief data are available: Carl, who remains with his father and is associated in the work and management of the home farm, married Miss Opal Hatfield, and they have two children—Mildred H. and Velma Ione. Ernest, who resides at South Broken Bow, married Miss Esther Mauk, and they have two children—Ernest and Willa Mae. Leland, who is a resident of Spencer Park, married Miss Sylvia Simonson. Grace, whose death occurred March 7, 1918, was the wife of William Perkins, and she is survived by three children—Flora, Esther, and Harold.

For his second wife Mr. Rapp wedded Lizzie Pfund, who was born at Marysville, Union county, Ohio, on the 23d of October, 1865.

In politics Mr. Rapp gives his allegiance to the Democratic party, and he has been called upon to serve in various school offices in his district, including those of director, treasurer, and moderator. He is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America and is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

LOYD GLOVER, who is a representative of one of the old pioneer families of Custer county that is highly respected all through this part of the state, was born on his father's homestead near Comstock, Nebraska, December 28, 1893. He is a son of Percy D. and Gussie (Lower) Glover, an extended sketch of whom, with the family history, will be found in this work.

Lloyd Glover received a good, common-school education in his native county and has been a farmer and ranchman ever since he entered business life and has always maintained his home in Custer county, where big things are done in the agricultural line. Mr. Glover is one of the experienced ranchmen employed by his uncle on his magnificent ranch of 1,040 acres, on which the finest of stock is raised and made ready for market. This ranch turns off Aberdeen Angus cattle, Percheron horses and Poland China hogs. The operation of such a modern ranch as this is a stupendous undertaking but is not beyond the business ability of Custer county farmers, with their perfected methods and modern equipments.

Mr. Glover was married December 8, 1917, to Miss Lena Fountain, who is a daughter of J. G. and Rena (Lockhart) Fountain. The



HENRY N. RAPP AND FAMILY



FRANK S. REED AND FAMILY

parents of Mrs. Glover reside at Broken Bow, Nebraska, where Mr. Fountain is agent and telegraph operator for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. Mrs. Glover has one sister and two brothers, namely: Inez, who is the wife of Ralph Taylor, who is a ranchman near Whitman, in Grant county, Nebraska; and Max and Roger, both of whom are serving with the American Expeditionary Forces in France, Max being a driver of an army truck, and Roger belonging to a machine gun division. In politics Mr. Glover, like his brother Earl, is a staunch Republican but neither of them has desired any political rewards. Mr. Glover is a man of high personal standing and recognized good citizenship.

FRANK S. REED.—All the honors of successful farming, stock-raising, and thrifty accumulation go with the man whose name forms the title of this review. Custer county has many men who have made a remarkable success of western farming, who have by their thrift and energy, produced a competence, and have given to the world children of whom they may well be proud. One among this number, and standing in the first rank, is Frank S. Reed. He is a native of Putnam county, Illinois, in which state he was born February 7, 1866. He is a son of James and Martha (Reed) Reed. The father was a native of the Buckeye state and the mother was born in Indiana. This excellent couple had in their family four children, all of whom have been an asset to their home communities. They are James W., Rose E. Huff, Annie Baker, and Frank S.

The fortunes and misfortunes of early years seem to have dealt severely with young Frank Reed. His mother died when he was seven years of age, and when he was only eleven years old he started out into the world to make his own living. He first hired to Aaron Newburn, for six dollars a month, and he stuck to the job for eighteen months, which was pretty good for a boy of his age. He never stopped work. In those early years he laid the foundation of his present-day thrift, and also formed the industrious habits that he has practiced all his life. When twenty-one years of age he thought it was time to take unto himself a helpmeet, and accordingly, on January 31, 1877, at York, Nebraska, he married Miss Emma Jacobson, a daughter of Oscar and Zuba (Thompson) Jacobson. The young couple established a home for themselves and this was the beginning of their successful ac-

tivities, which have culminated in substantial rewards for early privation, and long years of excessive toil.

To Mr. and Mrs. Reed were born eight children: Oscar married Julia Huff and is now farming for himself, fifteen miles southwest of Broken Bow. James E., who is farming in Custer county, married Nannie Dutton, and they have one child, a little girl. John W. married Gladys Predmore, a daughter of Henry Predmore. They live on a farm four and one-half miles south of the county seat. Henry is one of the gallant young Custer county boys who have given service in the national army in the great world war, and he is in France at the time this sketch is in preparation. Charles married Flossie Palmer and assists on the home farm; Frederick, aged seventeen years; Clara, aged fourteen, and Hattie, aged eleven, are at home. The mother of this family passed away January 14, 1918, at the age of fifty-three years.

Mr. Reed came to Custer county in 1884, and after he had worked seven months with Levier Cramer he went back to York county, Nebraska, where he remained until 1895. Then a renewed desire to try his luck in the "big county" brought him back, and this time he located six miles northwest of Broken Bow. Against this place was a mortgage of \$350, which afterward took the place, as the young man did not believe he would be able to pay the debt. The same land to-day is worth fifty dollars an acre. For a time Mr. Reed was in partnership with Judge Reese, and during the four years he was with the Judge he succeeded in saving a nucleus of \$1,000, which has since expanded into his present-day possessions. From this on, Mr. Reed's accumulation of property and stock and land was rapid. Fortune seemed to smile upon his investments and his labors, and to-day there is no more thrifty or substantial farmer anywhere in the central portion of the county. He owns 2,400 acres of good land, not far from the county seat. He lives in a beautiful farm home, and has all equipments that a farm of that size requires. He has a splendid assemblage of livestock and everything calculated to contribute to profitable farming.

If Frank Reed has not already entered upon retirement and living at ease, it is from force of habit; the habit of work lingers with him at the present time, and it is hard for him to leave the farm, as he might well afford to do. Elsewhere in this volume will be found a picture of immense corn piles, illustrating the agricultural resources of the county. These piles of corn were raised by Mr. Reed, on his present farm.



THEODORE RIDDER AND FAMILY

ARNOLD KRBEL, who is a member of one of the pioneer families of Custer county, and at present the only representative of the Krbel family residing here, owns a large and well improved farm and, as a recent venture, has embarked in the business of raising pure-bred Holstein cattle and White Chester hogs.

Arnold Krbel was born January 11, 1875, in the village of Hluboky, province of Moravia, Austria, and is one of a family of eight children, all of whom survive, born to his parents who are Joseph and Annie (Nemec) Krbel. They came to the United States in 1881 and to Custer county, Nebraska, in July, 1882, and homesteaded. In the spring of 1896 they left this farm and moved to Madison county, where the father followed farming until 1901, when he retired and moved to Omaha, where both parents live in much comfort. They are faithful members of the Catholic church. The father is a Democrat in politics. Like many others who have come to the United States in search of home and fortune, they had little capital to invest and for a long time had to work hard and endure many deprivations. They found compensation, however, for their labors and now belong to the substantial class and enjoy the respect and esteem of all whom know them, because of their fine qualities.

When Arnold Krbel went to school in boyhood in Custer county, the sessions were conducted in a sod house, which undoubtedly had its advantages as well as disadvantages and was the only available place at that time. He assisted his father and helped him prove up on the homestead, remaining under the home roof until he was nineteen years of age. During the following seven years his line of employment led him to travel all through the northern states, but in 1901 he returned to the homestead in Custer county and has continued here ever since. He has 320 acres of valuable land and the property is improved in the way of handsome and substantial buildings, adequate to carry on a large farm where its industries are conducted in a modern way. In addition to the stock mentioned above, he is interested also in raising a good strain of Shire horses. He can remember the time when his father had to draw water from a well 200 feet deep, with the help of the great strength of oxen. Those methods are no longer in use on Mr. Krbel's farm, a huge modern windmill doing the pumping, and other labor-saving devices may be noticed in other directions.

Mr. Krbel was married September 10, 1900, to Miss Anna Chalupa, who died July 28, 1910, leaving two sons, Edward and Emil,

both of whom are at home. Mr. Krbel was married, second, July 13, 1912, at Omaha, to Miss Stazie Scheinost, and they have one child, who bears her mother's name.

In politics Mr. Krbel is a Republican and at times he has served in public office, for two terms being road supervisor and was considered a particularly efficient official. He is treasurer of School District No. 186. In many ways he has shown a spirit of enterprise very commendable. He owned and operated the first telephone line in this vicinity, having subscribers over the whole northeast section of the county, from Comstock to Sargent. He operated it very satisfactorily for some six years and then sold the line to the subscribers. Mr. Krbel belongs to the C. Z. B. J., a Bohemian organization.

Arnold Krbel was chief registerer for Sargent township No. 2 at the first registration, June 5, 1917, and also at the second registration, September 12, 1918. He was also chairman at the registration for the Fourth Liberty Loan drive.

THEODORE RIDDER is the owner of a large and well improved ranch and is a sterling citizen who has so applied old-country thrift and frugality to Nebraska conditions, that flattering success has attended his efforts.

Theodore Ridder was born November 23, 1865, in Germany, where his parents, Henry and Sophia (Beckman) Ridder were born in the province of Westphalia. The father was a hardworking farmer and managed to provide for his family of ten children—Joseph, Theodore, Henry, Arnold, Frank, Bernard, Herman, Mrs. Mary Smith are living, and two other children are deceased.

In 1883, when Theodore Ridder was seventeen years of age, he and his eldest brother, Joseph, came to the United States and made their way to West Point, Nebraska. Here Theodore hired out for twelve dollars a month. Within the following year the father and mother came to this country and bought a quarter-section of land in Cuming county. Young Theodore worked with his father for a short time, and he then rented land and started farming for himself.

He was married October 2, 1889, at West Point, Nebraska, to Elizabeth Praest, a daughter of John and Catherine (Paschada) Praest. The Ridder home was then established, and ever since that time has been maintained, on the American plan of comfort and plenty. Mr. and Mrs. Ridder became the parents of twelve children, eleven of whom are living: Henry,

who is a farmer living near Callaway, married Elmita Poston; they have two children. Catherine is the wife of Albert Pandorf, residing on a farm near Callaway, and they have three children. Sophia is a graduate pharmacist, having received her education in St. Joseph Convent, Milwaukee. John, who is a farmer living near Oconto, married Opal Poston, and they have one child. Christina, who was educated in the St. Joseph Convent at Milwaukee, is teaching at Peoria, Illinois. Bernard and Alois, who are attending high school, remain at home. Albert, Mary, and Clara are in the rural school. Master Paul is three years of age, and on him devolves the responsibility of ordering home affairs largely to his sweet will.

Theodore Ridder was fortunate enough to receive, from his father, ninety-five acres of land in Cuming county, at the time of his marriage. He farmed this several years and then went to Stanton county and bought 320 acres, where he farmed and raised stock for eleven years. He then sold out and bought a ranch of 2,300 acres in Wheeler county. After keeping this five years, he sold out and came to Custer county, where he bought 4,000 acres, six miles west of Callaway. This is to-day a very valuable property, and here he conducts a general farm and live-stock business. He is a breeder of registered Hereford cattle and handles live stock extensively. He has built a modern residence, which is lighted with electricity and contains every home comfort. In addition to the fine property just mentioned, Mr. Ridder owns also a tract of about 3,000 acres near Oconto, this county.

Mr. Ridder's first money was made by raising pigeons, which he sold in a town of his native country for eight cents a pair. Compared with his extensive operations of to-day, this would seem small business. But the day of small beginnings is not to be despised, as Mr. Ridder has demonstrated. The Ridders are a fine family and a credit to the county to which their home is a contribution.

BERT L. ORVIS.— This sketch concerns a young farmer just on the threshold of middle life, who has already made a marked success and later on farms. He was a robust to all the homage and distinction due to early pioneers. His farm home is in the vicinity of West Union, garden spot of all the territory lying north of the Middle Loup. Bert L. did not go out of the county to find a birth place. The stork charged with the responsibility of

bringing young farmers to the earth missed Sargent by only a short wing-stroke and landed the subject in a farm home near that city, April 18, 1882.

His parents were John R. and Chaney (Sweet) Oris, themselves natives of New York, but Custer county pioneers from an early date. The father was a farmer for most of his life, made his home in the state of Illinois until 1863, when he moved to Iowa, locating in Fayette, where he established himself in the general mercantile business. In the spring of 1877 he loaded his family and possessions into a covered wagon and drove overland into Custer county. Caravans of that kind were very frequent in that day. He located in West Union and filed on the piece of land which is now the home farm of Bert L. In West Union he put up a store, blacksmith shop and also for a time operated a hotel. This was in the old town of West Union and but a short distance from the old homestead. The senior Orvis lived on the farm until 1905 when he sold his interest to his son, Bert L., and retired to Sargent, where he erected a beautiful home and where he ended his days, March 7, 1910. His widow still survives and occupies the Sargent home. They were the parents of eleven children, only seven of whom are living at the present time.

Bert L., the product of Custer county, received his education in the district schools near Sargent and early directed his attention toward farming, close application to which has made him very successful. With the coming of manhood, like most young men, his fancy turned to thoughts of love, and on March 3, 1902, in the city of Broken Bow, he led to the marriage altar Miss Lulu Garrison. The wife is a daughter of George and Amanda (Maple) Garrison, a substantial pioneer couple who settled in the Walworth vicinity in 1882.

Since marriage Bert L. and his wife have maintained an excellent home, which the years have blessed with four children: Ruth, Hal, Elton, and Lysle are a splendid quartet of young Custerites and are full of life and promise. Like the children of every family, they hold the keys to the future and bid fair to extend and expand the commendable characteristics of their parents to the coming generation.

The farm home, which was the original homestead of the father, is well improved with good buildings, is in a high state of cultivation and well stocked for successful and profitable farm operations. A general farming operation, with stock raising and feeding,

is successfully conducted by Mr. Orvis and he and his good wife enjoy an enviable reputation in their home community.

STEPHEN MAPEL. — The north country along the Middle Loup river is one of the best improved sections of the county. It has long rivalled the famous South Loup or the celebrated West Table. Each of these sections, resourceful as they are, are indebted for their reputation to the stalwart pioneers who developed their resources and gave them a wealth of improvement. One of the men who has contributed to the Sargent region is the subject of this sketch.

Stephen Mapel is a native of old Pennsylvania, the land of iron and red blooded Americans. He was born in Greene county, December, 20, 1860. His parents, Stephen and Ruth (Furman) Mapel were both natives of the same state. The father was by trade a blacksmith and miller, yet for the most of the time he was a farmer as well. He learned the blacksmithing trade before he was twenty-one and later became an expert miller but followed it but a few years, spending the remainder of his life on the farm. He died in the 78th year of his age, in Taylor county, Iowa. He and his good wife were the parents of ten children, six of whom are still living. Stephen and his brother Thomas, now living in Sargent, are the only ones in this county.

Young Stephen grew to manhood in Iowa and received his education in the Iowa public schools. It was here that the fundamental principles which have stood him so well in hand during his farming career were deep laid in his youthful character. With his face toward the great west, he left the Hawkeye state in 1883 and came to this county, where he homesteaded near Lillian. He disposed of this place later and then, in 1889, on the 25th day of January, he joined himself in marriage to Charlotte V. Banning, the daughter of Ephraim and Ruth (Reed) Banning. The Bannings were Custer county pioneers, having homesteaded here as early as 1883. He died in 1901. The Mapels have always maintained a comfortable home, around which are every indication of thrift and industry. They have five children: Jessie R., who is the wife of Fritz Dressen and lives between Walworth and West Union; Mary is the wife of Richard Dressen and lives near Walworth; D. Lulu married M. Doak and lives at Craig, Colorado; H. R. Clare and Howard C. are at home. Mr. Mapel operates 200 acres of land, upon which

he has good improvements and good stock. He makes a specialty of dairy cows and finds the production of cream a very profitable part of farming. He is one of the leading spirits of the community, the treasurer of school district No. 13, a Republican in politics, and both he and his wife are members of the Methodist church.

Speaking reminiscently of early days, Mr. Mapel says that James Oxford was the first settler who fenced his pasture; that Stillman Gates was the first man to put up a wind mill and that he and his brother were the first owners of a self-binder in that section of the country.

MRS. MARY KLAPAL, who is very well known in Custer county and highly respected and esteemed everywhere, owns a large body of well improved land and is one of the county's most successful raisers of White Face or Hereford cattle. Mrs. Klapal came to Custer county with her husband in 1885 and no one is better qualified to tell of the privations that the pioneers here were forced to endure, and is a notable example of what a courageous, frugal and resourceful woman can accomplish. She was born in Bohemia, September 8, 1863. Her mother died when she was five years old, but her aged father survives and is a comfortably retired resident of Omaha, Nebraska.

John Sekera, father of Mrs. Klapal, was born in Bohemia and belonged to the laboring class. As his own country at that time could offer little opportunity for a man, no matter how industrious, to get ahead in the world, he decided to immigrate to America, as many of his countrymen had already done, and had prospered in different parts of the United States. He took passage for New York on an old sailing vessel, in 1868, and in due time was landed safely. He had but 50 cents when he faced life in the strange city but he immediately secured work as a laborer on near-by farms and saved his money until he had sufficient to transport him to Omaha, Nebraska. There he went to work in a smelter and later on farms. He was a robust man or he could not have endured the hard work he engaged in, as he very often had to walk to and from his place of employment, the entire distance from Omaha to Fremont and Grand Island, on account of there being no rail transportation at that time. It was after the death of his first wife that he left Bohemia and later on he was married again, in America. Of his five children, two died in



BORTON F. RIGGLE AND FAMILY

Bohemia and one still lives there: one lives at Omaha, and Mrs. Klalpal belongs to Custer county.

Mrs. Klalpal was fifteen years old when she came to the United States and joined her father at Omaha. In 1883 she was united in marriage with John Klalpal, also of Bohemia, who died in 1900. They had the following children: John, who is a farmer living east of Sargent, Nebraska, married Leda Eret; Mary, who is the wife of Frank Cernek, a farmer northwest of Sargent; Annie, who is the wife of Jacob Cernek, lives in Garfield county; Joseph, who lives east of Sargent, married Mary Kluna; Frank, who was a United States soldier, died in the training camp at Camp Funston, February 7, 1918; Fred and Edward, both of whom are at home with their mother; and Josie, who is the wife of Lewis Chalupa, a farmer east of Sargent. Mrs. Klalpal has the satisfaction of having a number of her children settled near her and all the survivors are doing well.

Two years after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Klalpal came to make a home in Custer county, Nebraska. They homesteaded and secured tree claim and pre-emption and she yet owns these and through her thrift and business ability has been able to acquire additional land and now has in all 640 acres, well improved. She has given much attention to the cattle industry, her herds being exclusively White Face cattle. She has managed her affairs with remarkable judgment and her ability as a business woman is universally acknowledged. While Mrs. Klalpal is now in the enjoyment of all the comforts of life, she sometimes is willing to tell of the hardships of early days here. When she and her husband first landed on the homestead that was to be their future home, it was a desolate place. Prairie fires had burned fiercely and left the land bare of vegetation and, although spring had come in the calendar, it being the sixth of May, when they drove from Loup City it was through a snow storm that amounted to a blizzard. They were cold and hungry and Mrs. Klalpal confesses that she was so discouraged that she cried through one day and night. This attitude did not continue, however, for in every effort her husband later made, she was his ready helper, leading the oxen when he first broke up the tough sod, hauling water from the North Loup River, a distance of five miles, attending to domestic affairs and in the meanwhile bearing and rearing a family of eight vigorous children. All the medals for heroism do not, by right, belong to warriors.

BORTON F. RIGGLE. — Among the representative self-made men and large landholders of Custer county, few have been the architects of their own fortunes to a greater degree than Borton F. Riggle, who resides on a fine landed estate near Callaway. Were he asked to define the secret of success, from his own standpoint and experience, his reply would be, no doubt, that it is hard work and the taking advantage of fair opportunities. Always and everywhere he remembers that his business career has been a successful one, and that to himself and all Nebraska men of his caliber is peculiarly applicable the well-worn maxim that "nothing succeeds like success."

Mr. Riggle was born in Grant county, Indiana, January 15, 1855, a son of Andrew and Phoebe (Borton) Riggle, natives of Guernsey county, Ohio. After residing for some years in Grant county, Indiana, Andrew Riggle, who was a farmer by vocation, moved, in 1860, to Iroquois county, Illinois, and five years later he took up his residence in Wayne county, Iowa, where he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives in agricultural pursuits. Wherever they lived they were respected people of their community. They were consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Riggle was a member of the Masonic fraternity. They had five children: Borton F., Miss Elizabeth, Mrs. Melissa Babcock, Isaac (a retired farmer of Derby, Iowa), and Mrs. Mary Miskimins.

The early education of Borton F. Riggle was obtained in the district schools of Iroquois county, Illinois, and Wayne county, Iowa, and his early training was along agricultural lines, but when he was twenty years of age he left the parental roof and went to Chariton, Iowa, where he became a clerk in a general store. After a short experience in connection with mercantile pursuits, he returned to the soil, and for some years he was a renter of land. January 19, 1878, in Wayne county, Iowa, he married Miss Lucy Deulen, who had been a school-teacher in that county, and who is a daughter of Kelen and Sarah (Dawson) Deulen. Mr. and Mrs. Riggle continued to reside in Iowa until 1886, in March of which year they came to Custer county, Nebraska, and located three and one-half miles north of the present site of Callaway. In order to reach his new home Mr. Riggle was compelled to haul his goods overland all the way from Plumb Creek, now Lexington.

The early years of Mr. Riggle's stay in Custer county were ones that taxed to the full the perseverance and determination of both him-

self and his worthy wife, for hardships were numerous, unforeseen obstacles were continually appearing, and disappointments were so frequent as to become almost expected. Yet he forged steadily along and finally had his reward in seeing the progress he was making. Once on the up-hill journey, he made good headway, and he has since become one of the most successful men of his locality, being the owner of 560 acres of some of the finest land in Custer county—all accumulated legitimately and honorably through industry and the proper utilization of every-day opportunities. Mr. Riggle is justly proud of his beautiful residence, and his other buildings are proportionately substantial and attractive. He is a stockholder and director of the Farmers State Bank of Callaway. Mr. Riggle has commanded respect because of the manner in which he has worked his way to success, and has secured esteem because of his straightforward way of living and of doing business. Mr. Riggle is a Republican, but is no politician. He and Mrs. Riggle belong to the Evangelical church, and they are always ready to give their support to movements making for better citizenship, higher morals, and more extended educational advantages.

Mr. and Mrs. Riggle have three children. Ethel, the eldest, married James E. Addie, a well known attorney of Hastings, Nebraska, and they have one son. Mr. Addie has been recently elevated to a position on the bench of the federal court. He is a Republican and an Odd Fellow, and he and Mrs. Addie are members of the Congregational church. Ida, the second child of Mr. and Mrs. Riggle, is the wife of Oscar Kolbo, who is a farmer and stockman near Lodi. Mr. Kolbo is a Republican, and he and his wife belong to the Evangelical church. Frank Riggle, Mr. Riggle's only son, is the owner and operator of a farm north of that of his father, and four and one-half miles north of Callaway. He is an Odd Fellow and a Republican, and he and his wife belong to the Evangelical church. The maiden name of Mrs. Frank Riggle was Bertha Steel, and she is a daughter of George Steel, one of the very old settlers of New Helena, Custer county. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Riggle have a winsome little daughter.

THOMAS NEDBALEK, who is a substantial farmer and stock-raiser in Custer county, lives on the old family homestead, situated on section 25, township 20, to which his parents came thirty-four years ago. Mr.

Nedbalek three years later, January 6 1887, in Custer county, was born to John and Mary (Rejda) Nedbalek, the youngest of their family of six children. The other five, with one exception, live in Nebraska. John, the eldest, lives in Garfield county and married Theresa Sebesta. Joseph is a traveling salesman and lives in Central City and married Anna Schmidt. Frank is a farmer near Horse Creek, Canada. Anna is the wife of Daniel Capek and they live in Loup county. Frances is the wife of Joseph Bartu and they live near Arcadia.

The parents of Thomas Nedbalek were born in Austria. While they were honest, worthy people, industrious and religious, they were not able in 1884 to make much headway in Austria in the way of securing a home or making any provision for old age. Therefore when five children had been added to the family, they determined to seek better industrial conditions and rewards in another country, and thus it came about that they came to the United States, where they now live retired from work and in the enjoyment of many comforts. They came to Custer county, Nebraska, and secured a homestead. In those early days the privations and hardships were undeniably present, but no more so, perhaps, than in other sections of undeveloped country, and they had experienced hard times in their own land and did not expect to live lives of ease at first. The mother remained on the homestead and with care, frugality and hard work, kept the home going, while the father worked for others and thus obtained money with which he later could improve his own land and buy stock. It is an honorable record to look back upon and Thomas Nedbalek fully appreciates the sacrifices of his parents.

Thomas Nedbalek obtained his education in the public schools of Custer county and helped his parents to prove up on the homestead where he now lives. He has 520 acres of fine land, which he devotes to general farming and stock-raising, being one of the big stockmen of the county. He carries on his farm industries along modern lines and has a recognized position in the same, and has long been identified with movements intended to advance high standards here.

Mr. Nedbalek was married at Burwell, Nebraska, April 14, 1909, to Miss Frances Stupka, whose father is an American citizen and lives in Valley county. Mr. and Mrs. Nedbalek have two sons: Joseph, who was born March 19, 1914; and Rudolph who was born February 12, 1916.

PATRICK KILFOIL, familiarly known as "Paddy" was the first settler of Dale valley. He lived in this section of the state during the pioneer days—times when mutual hardships and privations drew men together in strong ties of friendship and led to the adoption of such names as that by which Mr. Kilfoil is known to all the early settlers.

Patrick Kilfoil was born in the city of Galway, Ireland and is a son of Michael Kilfoil. As he was a very small child when his mother died he has no recollection of her and never knew her name. Patrick was the youngest of three children. In 1842 the father came to America and found employment at one dollar a day, out of which he saved enough with which to send for the children. Mr. Kilfoil was a lad of four years at the time he came to America and his younger years were spent in Virginia and Kentucky, and upon reaching young manhood he found employment on railroads, an occupation which he followed for many years. When the Civil war broke he enlisted, in 1861, for service in the Union Army and faithfully served for three years in preserving the Union. He was once wounded but owing to the severe fighting at the time he knew nothing of it till his comrades called his attention to it. Mr. Kilfoil's only brother was killed at the battle of Bull Run, at the very beginning of the war. His only sister passed away in California. The little bronze button on the lapel of his coat signifies membership in the Grand Army of the Republic and he belongs to the post at Merna.

After his service in the army Mr. Kilfoil traveled in many parts of the country, working and taking in the sights. Among the places he found employment was a stone quarry, taking out the stone used in building the state capitol at Des Moines, Iowa.

Mr. Kilfoil came to Custer county in the early pioneer days and became the first settler of Dale valley. No one had yet located on West Table or in the vicinity of where Merna now stands. He took a homestead and tree claim and owing to the fact that he had given three years to the service of Uncle Sam he was able to prove up in two years. In recognition of his being the first settler of the neighborhood the township was named Kilfoil in his honor. He witnessed the hardships and privations of the early days and though never actively engaged in farming he has owned land and always been interested in agriculture, until recently, when he disposed of his farm. The church at Dale was the first Catholic church to be erected in Custer

county, and it was made possible largely through the benevolence of Mr. Kilfoil, who was the principal contributor. He has shown his loyalty and patriotism during the great world war and is the largest holder of liberty bonds in Custer county. He is also an important stockholder in the Farmers Bank of Merna. Mr. Kilfoil has lived to see vast changes take place in the county where he was one of its earliest settlers and to the development and upbuilding of which he has been a liberal contributor.

Mr. Kilfoil is a Democrat in politics but has never sought or held public office. He has never married, preferring to live in single blessedness. He is well and favorably known not only in Custer county but over the state of Nebraska as well.

FRANK KRIZ, whose fine farm is situated in section 25, township 1, near Sargent, Nebraska, has been a resident of Custer county for the past ten years and of the state three times or more that long. He has been a resident of three different counties of Nebraska, and has taken part, to some degree, in the development of each.

Frank Kriz was born October 20, 1858, in Moravia. His parents were Joseph and Mary (Bartu) Kriz, both of whom were natives of Moravia, from which country they immigrated to the United States in 1884. The father desired to acquire land for a permanent home and this led to their coming to Nebraska. They settled in Saline county at first but later came to Custer county and here the father died in 1912. The mother lived until 1914. They were good people, honest and industrious, and had many friends in the neighborhood in which they lived. They had three children, namely: Frank; Fannie, who is the wife of Frank Visek, a farmer in Woods Park; Mary, who is the wife of Joseph Zurek, a farmer in Wisconsin; and there is a half brother, Joseph Bartu, who is a farmer south of Comstock, who married Frances Nedbalek.

Frank Kriz obtained a common school education in his native land, and was taught to be frugal and industrious in his home. He grew up there and was variously employed before he came to the United States, in 1886. He located first in Saline county, Nebraska, and lived there two years and then moved to Valley county, in 1888, and homesteaded there. He remained in that part of the state, engaged in developing his land and carrying on farm industries as he found them profitable up to 1908, in which year he was married for

the second time. After that he came to Custer county and here has become one of the substantial and highly respected citizens.

Mr. Kriz was married first to Mary Vyberal, who died June 13, 1904, the mother of eight children, as follows: Frank, who lives in David City, Nebraska; Joseph, who lives east of Sargent, Nebraska; Carrie, who is the wife of Joseph Troyan, lives in Valley county; Emil, who is a soldier with the United States force in France; Mary, who is deceased; Louise, who is the wife of Rudolph Stefka, a farmer south of Comstock; Annie, who is the wife of James Cedek, lives in Valley county; and James, who is unmarried, also lives in Valley county.

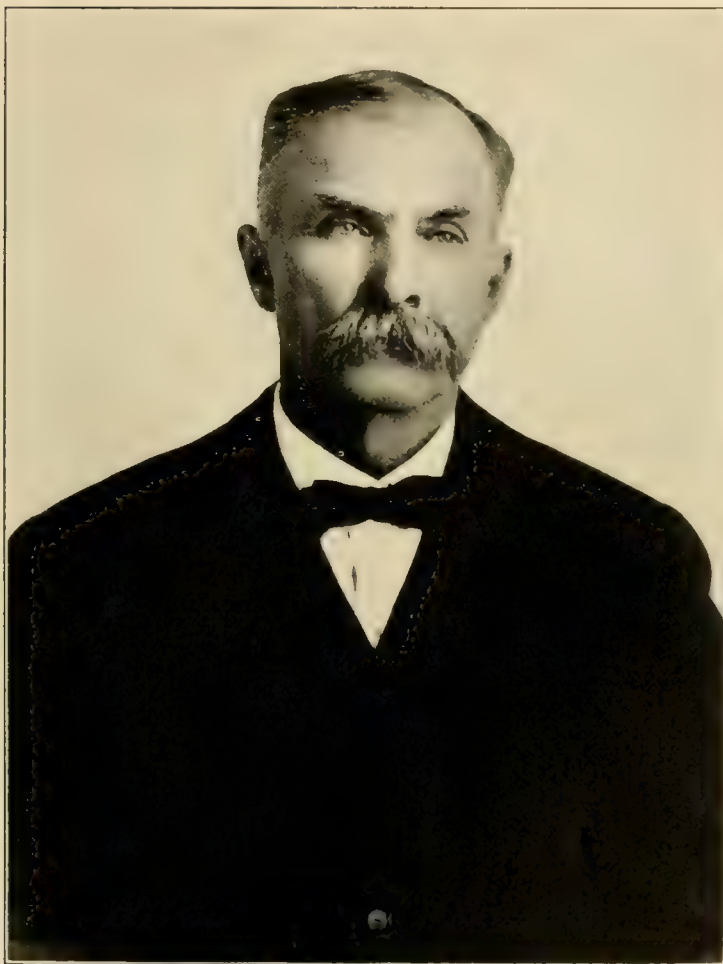
Mr. Kriz was married, second, in July, 1908, to Mrs. Mary (Jambor) Reyda, who was a widow and the mother of six children, as follows: Joseph, who lives south of Comstock; Frank, who is deceased; and Matilda, Lewis, James, and Edward, all of whom live at home. Mention is here made of the other three children—Annie, who is the wife of Joseph Zedina, lives in Valley county; Mary, who is the wife of Joseph Pipal, of Garfield county; and Emma, who is the wife of Frank Mason living in Valley county. Mr. and Mrs. Kriz have one daughter, Irma, who was born April 24, 1909.

ANDREW J. ROATH.—Among the sturdy pioneers who came to northeastern Custer county during the late '70s was one who participated in the development of the county from the days of horse thieves and claim-jumpers, of hardships and of primitive conditions, to the present prosperity, security, and law-abiding civilization, is Andrew Jackson Roath, for many years a farmer in the Cheesebro Canyon community, but for the past five years the proprietor of an automobile garage at Sargent.

Mr. Roath was born at Hardscrabble (now Streator), Illinois, December 4, 1857, and is a son of David and Mary (Swift) Roath, the former a native of New York, and the latter of Wayne county, that state. The parents of Mr. Roath were early settlers of Illinois, and his father, a farmer by vocation and a mason by trade, built the first brick house at Ottawa. He was a Republican, was a man of much industry, and during a long and active life achieved a moderate share of success. There were six children in the family: Elsie, of Otsego, Michigan; Lucien, of Jersey City, New Jersey; Andrew J., of this review; Walter, of Los Angeles, California; Orange Judd, of Chi-

cago, Illinois; and Ernest D., of Los Angeles, California.

Andrew J. Roath was educated in the public schools of Illinois, and remained at home until after he attained his majority, his youthful training being along agricultural lines. In March, 1879, he left the parental roof and struck out for Nebraska, eventually arriving at his destination in Custer county, where he homesteaded the northeast quarter of section 6, township 20, range 18. Those were the days when might frequently made right, when rugged men from the four corners of the country came to secure homesteads, and when the lawless element to some extent was attracted by the possibility of big and quick gains. Mr. Roath had numerous interesting experiences during the early days, his proximity to Cheesebro's Canyon bringing him into connection with one exciting series of incidents. The canyon was so named by the reason of one Cheesebro seeing its possibilities, as it was heavily timbered with pine and cedar, the only timber to be secured for any purpose for miles around. This Cheesebro filed on the canyon claim as a homestead and built a dugout thereon, but failed to live there, having made his home with his people a mile or so away. For some time he sold cedar posts at fifty cents each to his neighbors and to those who came from as far as twenty and thirty miles away, but a boastful remark caused his undoing. "I can eat sugar cookies," he is reported to have remarked to one of the less fortunate settlers, "while most have to be thankful if they get corn bread." By this remark he meant that he could haul his cedar posts to Grand Island or Kearney and find a ready sale at all times. The remark was widely reported and caused much hard feeling among the settlers in the vicinity, who began to take notice that Cheesebro did not make his home on his homestead. Further investigation disclosed the fact that he had already earned a home in Minnesota by homestead rights, which made him ineligible for one in Nebraska, and when these circumstances came to light, the neighbors rightly felt that they were entitled to the cedar posts as much as their claimant. Therefore a crowd of eighteen of them joined together, entered the canyon and began to gather what posts and timbers they needed for home consumption. On the second day Cheesebro appeared and endeavored to stop them, and, failing in this, tried to bluff the matter through by asserting that his wife had filed on the claim. This still being ineffective to hold the homesteaders, he appealed to the United States marshal, who made his appearance but who,



ANDREW J. ROATH

after learning the circumstances, did not interfere. The matter was then dropped by Cheesebro and the homestead has since been proven up by others.

Mr. Roath drove through to Custer county in true pioneer style, with a covered wagon, and brought with him a few household goods, several other articles, and some horses and a few head of live stock. He possessed no capital and was forced to depend entirely upon his own resources to get a start, so that every dollar counted. His first home was a log house, and in one load he hauled from Grand Island the lumber for his first frame house. When he had been here about three years, he had the misfortune to lose his three horses, which were stolen by one Kid Wade, a notorious character of the day and locality. After the theft the people advertised without avail, and finally a committee of vigilantes took matters into their own hands, and Mr. Roath recovered two of his horses, just five months to the day after they were stolen, but he never again saw the third horse. At the same time of this theft the race horse belonging to Orlando Pulliam was taken, and this was recovered at the same time. Kid Wade was caught at Lemars, Iowa, by the vigilantes, after a long chase, and was brought back to Carns Bridge, Brown county, Nebraska, where he was confined about three weeks. At the end of that time, the populace having become impatient at the delay, a crowd collected, took the prisoner from the officer in charge, and hanged him to a whistling post on the railroad, at Bassett, Brown county.

Mr. Roath continued to live on his homestead and to thrive and prosper in wealth and in the esteem of the community, accumulating a satisfying fortune and developing one of the best farms of his neighborhood. In 1910 he retired from farming, and engaged in the garage business, although he retained possession of his farm, which he still owns. His first garage having been destroyed by fire, he rebuilt on the same site, and he now has a modern structure, in which he is doing an excellent business. Mr. Roath is a Republican but is not active in public life. He is the father of two children: Roland A., born March 3, 1902; and Mary F., born August 30, 1907.

FRANK CODAY.—The story of a live, energetic young farmer living in the vicinity of Sargent, is here consistently recorded.

Frank Coday is a contribution credited to Iowa. Yet Iowa has had a small part in the formation of this Custer county citizen, since

only the first three years of his life were lived with the Hawkeyes. He was born in Wapello county, Iowa, April 26, 1882, and is a son of Thomas and Emma (Sheppard) Coday, both natives of Ohio. The father was a farmer by life occupation. He brought his family to Custer county in 1885 and preempted a quarter-section of land. He lived here until 1915 when he moved to Brown county, this state, where he still resides and where he enjoys ranch life as it exists in that cattle county. There were seven children in the father's family, five of whom are still living. Frank and his two sisters are living in this county. One brother, Earl G. Coday, lives on a farm two and one-half miles southwest of Mason City; and the other brother, Charles R. Coday, lives in Brown county, on his father's ranch. Amy Troxel lives on the Ranklin ranch in Blaine county, and Nellie VanCleve is living in Callaway. Thomas Coday was once supervisor of this county and served as road overseer for several years.

Frank Coday attended the district school in this county and here received his early training for his life occupation. It was here that he learned the rudiments of agriculture and the care of live stock, the qualities which formed the foundation of his present day achievements.

He was married February 12, 1894, to Eva Owens, at Taylor, Nebraska. His wife is the daughter of Leonard and Mary (Klingler) Owen, pioneers of the county, since the days of 1890. They still make their home in the county.

Into the home of Mr. and Mrs. Coday two children, with life and energy, have come to bring the blessings of a happy home. Max and Pearl are very bright and promising children and, with the opportunity that will be theirs, will make a name and mark in the world.

Mr. Coday is independent in politics, is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and an active leader in the Modern Woodmen of America, in which lodge he has passed through all the chairs. His membership is at Sargent. The Codays are splendid people and rated in the community as kind and obliging neighbors.

JOHN STEWART, who is now residing on a small farm in the old town of Wescott, first came to Custer county in 1882, and from that time to the present he has been one of his community's sound and practical citizens. For about a quarter of a century he was busily engaged in the development of his locality's resources, as an agriculturist, and at all times



JOHN STEWART

his views and activities have been compatible with progress.

Mr. Stewart, as his name would indicate, is of Scotch nativity, he having been born in County Ross, Scotland, July 20, 1847, a son of Donald and Anna (McFail) Stewart. His parents passed their entire lives in Scotland, where the father was a farmer in a small way, and of the nine children none save John came to the United States, although nearly all left their native soil, immigrating to Canada, Australia, and other countries. John Stewart, the only survivor of his parents' children, came to the United States about the year 1870. He had received an ordinary education in the public schools of Scotland and was a young man of intelligence and ambition. Seeking a locality in which to settle permanently, he traveled from New York to California and worked in various sections and at a number of vocations. He was prudent and thrifty, and wisely saved his earnings, so that when he came to Custer county, in 1882, he was possessed of some capital, and had the distinction of being the one to pay over the first money that was ever transferred in cash for a release on a homestead right in Custer county. This was the sum of \$250 in gold, with which he bought the tree-claim right of a young woman. He also bought an ox-team, of a Mr. Woodward, and settled down to farm his property and to enter upon the career which brought him success and prosperity. Before he gained a foothold upon the ladder of achievement, Mr. Stewart, along with numerous others, was called to face many hardships and privations. Unlike the majority of others, he did not have a wife to assist in easing his burdens, for Mr. Stewart has never married. However, he was equal to every emergency, eventually won his way through, and for a long period was recognized as one of the community's most prosperous men. His good management brought him a comfortable fortune, and when he was ready to retire from the hard work of the farm, some ten or twelve years ago, he had for sale a valuable and highly improved farm, which brought a handsome figure. Mr. Stewart at that time moved to his present snug farm, in the old town of Wescott, and here he has since been busy in his garden.

Mr. Stewart has always been a staunch and unfaltering Republican. During the height of the Populist movement he was frequently approached in regard to the shifting of his support, but he never changed his allegiance. He has not sought office, but has endeavored to place good men in positions of trust. Mr. Stewart, while a believer in religion, has never

joined any particular church. He does not favor secret societies.

FRANK SUTTON.—Here follows a plain story of pioneering and a story very common to Custer county inhabitants, virtually all of whom came from eastern stock and ran the same gamut of experiences in the primitive days, and there is also a striking similarity in the success achieved by these citizens as exhibited by a present day survey. The man to whom the name and the title line belong, hails from Hoosierdom, where he was born in Carroll county, June 26, 1861.

He is the son of Louis and Laurinda (Dimmitt) Sutton. Father Louis Sutton and his wife were both natives of Indiana and farmers by occupation. He enlisted in the army in 1861 and after rendering a year of hard service was discharged on account of physical disability. He returned home and engaged in farming until 1868, when with his family he moved to Appanoose county, Iowa, where he purchased a farm and made it his home until 1882, when the call of the west moved him again—this time to Custer county, where he bought a homestead which he made his home for the rest of his life. He died March 20, 1887, as a result of disease contracted in the war. He was a Democrat in politics and a member of the Methodist church. He and his wife were the parents of seven children: Mary E. is the wife of J. W. Wallace. Sarah A. was the wife of J. H. Shinn, but is now deceased. Andrew J. married Julia Jennings and is now a clergyman located at Pueblo, Colorado. The fourth was the subject of whom we are writing. John R. is a farmer living at Tyro, Kansas. Nancy J. is the wife of Fred Cummings, a farmer and stockman living at Fort Collins, Colorado. Walter M. lives at Pennyman, Virginia, where he is guarding water works for United States government.

Mr. Sutton was educated in the common schools of Iowa and in 1888 was married to Flora Penick, who was spared to him but two short years. After her death he remarried, in September, 1896, to Maude Kenyon, in Loup county. The second Mrs. Sutton is a daughter of John A. and Sarah E. (Fuller) Kenyon. Her parents were early Custer county settlers of whom extended notice is given elsewhere.

After coming to Custer county young Frank worked on the farm of his parents until 1905, when he started operations for himself. After three years he moved on to the old homestead, where he has lived ever since and upon which he has put all the improvements of the pres-

ent time, replacing the sod buildings with new and more modern ones.

In the family home of the Suttons were born two children: Raymond E. married Ethel Wells and has established a home for himself in Cummings Park; Vida P. is at home.

Mr. Sutton recalled some of his experiences of the early days. On one occasion he helped to haul hogs for R. G. Carr to North Loup. There were a hundred sixty-eight hogs to be hauled and it required a number of wagons, and accordingly the whole neighborhood turned out. This was in the winter of '85 and '86. It was so cold that one of the men, George Pierce, would have frozen to death if it had not been for Mr. Sutton and David Coltrane. Pierce had gotten so cold and numb that he lay down and refused to move. They saved his life by using a whip on him and finally roused him up and angered him to the extent that they were able to get him up and move him on. Of the hundred and sixty-eight hogs ninety-two froze to death. Mr. Sutton pulled straw from a stack and put it into the wagon among the hogs in his load and this helped, he thinks, to save them.

H. B. POINTER.—Over in the West Union precinct, which is entitled to be called one of the garden spots of Custer county, lives a substantial farmer in a splendid farm home, surrounded by a happy family whose name is spelled in the title line. Mr. Pointer descends from a good old Kentucky family.

He was born in the Bluegrass state, March 1, 1863, and was the fifth son of John and Hester (Sharp) Pointer, both very excellent Kentucky people who spent their lives in the Bluegrass state. The father was a farmer and a Democrat in politics and rated as one of the first citizens of the community in which he lived. The mother was a very excellent southern lady, a faithful adherent and supporter of the Baptist church. Recorded in the family Bible were the names of six children: Melvina, the wife of S. M. Davis, lives on an Illinois farm; Tina, wife of Louis Johnson, also lives in Illinois; John married Carrie Davis and is engaged in farming, in Illinois; Maggie, the wife of William Pfrehm, lives in Bay City, Texas. The fifth name in the family roster is the one recorded at the head of this paragraph. James W. married Mattie Hargon, and is a photographer living in Malvern, Iowa.

H. B. Pointer spent his early years in Illinois where he received a liberal education in the graded schools of Salisbury, that state.

After leaving school he began practical farming and has stuck to the vocation during the major portion of his life.

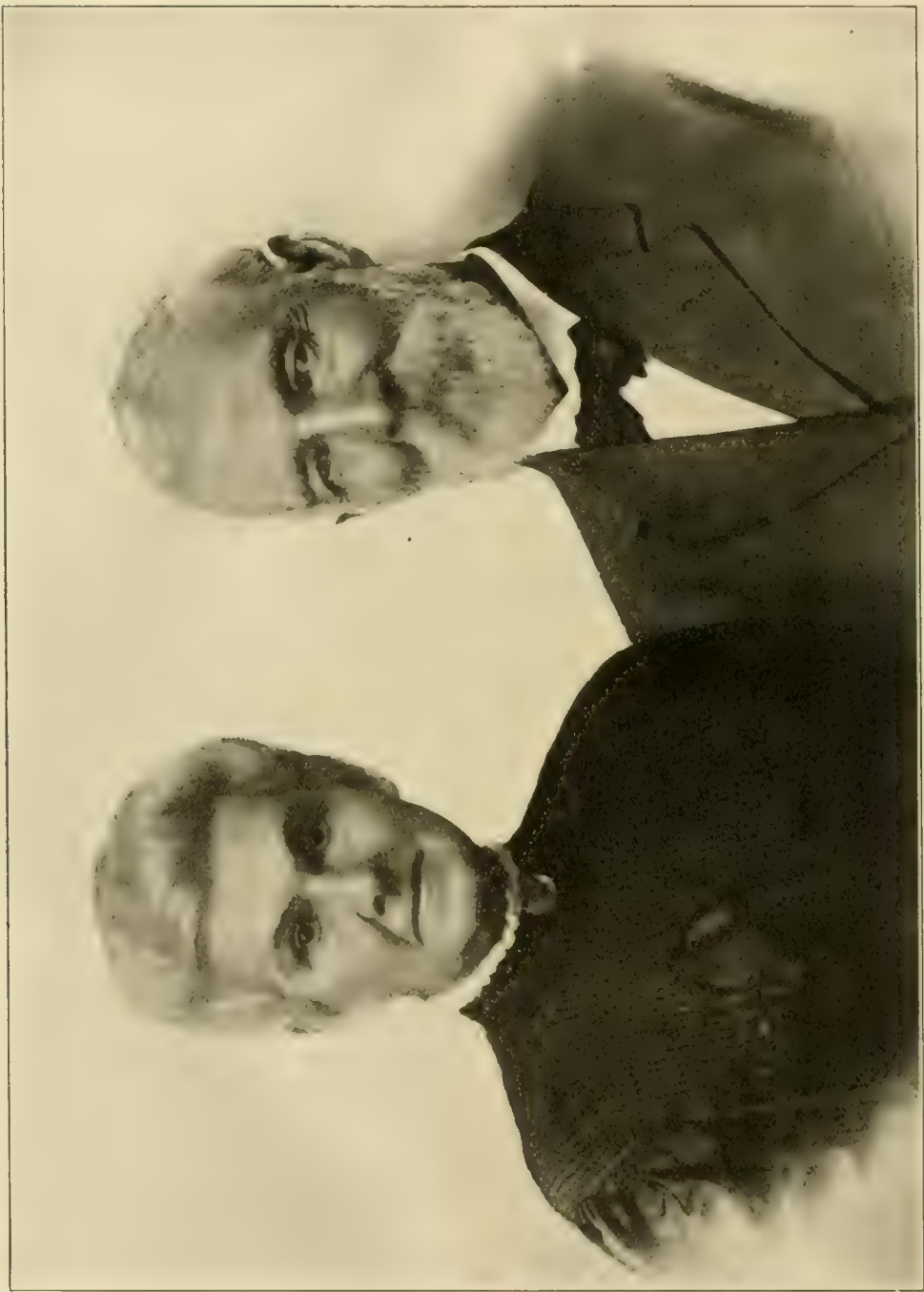
In 1889 he became a benedict by leading to the marriage altar Cora J. Carr, a Custer county young lady who came of an excellent family. Mrs. Pointer's people were early settlers in this county, coming here in August 1878, locating both a homestead and tree claim, and living on these claims until 1892, when they moved to Doris, this county, and began the operation of a flouring mill which Mr. Carr, the father, had owned for several years. In 1910 he retired from active life and devoted his time to the care of his property. For the last three years he has been living in Texas. In this family were five children, only two of whom are now living, Stanley and Mrs. H. B. Pointer.

The story goes among the West Union old timers that Mr. Carr's first wife was the first teacher in Custer county. It is certain that if she was not the first she was one of the first, as she taught a school for which she was paid by subscription in the fall of 1878.

Mr. Pointer made a marked success of farming. Eighteen years of his life, however, were spent in the milling business at Doris Lake, where he was in partnership with his father-in-law, mentioned above. After retiring from the mill he again resumed farming, which has been his occupation for the last eight years. In his farming and stock-raising operations he makes a specialty of Poland-China hogs and Rhode Island Red chickens, all of which not only show careful selection in breeding but splendid care and unusual attention. The farm consists of one hundred sixty acres, in West Union, where the farm home is located, and another farm south of the river.

Three children have been the result of their marriage and all are living and have promising prospects for the future: Lloyd married May Hill and is living on a farm near Sargent, on which he has made a success of his initial effort; George, who is still single, lives at home and is charged with much of the responsibility of the home place; and Doris likewise remains at the parental home.

In the early days of pioneering Mr. Pointer was here and had his share of the privations and hardships which were handed around so generously to the early settlers. He freighted from West Union to North Loup, a distance of fifty miles, and many nights, without overmuch bedding, slept on the ground floors of the settlers' sod houses. This even in the winter time when the weather was so cold that the provisions they carried would be frozen.



MR. AND MRS. DAVID DOWNEY

The younger generation of Pointers will never know the hardships endured and the sacrifices made to establish residence and develop the splendid home they enjoyed during their childhood years.

DAVID DOWNEY.—In considering the life record of the late David Downey, who for many years was one of Custer county's influential and respected citizens, a striking illustration is presented of what can be accomplished through the exercise of energy, will power, and self-sacrifice, when directed along the right channels. When David Downey arrived at Kearney, Buffalo county, Nebraska, his worldly possessions consisted of a wife, their two sons and one daughter—J. M., W. C., and Nellie,—their necessary clothing, and the sum of twenty-five cents in actual money. At the close of a busy, frugal, and useful life in this state, he passed away as one of Custer county's substantial and representative men, owning one of the largest stock ranches in this part of the country.

David Downey was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, in 1834, and was reared in Ohio, where he attended school as opportunity was afforded in early boyhood. He soon became self-supporting through general day labor, but, possessing a large amount of common sense, he realized that such work did little to advance his permanent fortunes and that therefore a change must be made. He had heard many stories of the great opportunities that the great west offered, and he decided to try his fortune in Nebraska. He arrived in Kearney in 1879. He came to the state with the intention of securing land and establishing a permanent home, and in search of the same he stopped for a short time in Buffalo county. Mr. and Mrs. Downey from there came to Custer county and located their homestead, on which they filed in 1882. They lived here for a number of years in the same primitive way as did their neighbors, but in facing the many hardships that all encountered, they manifested more courage and resourcefulness than did many others, and they were finally well rewarded. From Kearney Mr. Downey had to haul the lumber with which to build their first substantial house. In the course of years he and his two sons became the owners of 1,800 acres of highly cultivated land, some of the most valuable in middle Nebraska, modern improvements adding to its value. He was greatly interested in raising good live stock, and for years the Downey ranch has been noted for its herds of Hereford cattle.

Mr. Downey always insisted that the greatest event in his life was his marriage to Miss Emily McGregor, who was born at Columbus, Ohio, and who still resides on the old homestead, with her two children, J. M. and Nellie.

J. M. Downey has taken his father's place in the management and operation of the ranch, and is one of the leading stockmen of the Loup township community, annually raising more than 200 head of fine Hereford cattle. Miss Nellie Downey, who has made teaching her profession, was for a number of years an instructor in the graded schools at Broken Bow, but for the past three years she has been engaged at Hastings. By patrons and pupils she is held in high esteem, both professionally and personally.

The death of David Downey, which occurred March 9, 1918, removed not only one of the early settlers of the county, but also a man who had been of sterling worth in the community—an example of industry and an exponent of strict integrity. It was a great comfort to him in his last days to realize that he left his faithful life companion so well provided for, and it likewise is a comfort to her to know that he lived to enjoy some of the ease his early industry had provided. The entire family belongs to the Presbyterian church.

WILLIAM OBERG.—A specialist in the raising of Jersey Red hogs and Short Horn cattle, William Oberg is one of the well-to-do stockmen of his part of Custer county, and is carrying on extensive operations on his well-improved farm not far from Sargent, which he homesteaded not long after he had attained his majority. It has been his fortune to have played a helpful part in the development of the county, and while he has been so doing, to have gained the respect and confidence of his fellow-citizens here.

Mr. Oberg was born in Sweden, February 10, 1861, and is a son of Carl and Christina (Edgar) Oberg, who passed their entire lives in their native land. In his earlier life Carl Oberg had been a policeman in the city of Vadstena, but eventually turned his attention to farming, and through industry and careful handling of his affairs became the possessor of a modest competence, on which he retired in the evening of his life. In 1879 William Oberg and his sister, Mrs. Kling, who is now the wife of a prosperous farmer of Saunders county, Nebraska, immigrated to the United States. He had attended the schools of his native land and after locating in Saunders county was an occasional attendant of the dis-

strict school for a short term, in the meantime otherwise occupying himself by working as a farm hand. He was eighteen years of age when he came to this country and was a youth of brawn and intelligence, but had little else to assist him to get a start save his ambition and spirit. Mr. Oberg was not far past his twenty-first birthday when he came to Custer county and homesteaded in section 19, township 20, where he subsequently bought a quarter-section. He has always retained this property, having always been satisfied and seeing no reason for a change, and through careful industry and a proper appreciation of modern methods and devices has transformed his farm into a highly developed tract, on which are splendid buildings and other improvements. Mr. Oberg is a specialist in the field of hog raising, and at this time is doing a large and profitable business in breeding Jersey Reds, in addition to which he has a small herd of Short-horn cattle. His business standing is of the best, and he is known as an enterprising and progressive man and a helpful factor in movements which make for the betterment of his community.

Mr. Oberg was married September 24, 1884, to Miss Anna Monson, who was also born in Sweden, a daughter of Mons and Ingried (Olson) Nelson, who never left their native country. Mrs. Oberg came to the United States with a sister, and they were the only ones to immigrate to this land. To Mr. and Mrs. Oberg there have been born a family of eleven children, of whom there are eight now living: Charley, single, who resides at home and is his father's chief assistant in the cultivation of the farm; Fred, a veterinarian of Osceola, Nebraska, who married Freda Grunkenmeyer; Mary, who is the wife of Elmer Leep, a farmer near Milburn; Jessie, who is the wife of Paul Vankleeck, a farmer and stockman residing in southeastern Wyoming, Goshen county, Wyoming; Albert and Flossie, who are single and reside at home; Anna, who resides at home and is a teacher in the public schools; and Esther, who resides at home.

WILLIAM STOCKHAM.—Among those who took part in the migration to Custer county during the latter '80s, and one who was destined to become a leading farmer and raiser of stock in the Broken Bow community, was William Stockham. He was at that time a young married man, with but little capital, but possessed of ambition and energy, and the bright prospects with which he viewed the new country have materialized into realities, for he is now

successfully conducting operations on one of the county's valuable properties, that known as the D. Heenan ranch.

Mr. Stockham was born in Scioto county, Ohio, May 7, 1857, a son of William and Elizabeth (Bennett) Stockman, who were natives of Ohio and who were farming people. There were six children in the family: James, Samuel, William, Joseph, Harvey, and David. When William Stockman was six years of age his father died, and in 1865 his mother came with her family to Cass county, Nebraska, where she located four miles east and one-half mile south of the present site of Weeping Willow, where the husband and father had bought land upon which he had never had the chance to locate. Nebraska at that time was still a wild country, with buffaloes roaming the plains and Indians still plentiful and, at times, dangerous. Thus it requires only a little imagination to visualize the dangers faced and the privations endured by this courageous widow with her large family of small children. However, Mrs. Stockham kept her brood together, and she later contracted a second marriage, John W. Russell being a son of this union. The district schools of Cass county furnished William Stockham with his early education, and that he was an industrious youth is shown in the fact that when he was only nine years of age he began earning money, by dropping corn by hand, for a neighbor, the corn being thereafter covered by means of a hoe. He remained with his mother until he was past twenty-eight years of age, and on March 30, 1886, near Nehawka, Nebraska, he married Miss Mary E. Ingwerson, a native of that place and a daughter of Frederick and Emma (Heath) Ingwerson. In the Ingwerson family there were the following children: James, Charles E., Albert N., Mary E., Frank W., Mrs. Ida J. Lopp, Richard H., Mrs. Lucy A. St. John, Mrs. Ellen C. Mast, and Mrs. Laura I. Wilson.

Not long after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Stockham came to Custer county, and in 1887 they located on a farm fifteen miles west of Callaway. After residing there a short time, they removed to Wild Horse Flats, in Logan county, near the northeast corner of Custer county, where they took a homestead and tree claim. There they continued to maintain their home for eight years, and thereafter they spent about one year in Custer county, following which they returned to the old Stockham place, where they continued its operation successfully for seven years. Then, in 1910, they came to their present place of residence, the D. Heenan ranch, south of Broken Bow, on

the South Loup river. Mr. Stockham has continued his agricultural operations here with splendid results, and is known as a skilled representative of the farming industry and an able handler of live stock. During the many years that he has lived in this part of Nebraska he has built up a reputation for sound integrity and honorable dealings, as well as for progressive citizenship, and in the various activities which have occupied his time he has been found reliable and trustworthy — fully deserving of the respect and confidence in which he is held.

Mr. and Mrs. Stockham have become the parents of four sons and five daughters, as follows: William Earl, Richard R., Charles, Alice E., Stella N., Mabel, Ola, Lottie, and Clarence. The children have been given good educational advantages and are being reared to honorable and useful manhood and womanhood, so that they will be able to fill capably whatever positions life holds for them.

HARRIS M. COLTRANE is a representative Custer county farmer who comes of southern stock. He lives in the vicinity of Sargent, where since 1885 he has been conducting farming operations on a more or less extensive scale and where he has made an enviable reputation as a substantial citizen and successful farmer.

Mr. Coltrane was born down below the Mason and Dixon line, in Randolph county, North Carolina, May 13, 1861. His parents were Daniel L. and Amanda J. (Harris) Coltrane, both natives of North Carolina, where both were raised and lived their entire lives. He was a farmer, which occupation he followed to the exclusion of everything else. In the days of the Civil war he cast his fortunes with his state and served in the Confederate army for eight months, being wounded in the battle of Petersburg, Virginia, at the time of Lee's surrender.

In the father's family were eight children, four of whom are living at the present time: Harris M. is the only one, however, living outside of the county where they were born. Young Harris received his education in the graded schools of North Carolina and very early gave his attention to farming. He came to Custer county in May, 1885, and for one or two years worked on a ranch. He started farming operations for himself as soon as possible and three years after coming to the county bought a relinquishment known as the Jean Reed timber claim, on which he still lives. He developed the farm, put on all the

improvements himself and today has an unusually well improved place.

In 1892 he was married to Mary E. Twiggs, a daughter of James L. and Eliza E. (Allan) Twiggs. Mrs. Coltrane's parents came to the county in 1882 and homesteaded three miles north of Sargent. In their family were ten children, seven of whom are still living.

Into the family circle of Mr. and Mrs. Coltrane six children have been born: Clarence M. married Bessie Smith of Loup City and is now employed by the National Supply Company at Casper, Wyoming. Loyd A. married Pearl Correll and is homesteading at Proctor, Colorado. Esther E. is teaching school. Clark K., Lewis L., and Hugh H. are at home.

On the Coltrane farm considerable attention is paid to Poland-China hogs and short-horn cattle, both lines of which are well represented in fashionable types, and this breeding has been a source of profit to Mr. Coltrane. Mrs. Coltrane gives especial attention to White Plymouth Rock chickens and has a classy flock parading the barnyard.

The needs of the country as represented in all patriotic war drives have appealed to the Coltranes and they have responded liberally to every call. They are patriotic, hospitable, courteous and maintain a reputation as good neighbors and excellent citizens.

EUGENE S. SIMS. — Over in the northeast section of the county, in the Comstock region, lives an unassuming farmer who deserves well the rewards of labor and sacrifice and who has given to Custer county the service of his best years.

Eugene S. was born in Avoca, Iowa, March 17, 1880. His parents were George W. and Lucy (Eglebarger) Sims. The father was a native of Henry county, Illinois, and the mother's native state was Iowa. The father was a farmer and came to Custer county in 1894. Prior to his advent into this county he had farmed in Iowa and Missouri. During the Civil war he enlisted in the Federal army and served three years, was twice slightly wounded and once taken prisoner. By strange coincidence his enlistment into the army was on his birthday, his discharge was dated on his birthday and his death occurred on the anniversary of his birth. There were ten children in the family, but Eugene S. is the only one living in Custer county. One brother was killed in the Philippine war and one, Basil, is now serving in the aviation department of the United States army in Europe.

Eugene received his education in the Iowa

public schools and in that state too he rolled his first furrow and followed his first plough. It was there that he learned both the theory and practice of farming and qualified himself for his present operations.

His domestic life dates from the 2d day of November, 1902, when he led to the altar and claimed as his wife Letha E. Coover. She is the daughter of Jesse B. and Sarah (Hayes) Coover. The Coovers are well-known people in the vicinity of Muddy Valley, where they were pioneers since 1888. In the Coover family were seven children, but with the exception of Mrs. Sims none lives in Custer county. Mr. and Mrs. Sims have an interesting family of young and growing children. Merle was born August 19, 1903; Pearl, July 10, 1905; Glen, August 18, 1907; Paul, September 14, 1914.

Since 1894 Mr. and Mrs. Sims have been residents of Custer county. The 160 acres of land upon which he is living was purchased with the result of his own toil. He has it well improved, in a high state of cultivation and makes profitable returns from his stock-raising and feeding. Politically Mr. Sims affiliates with the Republican party. His wife is a member of the Christian church. He belongs to the Odd Fellows and also to the Woodmen of the World. The Sims family are modest, unpretentious people and enjoy a reputation for honesty and frugality that ranks them well in the community.

SAMUEL WADDINGTON. — Among those who have contributed largely to the prosperity of Custer county, and whose patient industry and well directed energy have brought individual competencies, may be mentioned Samuel Waddington, who is one of the extensive land-owners of the county.

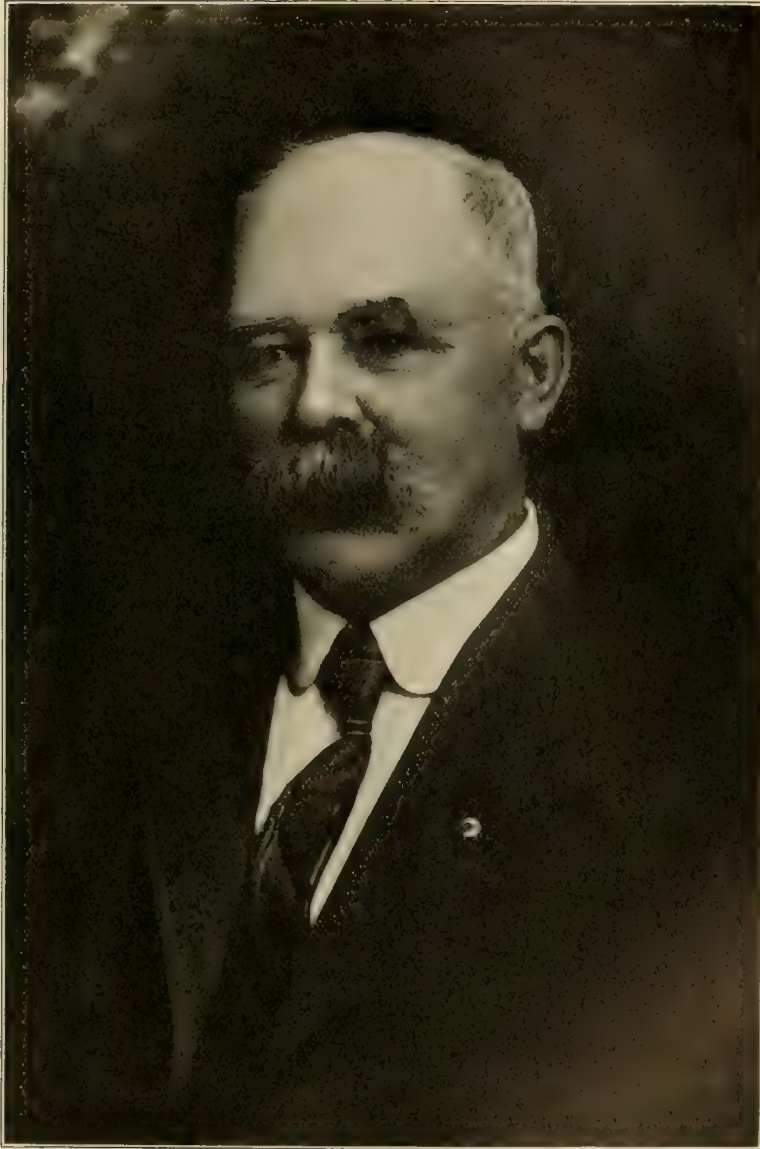
Mr. Waddington was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, June 12, 1850. His father, James Waddington, was a native of England and when a boy accompanied his parents to the United States, settling in Harrison county, Ohio, in 1835. There he grew to manhood and there he married Lydia Boreland, after which event he became a resident of Tuscarawas county, where he made his home until 1886, when he came to Custer county, Nebraska, and secured the homestead on which he lived until his death. His wife passed away in Illinois and is buried in Custer county. They were the parents of sixteen children, as follows: Hannah, who is deceased, was the wife of William V. True, of Colfax, Colorado; Elizabeth married C. F. Carroll, and her death

occurred in Ohio, in 1917; Grace married C. C. Carroll and resides at Oconee, Illinois; Samuel is the subject of this sketch; Burgarell died in Colorado, in May, 1918; Eleanor is the wife of T. P. Bane and resides at Arrowsmith, Illinois; David is a resident of Oconee, Illinois; Henry lives at Riverside, California; Andrew resides at Fowler, Colorado; Nancy is the wife of Abram Taylor, a resident of South Dakota; Ann, widow of William Scott, resides at Fowler, Colorado; Isaac died in Custer county, twelve years ago; John died in Idaho, three years ago; James is a resident of Montana; William S. resides in Custer county; and one daughter died in childhood.

Samuel Waddington was reared to the sturdy discipline of the farm, in Ohio and Illinois, and when a young man began working on a farm by the month. In 1888 he came to Custer county and secured as a homestead the northeast quarter of section 14, township 18, range 23, besides which he pre-empted 160 acres — the east half of the northeast quarter and the east half of the southeast quarter of section 11 of this township. He was desirous of obtaining a good, level tract of land, and this seemed to answer the purpose. Here he was engaged in general farming until the dry years came on, when he made up his mind that stock-raising would be more suitable to this part of the county. Consequently he invested in young stock, and from the first his enterprise began to prosper. As his resources increased, he invested in more land, and he is to-day the owner of 3,800 acres, all in one body and known as Waddington Ranch. This land lies in townships 18 and 19, range 23, and is especially adapted for stock-raising. In past years Mr. Waddington has operated extensively in raising and feeding cattle, and for many years past he has raised pure-bred Percheron horses, owning at the present time some very fine animals.

Mr. Waddington was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Olliver, a native of the same neighborhood as her husband. Their home has been blessed with seven children: Nettie is the wife of M. S. Cooper, of Blaine county, Nebraska; Carrie married Chalmers G. Empfield, of Anselmo; Eva married Levi Empfield and resides in Callaway; Bert is married and engaged in farming in Custer county; Jennie married Albert Hill and resides in Custer county; McKinley is still at home; and Ada is the wife of John Schmitz, of Custer county.

Mr. Waddington may truthfully be called a self-made man, as he never had a dollar given to him and all he has accumulated has been won through his own efforts and good



SAMUEL WADDINGTON

management. He is not a member of any religious denomination but is inclined to a belief in harmony with the Methodist faith. His political views are in accord with the principles of the Republican party. At the age of sixty-eight years he is a man well preserved, still active in the work of the fields and ranch, and his circle of friends is co-extensive with his circle of acquaintances.

JOSEPH EXLEY.—A very successful farm operator and one who has endured the hardships of early days, lives on a well kept farm in the Sargent vicinity and is introduced to the reader by the name on the headline.

Joseph Exley was born near Eddyville, Iowa, March 1, 1852. He was the third son of Thomas and Cynthia Elizabeth (Lafoon) Exley. The father a native of New Castle, England, descended from a long line of strictly Saxon ancestors. The mother was a native of North Carolina. Thomas Exley was a bookkeeper by profession, having served an apprenticeship for seven years in England before coming to America. Sometime in the year 1841 he came to the United States and located near Burlington, Iowa, and immediately began farming. The early date of his settlement in Iowa enabled him to get government land, which he did, and improved it and by what he earned from his homestead he purchased other land until at one time he owned five hundred acres of Iowa land and had it well stocked and well improved. He and his good wife were the parents of eleven children, eight of whom are still living. Joseph Exley and Mrs. Ed. Leach of Sargent are the only ones living in this county.

The subject of this writing spent his early days in Iowa, where he received the instruction afforded by the country schools and where he had his first instruction in the art of soil culture. He landed in Custer county March 13, 1884, and filed on the homestead in section 7, township 20, range 18, which is still his home.

He was married September 13, 1877, to Charity E. Shores, of Lucas county, Iowa. She was a very estimable lady and became the companion of his early life, the maker of his home and the mother of his six children. In 1907 she was called from the earthly home to that land where rewards are supposed to await the faithful. Since her demise the husband has maintained the farm and the farm home, some of his children living with him and looking after the internal affairs of the household.

The family roster contains the following

names of children born into the Exley home: Nora Edith, born in 1879, is the wife of William B. Wright, a farmer living west of Taylor, in Loup county; Thomas Ira, born in 1880, died January 7, 1899; Orville Malvin, born in 1883, married Etta Zion, and is operating a farm east of Sargent; Cynthia Viola, born in 1885, is single; Lawrence Frederick, born in 1887, married Jennie Lovett, and is farming in Wyoming; Arthur Harden, born in 1894, married Lucy Vanderveen and lives on the home place.

Mr. Exley now owns 320 acres of good land, well improved and upon which he makes his home, but the active farming operations he has delegated to the children. All that is to be seen on the Exley farm is the result of labor and soil production in the years past. We are told that Mr. Exley arrived in Custer county with but a small portion of this world's goods and that his climbing operations commenced at the bottom rung of the ladder. His children, however, stayed with him and made the farm their home until they were twenty-one years of age and he credits them with being of invaluable assistance. During the years of accumulation his reliance was upon toil, he never had recourse to speculation, he never made traps of dollars with which to catch dimes, his labor and his crops paid all his bills and put the improvements upon his place. There are few more striking examples of common thrift and simple energy than the subject of this sketch affords

FRANK WOOD.—One of the prominent stockmen of the river region in the South Loup county is Frank Wood, who is now in his thirty-sixth year and in the prime of vigorous manhood. He was born on the old home place of which he is now manager. He is a son of Joshua Wood, a Custer county pioneer who was one of the men who had to do with the county's organization. He was elected the first sheriff of Custer county, but did not accept the office. Joshua Wood is sixty-six years old, in 1918, and lives in Kearney, Nebraska. His wife, Etta (Kilgore) Wood, mother of Frank, came of a prominent pioneer family and she is still living. They became the parents of two sons and one daughter—Walter is thirty-nine years of age and is manager of one ranch which is operated in connection with the Wood holdings; Mrs. Ada Overmire is thirty-eight years of age and lives on a farm near Cumro; and Frank, of this review, is the youngest of the number.

On the Wood ranch are to be found good grades of all kinds of stock, a specialty being



Frank Wood

made of Hereford cattle. Here are to be found fine horses and well bred hogs, an automobile, good farm machinery, fences, windmills, and everything in the line of farm and stock equipment.

In 1903 Frank Wood was united in marriage to Miss Abbie George, a daughter of Walter A. George, who is well and prominently known throughout the entire state, and who served two terms as state treasurer. More specific mention of Mr. George will be found on other pages of this volume.

Mr. and Mrs. Wood have two bright sons, Leo and Claudie, who are in school and pursuing the course so common to young Americans of their class. Mrs. Wood is a member of the Baptist church at Kearney, Nebraska.

The Wood ranch is one of the oldest and most famous in the south part of the county. The brothers' holdings comprise approximately 3,000 acres, and those of the father 3,360 acres—a tract which, as it comprises river-valley land, is exceedingly valuable. They own about 1,000 head of cattle, which makes theirs one of the largest cattle ranches in the county at the present day.

Mr. Wood and his wife are excellent people and are highly respected by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. Patriotic and generous of disposition, they have been contributors to every department of war work, responsive to all appeals and in the production of foodstuffs they belong to that great class of American citizens who maintain the bulwarks of the production which feeds the army and has sustained the allies in the great world war.

ALECK NELSON.—If they come from Sweden their credit is good and they are hard workers. That is the case with Aleck Nelson, whose home and farm are in the vicinity of Sargent. He was born in Carlskoga, Sweden, November 16, 1845, and is a son of Nels Nelson and Mary (Olson) Nelson, both descendants of a long Swedish ancestral line in the country they always lived. The early years of Mr. Nelson's career were spent in his native land, where he received a good education and learned economy by practical application of frugal and industrious habits. He came to America in 1863, where he made his first home and where he began agricultural pursuits as carried on in this country. From Illinois he went to Clinton, Iowa, where he was employed in general work of various kinds for nearly seven years.

His advent into Custer county occurred in

the spring of 1879, at which time he filed on the homestead on which he has lived ever since. He now owns two hundred and forty acres of good land, well improved and equipped so that life for him and his family is much easier than in former years, when he was making his start. Mr. Nelson has had his full share of pioneer hardships and privations. He made eleven trips from his place to Grand Island and one from his place to Kearney and one to North Loup, with a yoke of oxen. The distance traveled in making these journeys was two thousand six hundred miles. It seems almost impossible that people could live under such conditions but it was done. These places mentioned were the railroad points and nearest markets for the farm produce, and the trips had to be made.

On one occasion he recalls having stopped in Ord over night and the only shelter to be obtained was an old livery barn, in which he had hard work to keep from freezing. Again on another occasion he and a neighbor made a trip to the Dismal swamps for cedar posts and were caught in a blizzard and came near losing their lives.

The great pleasure of his life came in the spring of 1871, when he led to the marriage altar, in Carroll county, Illinois, Miss Isabel Ellis, a young lady of splendid character and fine quality, whose parents were natives of Scotland, coming to the United States in 1866. Mrs. Nelson's parents lived in Illinois from the time of their settlement until their death. There were two children in the family circle of her parents, but she is the only one living in Nebraska.

Into the prosperous home of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson the years brought four bright, promising children, but from time to time the shadows fell and only one now survives. Emil Nelson married Bertha Buhlke and is now established in a home of his own. He is employed in a garage at Burwell, Nebraska.

This excellent family belongs to the Swedish Lutheran church. Mr. Nelson is high in the circles of Odd Fellowship, of which order he has been a member for forty-nine years, having passed through all the chairs of the local and higher lodges. He is independent in politics, and votes always for the man he thinks best fitted for the office.

JOSEPH FAJMON, who is a well known farmer and respected citizen of Custer county, has largely made his own way in the world, as his father died when he was only two years old; nevertheless he owns a large body of productive land and is one of the large grain



GEORGE C. MARSH AND FAMILY

farmers of this section. He was born November 1, 1872, in Saunders county, Nebraska, the elder of two children born to Joseph and Mary (Penas) Fajmon.

The parents of Joseph Fajmon were born in Moravia, Austria, and lived there until 1871, when they immigrated to the United States. They were quiet, industrious people who left old ties and old country in the hope of bettering their financial condition in another land. After reaching Nebraska, the father homesteaded in Saunders county, with the expectation of proving up and developing his land into a profitable farm. During the first winter he worked in a smelter at Omaha, in order to secure capital with which to begin farming, having to walk the entire distance back and forth, on account of there being no railroads of any kind at that time in that neighborhood. He died in 1874, the father of two children: Joseph and Mary, the latter of whom is the wife of Frank Kosmata, and they live in Missouri. The mother lives in Garfield county, Nebraska.

Joseph Fajmon obtained his education in the public schools. He was seventeen years of age when he began farming for himself and knows how much hard work sometimes has to be done for a wage of ten dollars a month. He was steady and industrious and gradually acquired land until now he owns 320 acres, all well improved and fully stocked. He has carried on his farming operations continuously and intelligently and is a large producer of corn and wheat, the great essentials in the year of 1918. Mr. Fajmon can remember occasions during his early agricultural life, when he sold corn at nine cents a bushel, and precious wheat at 35 cents. At that time there was but little grain grown in this part of the state. Mr. Fajmon's farm is situated on section 12, township 1, Custer county.

Mr. Fajmon was married at Burwell, Nebraska, January 2, 1899, to Miss Mary Kolousek, a daughter of Frank and Antonia (Pochop) Kolousek, who have two other children, namely: Frances, who is the wife of Mike Hulinsky, a farmer living in Valley county, Nebraska; and Frank, who is a farmer in California, and married Frances Matousek. Mrs. Fajmon's parents came to Custer county in 1884, and secured the homestead on which they yet live. Mr. and Mrs. Fajmon have the following children: Mary, Phyllis, Anna, Rosie, Charles, Emma, Frances, Frank, and Lillie. Mr. Fajmon takes interest in all that concerns the substantial development of Custer county, but has no desire to hold political office, and he casts his vote outside of party

lines but in accordance with his own excellent judgment.

GEORGE C. MARSH is one of the pioneers who came to Custer county in the '80s, and he has contributed his share to the civic and industrial development and upbuilding of the county. Mr. Marsh was born in the state of Ohio, on the 9th of August, 1860, and is a son of George Adam Marsh and Maria (Haring) Marsh, both of whom were natives of the old Buckeye state and each of whom attained to the age of seventy-three years: they became the parents of eight children, of whom George C. and Charles are residents of Nebraska, Charles being a farmer in Buffalo county.

George C. Marsh was twelve years of age at the time of the family removal from Ohio to Indiana, in which latter state he was reared to manhood and in which he received the advantages of the public schools. He was a resident of Marshall county, Indiana, for a period of twelve years, and in 1884 he came to Nebraska, his arrival in Custer county taking place in February of that year, and his tangible financial resources at the time having been just twelve and one-half dollars. He purchased a relinquishment to a claim and later filed entry on a timber claim. In 1892 he removed to the farm which is now his home. Mr. Marsh grappled earnestly and vigorously with the contending forces that are ever to be encountered in the development of a new country, bore his share of trials and hardships, but he so ordered his course that eventually definite success crowned his efforts. That he has made good, and more than good, is evidenced in his possessions and surroundings of the present day. He has 800 acres of good land, all clear from indebtedness, and on the same he raises good grades of horses and cattle, as well as Duroc-Jersey hogs of the best type. His success as an agriculturist and stock-raiser has been due to his energy, thrift, and good judgment. Aside from his farm enterprise he is a stockholder in the Eddyville State Bank, at Eddyville, Dawson county. Throughout his entire business career Mr. Marsh has adhered firmly to the principle of ordering all transactions on a cash basis, and thus he has never permitted himself to become involved in perplexing indebtedness. In the early period of his residence in Custer county Mr. Marsh worked eight years on the Black ranch, of which he was foreman during five years of this time. By this employment he earned the money to buy his first land. He has been



GEORGE MARY AND FAMILY

a man of persistent industry, has been progressive and liberal in his civic attitude, has achieved worthy success, and has at all times commanded unequivocal popular esteem.

In politics Mr. Marsh gives his allegiance to the Democratic party and he has been influential in public affairs of a local order. He has served in various public offices in his home community and was for some time a valued member of the board of county commissioners, his frequent election to office indicating the high estimate placed upon him by his fellow citizens. Mr. Marsh is affiliated with the Broken Bow lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and with the camp of the Modern Woodmen of America at Burr Oak. His home farm is eligibly situated in section 24, township 14, range 20, and he receives his mail on one of the rural star-delivery routes from Broken Bow.

The year 1891 recorded the marriage of Mr. Marsh to Miss Hattie A. Tidyman, who was born in a pioneer dugout in York county, Nebraska, in 1869, the year of her nativity indicating that her parents settled in Nebraska prior to the admission of the state to the Union. Mr. and Mrs. Marsh have five children, concerning whom brief record is offered in conclusion of this review: Mrs. Lottie Coen resides in Torrington, Wyoming; Mrs. Alta Abbott is the wife of a prosperous Custer county farmer; Essie remains at the parental home; Clarence Ellsworth is operating one of his father's farms; and Harvey George remains a member of the parental home circle.

ROBERT N. KEYES.—Over in the vicinity of Sargent lives Robert N. Keyes, whose life story is here epitomized. Robert was born in Wisconsin, the northern state that puts iron and vigor into the blood of its native born sons and daughters. The date of this event was March 8, 1875. His father was Benjamin Keyes and his mother Lida T. (Tascot) Keyes.

The father was a native of Wisconsin and the mother was born in the Empire state. Mr. Keyes, senior, followed farming in Wisconsin until 1883, when he came with his family to Custer county and located a homestead in section 7, township 20, range 18, where he lived until the spring of 1891, when he moved to Broken Bow, where he died the next year. The family retained their home in the county seat until 1894. During their stay in Broken Bow, after the death of the father, two sisters of Mr. Keyes died the same year, after which the family returned to the farm. Notwithstanding it

was the dry year of '94, they went to work and have made that place their home ever since. The only child in the family of the senior Keyes now living is the subject of this sketch. The family were members of the Baptist church. Mr. Keyes during his life time voted the Republican ticket.

Robert N. received his education in the district schools and by actual experience and hard knocks learned the science of farming and the care of stock. It was in early youth that he laid the foundations of present day success by the formation of good and industrious habits.

He was married June 2, 1904, to Maude Willhort, in Round Valley. She is a daughter of Emanuel and Louisa (Paxton) Willhort. The Willhort family were old settlers and well respected in their community. Before her marriage Mrs. Keyes was a teacher and taught one term in the vicinity of her present home.

As a result of this union seven children were born, six of whom are still living, making some sign and cheer for the home. They are Pearl, Ralph, Alfred, Alloma, Mabel, and Robert.

The Keyes farm is the home of Durham cattle of fine and selected grades. Other stock, as hogs and cattle, complete the complement and sustain the high grade. The farm consists of three hundred and twenty acres, about equally divided between pasture and cultivated lands. This proportion makes it a splendid stock farm and a very profitable one as well.

The neighbors speak highly of the Keyes family and rate them as helpful members of the community. Mr. Keyes is independent in politics and pays attention to the qualities of the candidate rather than the party to which he belongs.

GEORGE MARY.—One of the foremost citizens of Custer county is George Mary, who is vice-president of the Oconto State Bank and proprietor of a hardware and implement business at this place, and who has been identified with Nebraska development for more than thirty years. He was reared at Cleveland, Ohio, and he remained with his parents until he was twenty-one years of age, in the meanwhile attending school and learning the wheelwright trade.

In 1877 Mr. Mary came as far west as Wichita, Kansas, where he operated a meat market for three years. He then sought a business opportunity at Carroll, Iowa, where he worked

for a time as a carpenter and also was a clerk in a hardware store. In 1884 he came to Custer county, Nebraska, where for two years he conducted a meat market at Lexington. In the summer of 1886, after obtaining the contract to furnish meat to Kilpatrick Brothers & Collins, contractors on the Burlington Railroad, he moved to Broken Bow, and subsequently he followed the railroad into the heart of the sand-hill country. When ready to become a permanent settler, Mr. Mary took a homestead which included a part of the town of Mullins, which later became the county seat of the then unorganized county of Hooker. There he became a citizen of public prominence and influence, and he served as the first county clerk of Hooker county. In 1892 he came to Oconto and established his general hardware and agricultural-implement business. He accepted the office of vice-president of the Oconto State Bank, and additionally finds part of his time occupied in superintending his ranch property, comprising 1,300 acres. Mr. Mary has one son, George J., who was for four years cashier of the Oconto State Bank, and who, in connection with our nation's participation in the world war, entered the national army, as a member of Battery C, Three Hundred and Thirty-ninth Field Artillery, which was first stationed at Camp Dodge, Iowa.

Mr. Mary, like many another successful business man, sometimes refers to boyhood days, when the acquisition of even a meager amount of capital was a matter of considerable effort, for he grew up during Civil-war days and money for any purpose was not plentiful. Therefore when, by running errands, he had accumulated the sum of sixty-five cents, he felt reasonably rich, and being then, as now, patriotic, he determined to hide his wealth until the Fourth of July, when all of it could be expended for fire-crackers. At that time little coin was in circulation, small amounts being paid in "shinplaster," war-time paper money, and such currency constituted Mr. Mary's "bank roll" that he carefully hid for safekeeping, in a convenient pigeon coop. There are many tragedies in life and perhaps one of these may have been the finding of a mouse nest in the pigeon coop, on the Fourth of July, instead of the little paper-money roll so confidently hidden.

AMOS C. MCININCH, who maintains a high standing among the substantial farmers of Custer county, is one of the native sons of Nebraska who have won success in the state

of their nativity. The narrative of his career bears no thrilling chapters, but is a record of practical industry and capable management in agricultural matters and of sterling and public-spirited citizenship in civic affairs.

Mr. McIninch was born in Nemaha county, Nebraska, January 16, 1866, a son of Benjamin F. and Eliza (Kennedy) McIninch. His father was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, and as a young man went to Buchanan county, Missouri, where he met and married Miss Eliza Kennedy, who had been taken by her parents to Missouri from her native state of Indiana. For a time the father farmed in Missouri, but at the time of the first free elections in Kansas he went to that state to see what was going on, but not to live there. Subsequently, in 1856, he pushed on to the frontier of Nebraska and settled in Nemaha county. He and his worthy and courageous wife were possessed of nothing but a yoke of steers and twenty-five cents in money, and they were in a dangerous country, where Indians, not always to be depended upon in those days, were their nearest neighbors; but they resolutely worked out their own problems and achieved success, developing a good farm and establishing a home. Mr. McIninch passed the rest of his life there and died on the farm, while his widow, now in advanced years, still makes her home there. Mr. McIninch was prominent in Republican politics. Although his district normally gave 600 Democratic majority, he was for twenty-eight years supervisor and was known far and wide as "Old Honest Frank." He was a Quaker in his religious faith, and his wife belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church, both having been highly respected and esteemed in their community. Of their eight children, seven are living: Mrs. Cora Wait, of Cairo, Nebraska; J. W., a farmer of the Mason City community; Amos C., of this review; Otto S., a farmer in the neighborhood of Mason City; Frances J., the wife of James Rariden and living on her father's old place in Nemaha county; Belle, the wife of Bert Whitlow, of Auburn, Nebraska; and B. F., living on the old home place.

Amos C. McIninch received his education in the district schools of Nemaha county and the Nebraska State Normal School at Peru, and he began life as a farmer. He remained with his parents until he was twenty-seven years of age, at which time, in 1892, he came to Custer county and purchased school land. This he subsequently sold, and he then bought his present property, near Mason City, where he has made many fine improvements and established a record as one of the most thorough,

systematic, and successful farmers of his locality. He maintains a lively and discriminating interest in public affairs, but merely as a good citizen and not as a seeker for personal preferment at the hands of any party or of his fellow citizens.

VINCENT J. STEDRY.—Among the few pioneer agriculturists of Custer county who still reside on their homesteads is Vincent J. Stedry, who during his long residence here has worked out an admirable destiny and drawn about him, for the comfort and happiness of his later years, such substantial compensations as material independence, the credit for having contributed largely to the general development of the community, and the confidence and good will of his business and social associates.

Mr. Stedry was born May 5, 1846, in Bohemia, and is a son of Joseph and Mary Stedry, there being four sons and four daughters in the family, of whom he was the fourth child in order of birth. In 1854 the father brought his wife and six children to the United States and settled at Baltimore, from which city he enlisted for service in the Civil War, as a musician in the Third Regiment, Maryland Volunteer Infantry. After two years of service he was given an honorable discharge, because of physical disability, and returned to Baltimore, in which city the family continued to reside until 1870—the year of their removal to Watertown, Wisconsin. There the father died in 1883, while the mother survived him for many years and passed away in California, in 1909.

After attending the public schools of Baltimore, Vincent J. Stedry took a course in the University of Wisconsin, and in 1879, he came to Saline county, Nebraska, where his first employment was as a clerk in the post-office at Crete. He also taught in the public schools for about eleven years, and in connection with his educational work served some time as deputy register of deeds and in other positions in the court house. While still a resident of Saline county, he married, September 3, 1883, Miss Annie Karten. In the year following his marriage, he took up a homestead on the southwest quarter of section 3, township 16, range 21, Custer county, but in 1885 he went back to Saline county and did not return to his Custer county homestead until 1887, since which time he has continued to be engaged in agricultural pursuits here. He is now the owner of more than a section of land, upon which he has many good improvements, but for a long time after he had

become financially independent he continued to live in his little "soddy." The success which he has attained in his ventures has been due to his unfailing industry, his able management of his affairs and the progressive ideas which he has brought into play in his operations.

Mr. Stedry is one of the best known men of Custer county, particularly among those born in his native land, for whom he has frequently acted as interpreter. In 1899 he was appointed oil inspector for Nebraska, by Governor Poynter, and he represented his district in that capacity in a capable manner. From the time that he was a teacher in the rural schools, he has been interested in all educational movements, and much of the progress made in this direction in Custer county has been due to his efforts. Mr. Stedry sustained a severe loss in the death of his faithful wife, who passed away September 30, 1909, leaving to mourn her loss a wide circle of friends, as well as her husband and their three children—Vincent, Ruby, and Oliver.

JOHN S. MCGRAW has been a resident of Custer county since 1880, and during the period of his stay here has had experiences, from roughing it in the pioneer days to being a participant in the prosperity and modern conditions of the progressive present. During the past ten years he has been engaged in handling real estate and loans at Broken Bow, and his faith and belief in his community have been generated by his own success.

Mr. McGraw was born September 29, 1867, near Wabash, Indiana, a son of James McGraw. His father was born in Ireland, in 1843, and was six months old when he left his native land with his parents, John and Mary McGraw. The ship on which they had taken passage met with serious trouble and was all but wrecked, so that the family did not arrive at their destination, the town of Cobourg, county of Northumberland, Ontario, Canada, for six weeks. James McGraw was reared as a farmer, but when he was about seventeen years of age ran away from home and came to the United States, where, not long thereafter, he enlisted in the Union army for service in the Civil war. He fought about three years in that struggle, being in a number of important engagements and receiving his honorable discharge at the end of the war, at which time he went to Wabash, Indiana, and engaged in farming. There he was married in 1866, to Frances Walker, a daughter of Cornelius Walker, a farmer and stockman from Virginia. Mr. and Mrs. McGraw immi-



ORVILLE H. MAZE AND FAMILY

grated to Custer county, Nebraska, during the spring of 1880 and secured a homestead near Gates, which Mr McGraw still owns, being one of the men whose well-directed labors have resulted in success. He is a Republican in politics.

As a lad John S. McGraw began his wage-earning experience in the business of herding stock for Harvey B. Andrews, on Lillian creek. He has a rather vivid recollection of his first efforts in this direction, and is not very proud of his first accomplishments. When he was sent to herd a mixed bunch of horses, cattle and sheep, Mr. Andrews gave him a Texas mustang pony and cautioned him under no circumstances to let go his hold on his mount. Familiarity breeds contempt, however, and the youth became careless as to his instructions, with the result that before he knew what was happening his pony was at liberty and kicking up its heels as it went over a sand-hill, seemingly saying: "Good bye, John," and making on a bee-line for the main Laughran ranch, eighteen miles up the river. Then Mr. McGraw's troubles began. The cattle cleaned up a field of corn belonging to J. N. Dryden before they could be stopped; the sheep ate up the corn crop belonging to A. J. Pearl, at the mouth of Victoria creek, and after the youthful herder had tried first to head off the cattle and then to round up the sheep, the horses stampeded and followed the mustang to the upper ranch. The youth, finally becoming discouraged and disgusted, jumped his position and footed it home, about a mile and a half away. Later on, he was more successful in his labors as a herder, for the impression left on his mind was a strong one, and for ten years he worked on various ranches in this locality. During this time he remembers when the wheat used in the making of flap-jacks was ground in a coffee mill, and he also has recorded that from Luce Canyon, near Anselmo, he cut the first flag-pole used in a celebration at Broken Bow. His education was acquired through attendance at the district schools during the winter months, and gradually he accumulated capital through his labors until he finally engaged in farming on his own account. He still has a fine home near Gates, on the property which he owns there. In 1908 he came to Broken Bow and established the real estate and loan business, of which he is still the head, and which he has built up to large and important proportions. Mr. McGraw is what is termed a live wire, and expresses it as his belief that Custer county has all others beaten when it comes to right prices.

Mr. McGraw was married at Gates, Ne-

braska, March 8, 1894, to Miss Lydia E. Brown, and they are the parents of one child: Mildred M. They are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. McGraw is a member of the Woodmen and a Mason of high standing, as well as a Shriner.

ORVILLE H. MAZE. — More than thirty-five years have passed since Orville H. Maze first came to Custer county, but he is still actively interested in agricultural pursuits, and devotes himself to overseeing operations on his large farm north of Lodi, although his own home is in Callaway. At the time of his arrival he was a young married man without other capital than that represented by his ambition and self-confidence, while to-day he is one of the substantial men of his locality and a factor in the life of his home vicinity. Mr. Maze was born August 30, 1860, in Rush county, Indiana, and is a son of Wesley A. and Sarah B. (Pratt) Maze.

Wesley A. Maze was born in Virginia, but as a young man went to Indiana, where he married Miss Sarah B. Pratt, their union resulting in the birth of five children, of whom four are living: Matthew T., Orville H., Wesley B., and Mrs. Etta J. Bolton. Orville H. Maze received his education in the public schools and grew up on the home farm near Sharpsville, his first employment being dropping corn by hand, this to be covered with a hoe, for which he received a wage of fifteen cents per day. He remained on the home farm until his marriage, January 13, 1883, to Miss Ida M. Thomas, at Tipton, Indiana. She is a daughter of James A. and Mary E. Thomas, farming people of Indiana.

In the spring of 1883, soon after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Maze received the inspiration to try their fortunes in the west, and decided upon Custer county as their field of endeavor. They accordingly came to this county and located just north of the present site of Lodi, where they made their home for many years. Like other pioneers, they had to face hardships and overcome obstacles, but they were industrious and persevering, and in the end success rewarded their efforts. They are now the owners of 437 acres of farm land and 640 acres of school land, the farm being very productive and handsomely improved. Mr. Maze still superintends operations on the land, but he and Mrs. Maze reside in their attractive, modern home at Callaway, where they are surrounded by every comfort and convenience — in striking contrast with their early days in Custer county, when they had to

be content with the merest necessities of life. Mr. Maze has not only been an active agriculturist, carrying on extensive operations in farming and stock-raising, but has also been identified with important business interests and was manager of the Callaway Shipping Association for ten years. He and his wife are earnest Christians and live their religion every day, Mr. Maze having been Sunday-school superintendent for a quarter of a century. Three years ago he was a delegate to the United Evangelical conference at Barrington, Illinois, and in 1918 he was elected delegate to the general conference, held in October, at York, Pennsylvania. He is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. His reputation as a business man of sound and strict integrity, and as a helpful and constructive citizen, is firmly established.

Concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Maze, the following brief record is given: Cecil E. is deceased. Flossie P. is the wife of Hilmer Kolbo, proprietor of the Harry Evans garage, in the western part of Callaway. Mr. and Mrs. Kolbo are members of the Lutheran church, and are the parents of three daughters and one son. Blanche B. is the wife of Silas B. Hoffman, foreman of the Gilchrist Lumber Company at Callaway. They are members of the Evangelical church, and are the parents of two daughters and two sons. Wesley E., who is the lessee of the Mrs. John Johnston farm, south of Callaway, married Effa Hanley, a daughter of Benjamin F. and Lona Hanley, the former a cousin of ex-Governor Hanley, of Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Wesley E. Maze are members of the United Evangelical church and are the parents of one son and one daughter. Matthew H., who is a farmer and stockman on his father's ranch northwest of Lodi, married Ada Myers, daughter of Elmer F. Myers, and they are members of the United Evangelical church, their only child being a daughter. Ruth R. is the wife of Troy Myers, who is farming his mother's land, two miles northwest of Callaway. They are members of the United Evangelical church, and are the parents of one daughter. The sons and sons-in-law are all independent in their political affiliations. Mr. Hoffman is an Odd Fellow, and Mr. Myers is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. Wesley E. and Matthew H. Maze and Troy Myers were all listed in Class 4 of the draft for the national army.

Mr. Maze is a sterling Custer county citizen who has advanced himself from small beginnings to high position, and the honorable

manner in which he has done so has gained and held for him the respect of his fellow citizens.

GEORGE R. RUSSOM. — When the Civil war came on the step-father of Mr. Russom enlisted in the Confederate army and was a member of Company C, One Hundred Forty-fifth Regiment, North Carolina infantry. He was taken prisoner and died in the military prison at Elmira, New York. After he left home Mr. Russom's mother did her best to support her children and he remembers when she worked for 75 cents a week binding swaths in a wheat field, he helping by running behind the two cradlers and putting the sheaves together so that she could bind them. Thus he earned his first money and was able to buy a coveted rubber ball as the result of his work. In 1866 he accompanied his mother and the children to Delaware county, Indiana, where they lived four years and then moved to Huntington county and settled on forty acres of heavily timbered land. He was only seventeen years old when he cleared off six acres of this land and by 1870 the family had a comfortable story-and-a-half hewed-log house, he having chopped down the timber with which to build it. Mr. Russom labored hard during his early years of manhood, working in the timber, cutting and hauling logs and making staves and wagon and buggy spokes during the winters and farming in the summers. With this record of industry, it can hardly be said that he did not do well in Indiana, but the opening up of desirable sections in Nebraska, seemed to offer better opportunities for the homeseeker, and in 1883 Mr. Russom came to Custer county, where he has lived ever since. He located four and one-half miles northwest of Broken Bow and his home tract contains 800 acres, on which he has one of the handsomest residences to be found in the county.

Mr. Russom was married June 14, 1874, in Huntington county, Indiana, to Miss Mary J. Pope, a daughter of Robert and Mary A. (Martin) Pope, the former of whom was born in the state of New York. There are five survivors of the Pope family, namely: McClellan, James R., Louis, Mrs. Margaret James and Mrs. Russom. Mr. and Mrs. Russom have a large and vigorous family and many of their children have homes not far distant from the homestead and all are well settled in life. The family record reads as follows: Athelda M., who is the wife of Charles Brandenburg, a farmer in Gage county, Oklahoma, and they have two sons and three daughters;

Corinna E., who is the wife of Frank E. Taylor, who is the leading photographer of Broken Bow, and they have two daughters and one son; Lulu B., who is the wife of Lewis Gift, who is a farmer three miles east of New Helena, in Custer county, and they have two sons and three daughters; Leota C. who is the wife of Amos B. Lewis, who is a ranchman near Climax, Nebraska, and they have three daughters and two sons; Viola, who is a twin sister of Leota C., is the wife of Jacob F. Clinebell, whose farm joins that of Mr. Russom on the southwest: by a former marriage Mrs. Clinebell had two children and has two by her second marriage; William G. R., who is a carpenter, at Scottsbluff, Nebraska, married Rhoda, daughter of Samuel Brown, and they have one child; John R., who is a farmer and lives in Broken Bow, married Glendora, daughter of Charles Rector; George A., who operates on his father's land five miles northwest of Broken Bow, married Virginia, daughter of Peter L'Amoreaux, and they have two sons; Edna, who is the wife of Emery Beal, who is a son of Elgin Beal and a farmer six miles northwest of Broken Bow, and they have one child; Fred L., who operates his father's land three miles northwest of Broken Bow, married Cora A., a daughter of Allen Reynier, and they have a daughter; Walter V., who is in the aviation branch of the National army, training now at Vancouver; and Ione, who is the wife of Elwood Pelkey, who is a farmer on his father's home place. Mr. and Mrs. Pelkey have one son.

Recently he has bought another tract, of 800 acres, situated eight miles west of Broken Bow, to be utilized as a cattle ranch. As mentioned above, Mr. Russom has progressive ideas and is enterprising and thorough in the carrying on of his industries, and, realizing the public value of county fairs in an agricultural section, he has encouraged such organizations and ably assisted in their management at Broken Bow. On account of the superiority of his exhibits he has carried off many prizes and twice won blue ribbons at the state fair.

JOSEPH URBAN.—In the region of Comstock there are many very thrifty Bohemian families; for the most part they are very desirable citizens and prosperous so far as this world's goods are concerned. To this contingent belongs Joseph Urban who was born in Bohemia April 15, 1873. He is the second son of James and Frances (Barta) Urban, both of whom were natives of Bo-

hemia who journeyed from their native land in 1882, and crossing a continent of land and water settled in Fillmore county, Nebraska, where they lived for five years. After that they moved to Valley county, in a covered wagon drawn by a yoke of oxen. Here they homesteaded a quarter section of land, upon which they made their home until about 1910. Then selling their place, they moved to Comstock where they are living at the present time. The father is 77 years of age and the mother 70. They are the parents of nine children, eight of whom are still living: James lives in Saline county, his wife being Fannie Barta; Joseph was the second; John married Emma Zebldial and lives at Prague, Oklahoma; Frank married Barbara Matousek and lives near Burwell; Charlie married Frances Valsek and lives east of Comstock; Emil married Rosa Kluna and lives on a farm near Comstock; William married Ella Zebldial and lives near Comstock; Mary married Fred Nemeskel and is living north of Comstock; Frances married Emil Pleva but is now deceased. The family were for the most part Democratic in politics and members of the Catholic church.

Joseph Urban received his education in the public schools of Valley county and has followed farming all his life, in which he has been more than usually successful. He has a good wife to whom is due a large part of the credit, for successes achieved. He was married in February, 1898, to Mary Krumal, the daughter of George and Anna (Veracek) Krumal. The Krumals were early settlers of this county, later moving to Omaha but now residing in Burwell. Born into the family home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Urban are seven bright children, all of whom give promise of developing into useful, desirable citizens. They are Joe, Louis, Albert, George, Ella, Rudolph, and Lizzie. All are at home under the parental roof and assist in the affairs of the farm. When the farming operations of the Urbans began, they had nothing. His first attempt at farming was done altogether on borrowed capital but by the application of sound judgment, strict economy, and tireless energy, he made it pay. Today he owns 800 acres of good land, has splendid stock, some white-faced thoroughbred cattle, Duroc Jersey hogs and all the stock indicates good care and attention. His land is in three separate tracts, two of which have good improvements. Looking back over the past he complains of but few crop failures. These were due to drouth and chinch bugs, but these losses fortunately came at a time when grain was raised in other sections and was conse-



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quently cheap. The only offices he has ever held have been of a local nature. He was road overseer of his district for several years. He is a member of the Catholic church, as is the family, a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Z. C. B. J., a Bohemian lodge.

GEORGE T. MILLIGAN.—One of Custer county's successful and well-to-do citizens whose present prosperous condition is due to his own industry and good judgment, is the gentleman whose name introduces this paragraph.

Mr. Milligan is a native of Michigan, and was born near Port Huron, St. Clair county. He is a son of William and Elizabeth (Burton) Milligan. The father was born in Ireland and was left an orphan when only a boy. At the age of sixteen years he ran away from his native land and became a resident of Canada. There he met and married Miss Elizabeth Burton, and soon after this event he came to the states and became a farmer in St. Clair county, Michigan. When his son George was only one year old he moved to Macomb county, where he opened up a new farm, and he continued to be engaged in agricultural pursuits during the remainder of his life, passing away in 1893, at the age of seventy-six years. His wife, who was a native of Canada, passed away in Macomb county, Michigan, in 1890 at the age of sixty-five years.

George T. Milligan was reared in his native state and when a young man of eighteen years came to Nebraska, arriving in Custer county September 23, 1885. After paying stage fare from Kearney to Broken Bow he had the sum of two dollars and fifty cents. He at once made his way to Ortello valley, Custer county, where he found employment as a farm hand. When old enough, he secured a homestead on West Table, but a little later he relinquished his claim and took a homestead in Eureka valley. This was the scene of his activities for twenty-five years, and here he was successfully engaged in stock-raising and general agricultural enterprise.

About five years ago Mr. Milligan bought land near Anselmo, where he built extensive improvements and continued to be engaged in agricultural pursuits. He and his family now reside on a finely improved tract adjoining the village of Anselmo, Mrs. Milligan having inherited this farm from her father's estate.

It was in Custer county that the marriage

of George T. Milligan and Miss Mary A. Jacquot was solemnized. Mrs. Milligan is a native of Illinois, and is a daughter of Nicholas Jacquot, who was an early settler of Custer county and whose record will be found elsewhere in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Milligan have become the parents of five children: Zella is the wife of Charles Gladson, who operates Mr. Milligan's old farm in Eureka valley; William H., who passed away January 12, 1917, married Margaret Mathews, and his widow and two sons now reside at Arnold; Lizzie is the wife of Loren White, a farmer on West Table; and Mary and Fred are at the parental home.

Mr. and Mrs. Milligan are members of the Methodist church and in politics he is a Republican. He is one of those who came to Custer county in the pioneer times, and he has seen the country transformed into a well developed section, while to the work of progress and upbuilding he has contributed his full share. From humble circumstances he has become a man of means, and to-day he is the owner of 1,440 acres of land in Custer county. While he has made a success of his undertakings, he has not been unmindful of his duties of citizenship and he is held in unqualified esteem by all who know him.

JOSEPH H. MCGUIRE.—Down on a splendid farm home in what is now the historical Powell Canyon, lives the progressive scion of a widely known hospitable sire. The name in the title line belongs to a pioneer family and the immediate subject has been a resident of the county ever since he was three months of age. This admits him to the exclusive circle of old timers of early settlers.

Joseph H. McGuire is a native of Nebraska and was born in Hamilton county, September 15, 1883. He is the fourth born of John H. and Anna (Davidson) McGuire. The father is a native of Illinois, but the mother, like her son, is a native of Nebraska. This estimable couple are the parents of nine children, eight of whom are still living. Aside from Joseph H., they are: Arthur, deceased; Bessie Mars; Ashton; Charles F.; Millia Wright; Edwin G.; Alice Muliklin; and Lola, who is single and engaged in the profession of teaching. The father and mother came to Custer county when Joseph H. was three months old and located a homestead in Powell Canyon, about five and one-half miles northeast of Arnold. This was their home until a few years ago; they retired from active life and are now well and comfortably located at Forest Grove, Ore-

gon. Their Powell Canyon home was one of the famous well known homes of the early days. It was noted far and wide for its open door and whole-souled hospitality. During the course of years hundreds of travellers found it a comfortable place to spend the night, get a good dinner or find shelter from the storm. In such a home as this the children were raised to manhood and womanhood, and it is small wonder that they have developed without exception into respected and useful citizens. The parents were devoted members of the Methodist church. Before retiring in his Oregon home, the father disposed of his land. Ten hundred and eighty acres of it were purchased by Joseph H. and his brother Charles F.

The childhood years of young Joseph were spent on the canyon farm and in the canyon home he grew to manhood. His education was received in the common schools of the county and here in early youth he formed the early habit of industry and frugality which has stood him so well in hand since he has been facing the world for himself.

The first money he remembers making was earned by riding a calf, which somebody indiscreetly dared him to mount. The frightened calf ran with him into the barn, where young Joseph was scraped off the calf and considerable skin scraped off his nose at the same time. For this achievement he received fifteen cents. With fifteen cents in his pocket, a scab on his nose didn't count. During his early manhood, Joseph fancied that he would like to see something of the world and as he had an opportunity to travel with a company soliciting orders for enlarging pictures, he went with them. One year in the employment of this company netted some experience, while the coin of the realm for the most part went to the company. It was perhaps this experience that led him to decide on farming for a life occupation.

When reaching his majority he homesteaded forty acres adjoining his father's land. To this diminutive tract he has added by purchase until now his farm home is maintained on an eight hundred acre ranch, upon which there are good improvements and a fine contingent of good stock. He has followed diversified farming and has achieved a general success.

The domestic ties of his own home were first formed December 14, 1904, when, at Merna, Nebraska, he was joined in holy wedlock to Miss Jessie Life, a very estimable young lady, a native of the Hoosier state. Since their union Mrs. McGuire has not only presided over the affairs of the household but

in every possible way has been an invaluable assistant to her husband. They are the happy parents of four children: Una F.; Harry F.; Johnny N.; and Master Frederick B., who is now six years old and is a sturdy young director of home affairs. All the children are bright and promising candidates for useful citizens.

The McGuires are well-liked, accommodating neighbors. Mr. McGuire is a thirty-second degree Mason and a Shriner. In politics he affiliates with the Republican party.

HORACE NEVE. — Over on the west side of the West Table which, by the way, is the most productive and largest of all of the celebrated tables in Custer county, there is no more widely known name than that of Neve, and it is to this remarkable family that Horace Neve belongs.

Horace Neve was born June 27, 1868, in Juneau county, Wisconsin. His father, Samuel Neve, was a native of England, and his mother, Roxie (Acres) Neve, was a native of Pennsylvania. His father was twice married and became the father of a very remarkable family of children. By his first union there were seven children, of whom Horace was the fourth born, the others being William J., Emely, Frank, Louis, Maye, and Belle E. Fine. The father's second marriage was to Lucinda Drew, of Wisconsin, and of this second union thirteen children were born — Frederick E., Viola Soltz, Lottie Fox, George, Mathias, Jennie Doxy, Annie Zerlein, Henry, John, Roy, a son who died in infancy, William, and Richard. Sixteen of the children are still living.

Samuel Neve came to the United States in 1854 and made his home at Lyndon, Wisconsin, where he farmed during the summer, and during the fall and winter worked as a "lumber jack" in the pineries, as the pine forests were then called. This he continued for many years, and later, in connection with his farming, he operated a threshing machine during the fall seasons of the year. Young Horace remembers that he purchased his first suit of clothes by selling newspapers and magazines. He worked on the home farm in the summer time and went to school in the winter. After he was old enough he assisted his father in running the threshing machine. Samuel Neve came to Custer county in 1882 and settled on the West Table, where he continued to reside until his death, July 29, 1913, and where his children grew to manhood and womanhood. For seven years Samuel Neve was road over-



HORACE NEVE

seer of the Cliff road district and for five years he served as school director. He enjoyed a splendid reputation and was always responsive to every call of duty.

Young Horace stayed in the home domicile until he was twenty-three years of age, and he then bought a half-section of land, adjoining his father's home place, and began farming for himself. He never married but lived with his parents most of the time until about ten years ago. He recently sold his farm for sixty-five dollars an acre and has just bought 420 acres three miles southeast of Berwyn. Mr. Neve has made four trips to Canada and in addition to this he has traveled extensively throughout the middle section of this country, partly on account of his health and partly to look for a location where conditions might be more favorable than here, but after his travels he returned to Custer county and bought the land upon which he expects to make his home during the rest of his life. The greater portion of his accumulation was made by raising hogs of the Berkshire and Poland-China varieties. In this phase of farm enterprise he was counted exceptionally successful.

DAVID O. BROWN. — Custer county has every reason to be proud of the personnel of the fine array of men who are upholding her prestige and precedence in connection with the basic industries of agriculture and stock-raising, and properly assigned to prominent classification with these sterling exponents of modern farm enterprise is the popular young citizen whose name initiates this paragraph.

David O. Brown was born in Carroll county, Ohio, on the 23d of November, 1893, and he takes just pride in thus claiming the old Buckeye state as the place of his nativity, though this does not in the least militate against his loyalty to and appreciation of the county and state in which he now maintains his home. He is a son of David O. and Agnes (Price) Brown, the former of whom was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, and the latter of whom was a daughter of Reed Price, a prominent citizen of Ohio. David O. Brown, Sr., and also Reed Price were numbered among the substantial settlers of Custer county and here the former acquired valuable farm property, his death having occurred in the city of Lincoln, this state, on the 5th of November, 1914. Upon coming to Custer county he established his residence on a farm west of Broken Bow. He is survived by one son and three daughters, the only son being the subject of this review and the daughters being Mrs. June Freedman, Mrs. May Booth and Mrs. Fern Aldrich.

During the childhood days of David O. Brown, Jr., to whom this sketch is dedicated, the family home was maintained near Canton, Stark county, Ohio, and there he gained his preliminary education in the public schools, the while he assisted his father on the home farm, which was given over largely to the raising of fine live stock. Thus the youth gained early and valuable experience in connection with farm enterprise, including the handling of live stock. After having prosecuted his studies in the Canton high school he took a course in a business college, after which he was for three years a student in St. Ignatius College at Cleveland, Ohio.

In the spring of 1914, Mr. Brown engaged in the automobile business at Berwyn, Custer county, and with this line of enterprise he was there identified for a period of three years. Upon the death of his father he found it incumbent upon him to assume management of the home farm and the general affairs of the estate. Accordingly he now resides on the old homestead, in section 29, township 17, range 16, and he is the owner of 420 acres of excellent land, the same being available for profitable agriculture but his intention being to give his attention in large measure to the raising of thoroughbred cattle, preference being given to a high grade of pedigreed Herefords. His character, his ability and his progressiveness assure him of the maximum success in this important field of endeavor, for he is systematic in his management of affairs and is a business man of circumspection and vigor.

On the 25th of November, in the fine old state of Ohio, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Brown to Miss Lillian Courtright, who was born at Carrollton, that state, and who is a daughter of M. V. and Lydia (Ralston) Courtright, both likewise natives of that commonwealth. Mr. and Mrs. Brown are popular factors in the representative social activities of their community and well merit the recognition accorded to them in this history of Custer county.

ANDREW SOMMER. — One of the earliest settlers of Custer county and one who through his own efforts has reached the goal of success, the subject of this review well deserves a place in the history of the county he has so notably helped to develop.

Andrew Sommer is a native of France, born in Alsace-Lorraine, November 25, 1844. His parents, John and Barbara (Gerig) Sommer, were natives of the same country as the son, and in 1848 they immigrated to America,



ANDREW SOMMER

becoming residents of Peoria, Illinois, where both passed away.

At the age of sixteen years Andrew Sommer found employment in the coal mines of Illinois, and for twenty years he followed the occupation of miner.

When he was not yet twenty years of age, the Civil war being in progress, Mr. Sommer offered his services in defense of the Union, and in September, 1864, he enlisted in Company E, One Hundred and Eighth Illinois Infantry, in which he served until the close of the war. He participated in the siege of Spanish Fort, and in many minor engagements and skirmishes, receiving an honorable discharge, at Chicago, Illinois, in August, 1865, after having made a creditable record for bravery and loyalty to duty.

In the spring of 1880 Mr. Sommer came to Custer county, Nebraska, and secured as homestead the northwest quarter of section 32, township 18, range 22. Not a single improvement had been made, and a sod house continued the first home on the new farm. He also took a timber claim of 160 acres, and as the years passed he brought his land to a high state of cultivation. On the place he has erected a substantial set of buildings, his being one of the best improved farms in Custer county. He has been extensively engaged in stock raising and feeding, of which he made marked success, and he is now the owner of more than 1,000 acres of land, all within two miles of the homestead which he obtained thirty-eight years ago. He has not been remiss in any duty as a citizen and has contributed liberally in time and money to those enterprises which have had to do with the upbuilding of the county.

July 3, 1885, in Custer county, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Sommer and Melissa (Keedy) Tygart, a native of Illinois and a daughter of the late Abraham and Elizabeth (Bickel) Keedy, the former of whom was born in Illinois and the latter in Indiana. By a former marriage, to Andrew Tygart, Mrs. Sommer had a son, Perry W., who resides with his mother. Mr. and Mrs. Sommer have four children: Almore, who married Esther Col-linson, operates one of his father's farms; Benjamin, who married Nora Sharp, likewise operates land belonging to his father; Eva is the wife of Alvin Cole, a farmer two miles south of Merna; and Lizzie still resides with her parents.

Mr. Sommer is a Republican in politics, and he served as justice of the peace for thirty years. He helped organize school district No. 15, in 1882, and for several years served as treasurer of the same.

For the past several years Mr. Sommer has

abated the active work of the farm and has let the burden fall on the shoulders of younger men. Coming to Custer county without capital, success has come to him through his own efforts and it has been justly deserved, placing him among the prominent old settlers of the county.

GEORGE W. MCGAUHEY. — One of the young farmers of the western portion of the state, who is now in the first flush of middle life, is named above, but his full name is rarely used and hardly known by the circle of friends who familiarly and habitually call him George.

George was born in Illinois, thirty-five years ago, but most of his life has been spent in Custer county. His father was Woodruff Henry McGauhey, a native of Kentucky, who died in Illinois at sixty-seven years of age.

The mother's maiden name was Baird, and she also was a Kentuckian. After the death of the father the mother brought the family to Custer county and located them on the homestead, in 1899. All were industrious and energetic and were always able to take care of themselves. The children in the family, besides the subject of the sketch, were Mary Gibson, living in Anselmo, whose husband, a former Ansley banker, is deceased; Ned Franklin lives in Anselmo and is with the Melville Lumber Company of Anselmo.

George W. McGauhey chose for his wife Miss Rose Willetts, a native of Kansas and daughter of A. A. Willetts, a very prominent farmer and stockman of Anselmo. They now have four children. At the time of this writing, Ellen is thirteen years old, Marvel is eleven, William five, and Master Glen has seen but three summers.

Mr. McGaughey is farming on a somewhat extensive scale. He rents six hundred seventy acres of land, owns his own machinery and horse power and keeps a good grade of live stock.

He is actively affiliated with the Woodmen of the World, in which he takes prominent and loyal part. Both he and his wife are hard working people and enjoy an excellent reputation. They have a good start and unless unusually ill luck befalls them will have acquired a competency and have contributed their share to western development before old age overtakes them.

IRA P. MILLS. — In naming the substantial and representative men of Custer county, respectful attention is called to Ira P. Mills, who for many years was a leading agricultur-



MR. AND MRS. IRA P. MILLS



EMANUEL MYERS AND FAMILY

ist but who is now living retired in his comfortable home at Arnold. He has been a resident of the county for thirty-five years and has been a factor in its development along many lines. He was born in Madison county, Iowa, December 29, 1859, and is a son of William and Lucinda (Stark) Mills, the former of whom was born in Vermilion county, Illinois. Mr. Mills has two brothers: William G., who is now retired and residing at Arnold, married Millie Guy; and E. Grant, who is a resident of Forest Grove, Oregon, married Bertha Needham, of Custer county. In 1865 the father of Mr. Mills came with his family to Nebraska and located in Lancaster county, nine miles south of Lincoln, where he lived for eighteen years.

Ira P. Mills was reared in Lancaster county, Nebraska, and from there came to Custer county in May, 1883. He attended the Nebraska State University from 1878 until June, 1880. He was married July 6, 1881, at Roca, Lancaster county, to Miss Clorinda Perrin, who was a daughter of Joshua and Lucinda (Deems) Perrin. Mrs. Mills died in May, 1917, the mother of four sons and one daughter, as follows: William J., who attended the Nebraska Wesleyan University for three years, is connected with the statistical department of the Union Pacific Railroad, at Omaha. He married Irma Bramon and they have two sons. Benjamin H., who is a dealer in agricultural implements at Arnold, married Myrtle, a daughter of George Reed, and they have two children. Bernard I., who is a physician of the Eclectic school and who resides at Maywood, Nebraska, married Della, daughter of Walter Chamberlain. Helen L., is the wife of John Dennis and they live twenty miles south of Arnold. Floyd P., who is a farmer near Logan, Nebraska, married Ruth, a daughter of Edgar Pearce.

When Mr. Mills came to Custer county he secured a homestead in Mills valley, and this property he still owns, his realty holdings aggregating 1,760 acres, in Custer and Logan counties. In politics he and his sons are Republicans and he served two years as county supervisor, representing Arnold township.

ROY THOMAS.—The young farmer named in this head line is one of the progressive young farmers of Custer county who were born in the county and have come into the stage of action in the time of the present generation and are now just entering the prime of their manhood years.

Roy was born in Custer county on the 20th

day of February, 1888, the son of George W. Thomas a well known and prominent citizen. It was here in Custer county that he received his education, here he has lived his life to the present time and here he began his lifetime occupation as a tiller of the soil, in which he has already made an initial success. Much of his success dates from July 12, 1911, at which time he led to the marriage altar Miss Nellie Hewitt, who is a daughter of George and Sarah Hewitt, of Hastings, Nebraska. In the family of Mrs. Thomas were ten children, but she is the only one living in this county. The Thomas home now has four children, bright promising youngsters, full of life and energy. Iola, Troy, Blount, and Faye all are at home and their presence assures no lonesome hours.

Roy knows no other occupation than farming. He owns a quarter section of land on which he has some improvements and in connection with which he rents three more quarter sections, which makes his farming activities unusually extensive. It requires work and energy to conduct a farm of this size, maintain the proper complement of livestock and keep everything going, but all of these qualities Mr. Thomas and his wife both possess in a high degree. Their home is yet in its making, their accumulations are yet initial, the years are before them but present conditions and the record of the past, prophesy the success of coming years. They are well liked and highly respected by their neighbors and most of their social energy is expended in the neighborhood Grange, of which they are members and from which they derive both social and pecuniary advantages. Mr. Thomas does not count himself either Democratic or Republican. He votes the ticket that suits him best and that represents, as he believes, the best man.

EMANUEL MYERS.—Of the follower of any reliable vocation no better recommendation is asked than the credit of long employment under a reliable management. For more than twenty years Emanuel Myers was connected with the Dierks Lumber Company, and at the present time he is living in comfortable retirement in his home at Comstock.

Mr. Myers was born in Dallas county, Iowa, December 21, 1863, and is a son of Daniel B. and Jane (Gaddes) Myers, natives of Indiana, and early settlers of Iowa. The father, who was a carpenter by trade, took up farming when he located in Iowa, but on occasion followed his trade in addition to farming and raising stock. His death occurred in 1867, while his widow survived him for many years,



WILLIAM H. POULSON AND FAMILY

passing away in 1917. They were the parents of six children, of whom five are living — Mrs. Elfreta Robinson is the wife of an Iowa farmer; Rontha is the wife of Frank Austin, a blacksmith in Iowa; Charlotte is the wife of Charles Stout, an Iowa farmer; Theodore is a blacksmith in Iowa; and Emanuel is the subject of this review. Emanuel Myers was educated in the common schools of Iowa, and in the spring of 1886 he came to Custer county, where for two years he operated a dray, at Ansley. In 1892 he began working for the Dierks Lumber Company, entering the service of that concern at Ansley, and subsequently being employed at Mason City and Greeley. In 1914 his health failed and he was practically retired by the firm, which, in honor of his long, capable, and faithful service, granted him a pension which permits him to live comfortably in his home at Comstock. He is one of the reliable and highly respected citizens of his community and is a public-spirited supporter of worthy movements advanced for the general welfare. May 6, 1888, in Custer county, Mr. Myers married Miss Fannie Stoneburner, the daughter of pioneer settlers of Custer county who are now residents of Omaha. To this union there were born four children: Miss Gertrude, who is employed at Bragg's drug store, Comstock, resides with her parents; Willard, in the United States Army, is at the training camp at Indianapolis, Indiana, at the time of this writing; Maudie is the wife of Russell Smith, employed in a drug store at Junction City, Kansas; and Miss Evelyn resides with her parents.

GEORGE W. THOMAS. — Custer county has a large number of retired farmers, the most of whom have contributed the efforts of their lives to improving their farms and by hard work and rigid economy have secured a competence upon which they can retire and spend the last years of their lives in comparative ease and comfort. One of them is the man whose name constitutes the title line of this sketch. He lives in Broken Bow on a five-acre tract upon which he has a comfortable home and maintains a deminutive farm that gives him both exercise and recreation.

Mr. Thomas was born in Montgomery county, Missouri, June 7, 1857. He is a son of Joseph and Malinda (McCardie) Thomas, in the family of whom were five children. The first born, Presley Thomas, is a substantial farmer living in Illinois. The subject, George W., and his brother are the only two of the five children now living. The early

life of Mr. Thomas was spent in Missouri, where he had recourse to good public schools and very early in life turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. It was here that he met and led to the marriage altar, in 1875, Lora Fleener, whose parents were native Missourians and very excellent people.

Into the Thomas home, as the years have passed, three children were born. Blanche is married to a Custer county farmer named Bennett. Concerning Gordon, the second born, see extended reference elsewhere under the title line of his own name. Roy also lives in Custer county and is the subject of a life sketch in this volume.

The Thomas family came to Custer county in 1888. They had but little of this world's goods, Mr. Thomas says, practically nothing. But they had energy and ambition and went to work. He entered a homestead, filed on a pre-emption, and built the soddy in which the family was domiciled for several years. He now owns a full section of good land south of Ansley, which is well improved and upon which are two sets of farm buildings.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas passed through the trying ordeals of pioneer days and are now enjoying the well-earned reward of their toil and privations in early years. They are a well respected and highly esteemed family. Their church affiliation is with the Christian denomination.

WILLIAM H. POULSOM. — Living in the vicinity of Merna is a farmer of English extraction who came to the county only eight years ago, who brought with him a goodly portion of this world's goods and whose investments and subsequent operations have rated him among the first of the farming class.

William H. Poulson was born in Monmouthshire, England, September 15, 1861. He is a son of Daniel and Matilda Poulson, natives of Bath, England, and fine people, highly connected with the Church of England: they were the parents of these children — James, Thomas, Matilda, Anna Reed, Emilie Orchard, William H., and Rosa Strange.

The first nineteen years of William Poulson's life were spent in England, where he received a common-school education and where his first money was earned by raising and selling garden produce from a little tract of land allotted him by his father from the main garden upon which the family depended for a livelihood. With the money thus earned, young William started a bank account of which he was exceedingly proud, and it can be said that

that early bank account had a great influence upon his life and was in a measure responsible for the thrift of after life. When nineteen years of age he came to America. An older brother had preceded him to this country by twelve years and this brother was then located at Farragut, Iowa. It was to that locality that young William made his way, and there he worked for his brother on the farm for two years, being employed by the month. Wages in that day were small and he could earn but little by working by the month. Therefore he resolved to start farming operations for himself as soon as possible. His brother helped him to start on rented land and after farming for himself two years he had funds enough to fit out a prairie schooner, with which he started for Wahoo, Nebraska. He reached Wahoo in the spring of 1885, and in that locality he continued a land renter for six years. By that time he was able to buy 120 acres of land and later he was able to add forty acres, which rounded out the full quarter-section.

The domestic life of Mr. Poulson dates from March 18, 1899, when, in Wahoo, Nebraska, he claimed in marriage the hand of Mary Jasa, a native of Wahoo, but of German extraction, she being a daughter of James and Frances Jasa, who were natives of Moravia, Germany, and whose four other children are here named: Frances Truna, Joseph, Nettie Truna, and James.

From its first establishment, the Poulson home was well equipped and well provided with home comforts. In many ways it has been an ideal establishment of economy and convenience. Three children have come with the passing of years, all boys, full of ambition and promise. William J. is established on a portion of the home place, farming for himself, a mile and a half southwest of Merna. He married Joy Cosner and they have one child. They are connected with the Baptist church. The second son, Frank T., is connected with the American base-hospital corps and is somewhere in France at the time of this writing. He constitutes the Poulson contribution to the man power of the government. Daniel P. is at home with his parents and has not yet finished the graded schools.

Mr. Poulson sold his Wahoo possessions and arrived in Custer county in the early spring of 1910. Here he purchased a valuable farm, to which he has since added until his landed possessions comprise 560 acres, upon which are three sets of good improvements. The farm home is on one portion of this tract, and every day Mr. Poulson gives himself vigorously to farm work and direction. In his esti-

mation the time for his retirement or taking life easy has not yet arrived. From every point of view we have given the description of a successful and practical farmer. All the buildings on the premises are in good condition. The stock is in good shape and indicates splendid care and good feeding. The Poulsons are rated well in the community and constitute one of the first families of the Merna district. Patriotism is not wanting in this family. Every appeal for war drives has met a generous response and nothing has been withheld that would contribute to the winning of the war.

WILLIAM D. REDMOND, vice-president and manager of the Farmers State Bank of Mason City, Nebraska, is not only prominent in the financial field, but has also won distinction as an educator and as a factor in public affairs. A man of high scholarship; of long experience in responsible positions, in which he displayed keen, decisive business qualities; honored in every community in which he has had his home; and with an acquaintanceship that extends over the state—his coming to the Farmers State Bank has not only brought added confidence to that substantial institution, but has also added to Mason City's best citizenship.

William D. Redmond was born in Lee county, Illinois, and is the next to the youngest of a family of eleven children born to John R. and Katherine (Bassett) Redmond. Both parents were born in Ireland, and both came to the United States in 1850. They were united in marriage in Connecticut, and from there came to Nebraska in 1871. John R. Redmond homesteaded in Johnson county, where he continued to live until his death, in 1905, in the meanwhile accumulating land until he owned 280 acres, all well improved. Besides William D., the following of his children survive: Mrs. D. J. Turner, of Gridley, California; Mrs. Sara J. Platt, of Crab Orchard, Nebraska; Joseph R., of Colby, Kansas; Mrs. Katherine R. Doolittle, of Tacoma, Washington; Miss Madge V., of Kansas City, Missouri; John L., of Crab Orchard, Nebraska; Dr. F. H., of San Antonio, Texas; Miss Ella, of Crab Orchard; and Mrs. L. C. Harnly, of Lincoln, Nebraska.

After completing his public-school course, in the Johnson county schools, William D. Redmond entered the Western Normal College at Shenandoah, Iowa, and was graduated in the advanced course of that institution. He then entered the educational field, holding a professional life-certificate and subsequently was principal of the schools of Crab Orchard

and of Brock, Nebraska; assistant state superintendent of public instruction; and registrar and financial secretary of two state normal schools, being in the former relation at Peru, Nebraska, and serving in the latter at Wayne, Nebraska. For a number of years Mr. Redmond has been valued in the councils of the Democratic party, and while residing in Nemaha county he served two years as deputy county clerk, and in 1907 represented Nemaha county in the Nebraska legislature. Prior to coming to Mason City Mr. Redmond had banking experience at both Brock and Crab Orchard. In the fall of 1918 he bought a controlling interest in the Farmers State Bank, and its affairs are in a very prosperous condition. He is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, including the Order of the Eastern Star, and also with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen.

CHARLES NEWMAN, whose connection with the agricultural interests of Custer county commenced in 1886, has been a resident of this county ever since, with the exception of five years, from 1894 to 1899, which he spent in Idaho. He has brought to his work that unflagging industry which seldom fails of accomplishment, and it is this factor that has brought him a desired success and gained him a place among the well-to-do farmers of the community.

Mr. Newman was born in Ohio, in 1873, a son of Thomas and Lucy Newman, the former of whom is deceased, while the latter survives as a resident of Ohio. There were five children in the family: Charles; Archie, who resides on a farm in Montana; Mrs. Roberta Heckman, who died in Idaho; and Eva and Maggie, who still reside in Ohio with their mother. Charles Newman received his education in the public schools of Ohio and was brought up on a farm. In 1886 he came to Nebraska and located in Custer county, remaining until 1894, when he went to Idaho and spent five years in that state. Returning then to Custer county, he bought his present farm, in section 4, township 71, not far from Mason City, where he has since made his home and achieved his success. This is a property of 160 acres, the greater part of which is under cultivation and highly developed, and here Mr. Newman has engaged industriously in farming and in the raising of cattle, horses and hogs. His improvements are modest but of good, substantial quality and ample for all his needs, and he owns good machinery that lightens his labors and adds to his efficiency. Mr. Newman is somewhat of

a mechanic and is capable of doing practically all of his own blacksmithing. His business methods have ever been honorable and straightforward, and his fidelity to engagements and faithfulness to friendships have gained for him the warm regard of his associates. Fraternally Mr. Newman is affiliated with the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Mr. Newman married Miss Mary Swanson, who was born in 1885, and they are the parents of four children, born as follows: Roberta, in 1905; Thomas, in 1907; Milford, in 1914; and Kenneth, in 1916.

JAMES F. COCHRAN.—Here is the sketch of a young man who occupies a position of great responsibility and who as a ranch manager and stockman is making a decided success in the south Loup country, where the scene of his operations is laid.

James is the son of Benjamin Franklin and Rebecca (Miller) Cochran, both of whom were natives of the Hoosier state. The father died at the age of thirty. The mother is still living, at the age of sixty. During his lifetime the father was a cooper by trade but at the same time followed farming for the principal part of his livelihood. The mother is a member of the Christian church. James came to Custer county and since then has been laying the foundation of what he hopes some day will be a comfortable fortune—one large enough to enable him to retire from active life. At the present time he has the management of the Hamer Ranch, owned by J. J. Boblitz. This ranch consists of 3,280 acres, of which 380 acres are under cultivation. They handle 150 head of cattle, 150 head of hogs and a good grade of horses. The output of this ranch is the particular thing with which Mr. Cochran is charged. Ranches must pay, and when their operation is committed to a manager, their manager must assume a grave responsibility. This responsibility Mr. Cochran assumed and discharges in a very creditable manner. His wife was Eva Fritz, of Georgetown, Custer county. Mrs. Cochran comes from an eminently respectable family and although young in years she is well prepared to preside over the home they have made for themselves and which they hope to be the shrine of much happiness in the years to come.

Mr. Cochran is an independent voter. He owes no party political allegiance. He reserves the right to do his own thinking and votes for candidates as their qualities and abilities appeal to his judgment. The Cochrans



GEORGE M. PROBERT AND FAMILY

are fine people, highly considered and in good standing in their neighborhood.

GEORGE M. PROBERT.—More than a quarter of a century has rolled by since George M. Probert, one of Custer county's most substantial citizens, came here, and in the possession of a fine estate and in the enjoyment of unqualified popular esteem, he has much to show for his twenty-eight years of effort. Mr. Probert is a native of the grand old state of Iowa, and was born in Clayton county, January 13, 1860. His parents were James and Euphemia (Muir) Probert.

The parents of Mr. Probert were born in Muirkirk, Scotland, and they came to the United States in 1856 and settled in Clayton county, Iowa, where they spent the rest of their lives. In Scotland the father had been an iron worker, but after coming to America he devoted himself entirely to agricultural pursuits. In Clayton county he purchased land, which he developed and improved. He was one of the leading members of the Presbyterian church in his neighborhood. Eight children were born to James and Euphemia Probert and of these the following are living: Jeanette, who is the widow of Oliver Hall, lives at Viroqua, Wisconsin; William, who is a retired farmer of Clayton county, Iowa, married Mary Grim; George M. is the subject of this sketch; and John, who is a farmer in Clayton county, married Nellie Davis.

George M. Probert was afforded excellent educational advantages of those days, as gauged by the standards of the locality and period, and after completing the public-school course in Clayton county he afterward took a full commercial course in Upper Iowa University, at Fayette. He remained with his father on the home farm until his marriage, and, in fact, he has been a farmer all his life. When he came to Custer county, in the spring of 1890, he not only brought with him his family but also a thorough knowledge of his vocation, as applicable to Iowa land and climate, as well as four horses and a cash capital of \$700. His first land purchase was eleven acres, and on that tract he did his first experimenting on Nebraska soil. Like other settlers, he encountered unexpected hardships, during which he lost all his horses. Many of the settlers of that time became entirely discouraged and returned to their former homes, but Mr. Probert was made of sterner stuff, and through courage and determination he gradually overcame the early disadvantages and long has been established on a sound finan-

cial basis. His original land purchase was but the nucleus of his present large estate, of 880 acres. With him farming and stock-raising have been extremely profitable industries. Mr. Probert has taken much interest in improving his land and when he erected his present handsome residence, he chose a beautiful site, locating it on an eminence overlooking the Middle Loup valley. His home is probably the finest rural residence in Custer county and is modern in every respect, with a hot-water heating system, running water, and acetylene lights.

Mr. Probert was married November 17, 1881, to Miss Margaret Clemens, at West Union, Iowa. She is a daughter of Henderson and Margaret (Wood) Clemens, who were born in Ireland and who came to the United States prior to the Civil war, in which Mr. Clemens served three years as a soldier of the Union. His business was farming. Mr. and Mrs. Probert have had six children, as follows: Le Roy, who conducts a garage and is also in the produce business at Sargent, Nebraska, married Carrie Hartley; Blanche, who died June 18, 1917, was the wife of Thomas B. Murray; Ray E., who is a farmer near Sargent, married Bessie Grisham; Edna is the wife of Walter Sargent, who is, at the time of this writing, in the national army, in training at Camp Lee, Virginia. and Effie and Georgia remain at the parental home, the former being a popular teacher in the local schools. Mr. Probert is independent in politics. He is a man of recognized good judgment in all matters and his neighbors of many years standing know that his word is ever as binding as a bond.

EDWIN LUND, one of the enterprising and progressive agriculturists of Custer county, is carrying on extensive operations in the vicinity of Mason City, where his father secured a homestead as early as 1881. The one which the son now occupies is not the original property, but he has been a resident of the same vicinity for thirty-seven years, and is known as a practical and capable representative of the vocation of agriculture as practiced in this part of the country.

Mr. Lund was born at Chicago, Illinois, August 22, 1876, a son of Ole and Mollie (Bahle) Lund. His parents were natives of Norway, who came to the United States as young people, the father about the year 1871, he locating at once at Chicago. Mrs. Lund's parents settled first in Michigan, but she was married at Chicago to Mr. Lund, who was



GEORGE LASH



MRS. GEORGE LASH

working for the great packer Philip D. Armour at that time and continued to do so for two years after their marriage. He then removed to Nebraska, and for more than two years was engaged in farming in Seward county, and in 1881 came to Custer county and secured a homestead, in addition to a pre-emption. He was still a poor man when he came to Custer county, but found here the opportunity which he had sought, and through his untiring industry and antive ability worked out a creditable and satisfying success. He became the owner of 320 acres in the vicinity of his first settlement, but this he subsequently sold, and purchased land where his son Edwin is now carrying on operations, and where he owned a tract of 200 acres. This he continued to operate intelligently and successfully until his death, in 1902, at the age of sixty-three years. He was a well-read man in the Norwegian language, and was alive to all the important topics of the day, was a good and progressive citizen, and a staunch Republican. He was a member of the Lutheran church, as is Mrs. Lund, who survives him and resides in the state of Washington. They were the parents of six children: Edwin, of this notice; Martin, a farmer of Sweetwater, Nebraska; Marie, the wife of Ludwig Johnson, a farmer of the state of Washington; Kearnel O., a farmer of that state; Albert, who works in a store and postoffice in Washington; and Ella, who died at the age of six years.

The public schools of Custer county furnished the medium through which Edwin Lund secured his education, and when he reached manhood he choose farming for his life work. He has never followed any other vocation and at the present time is the owner of a half-section of land, in addition to which he farms his mother's homestead. He has proved successful in his undertakings and carries on his operations in a modern way and according to the most highly approved methods. He has not found the opportunity or the inclination to enter actively into public life, and in his political sentiment is inclined to be independent, although, other things being equal, he favors the Republican party. With Mrs. Lund, he belongs to the Danish Lutheran church.

Mr. Lund was married in 1902, to Miss Mary Kirkegaard, who was born in Denmark, a daughter of Jens Kirkegaard, the owner of a small farm near Sioux City, Iowa. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Lund: Lillian, born in 1904; Marvin, born in 1906; and Arnold, born in 1910, all attending school; and Mildred, born in 1912.

GEORGE LASH. — The late George Lash was one of the old-time and well known citizens of the southern part of the county, where he established his home and with his good wife reared a large family of children, all of whom developed into splendid, progressive citizens.

He was born in Ohio, December 14, 1843. His father, Andrew Lash, was a prominent citizen of the Buckeye commonwealth. In the father's family were nine children. Gregory is living in Indiana; John has his home in Avilla, Indiana; the third born was George, the subject of this memoir; Anthony, Paul, and William are all living in Indiana; Elizabeth and Clara are deceased; Christiana is not married and she resides in Indiana, as does also Mary, who married Mathew Sneeberger.

It was in the public schools of Ohio that George Lash received his youthful education, and there he passed his boyhood and young manhood days.

In 1880 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Lash to Miss Maria E. Wright, a daughter of Isaac and Rachel (Mahaffy) Wright, and together they began the establishing of a home and laying the foundation for the competency they expected to have in store for old age. They became the parents of ten children all of whom are living: Hattie Romine is married to a farmer living near Cozad; William is at home; Francis Ezra, at the time of this writing, is in the service of the country and stationed at Camp Humphrey, Virginia; Alice married Jesse Hovey, a Custer county farmer; Flocey is working in Kearney; Paul is another son in the service of the country and at this writing word has been received of his safe arrival in France, where he is serving in the medical department; Andrew is in the infantry service and was located at Camp Dix, Massachusetts prior to going with his command to England; Flora is at home; Elsie lives at Kearney; and Arthur is helping on the home ranch.

Mr. and Mrs. Lash came to Custer county in 1884. They came direct from Ohio and as soon as possible located a homestead, on which they established their residence. Mrs. Lash had almost more than her share of early-day privation and and pioneer experiences.

Mr. Lash worked in Kearney for three years, leaving his wife on the homestead to maintain the residence while he was away providing the means of sustenance. They had no furniture in the house except dry-goods boxes. Wood was scarce, and the second winter of her residence here, Mrs. Lash says they burned hay, while during a subsequent winter they had

to use corn-stalks for fuel. All the improvements on the home place were put up by Mr. Lash. He planted apple seeds and later grafted the quality of fruit he desired. By this method he developed a fine orchard. The first residence of Mr. and Mrs. Lash in the early days was a sod structure, fourteen by sixteen feet in dimensions, and in this they managed to live five years. Then they added another room, and they lived in the two rooms for three years longer. Then they built another sod house this being fourteen by thirty feet, and this constituted their place of abode until 1899, when they built the home which is now standing on the old homestead and in which Mrs. Lash makes her home. Mrs. Lash is a woman of unusual character, plucky, and determined, and all this will be realized when it is stated that in the early days she often walked to Kearney, a distance of sixty miles, and covered the distance in one day.

Mrs. Lash is one of a family of eleven children, and those now living are: Belle Brooks, who resides in Oregon; William, who is living in Colorado; Ezra, who resides in Milton, Nebraska; John, who is a resident of Oakland, California; and Mrs. George Lash, of whom we are writing, completes the list of surviving children. The Wright family were pioneers in central Nebraska, having come here in 1870. Mrs. Lash remembers the time when Crete was the nearest railroad station. Her father and brothers in those early days worked for the Union Pacific Railroad Company, in Fillmore county.

The tragic death of Mr. Lash occurred on the 25th day of May, 1915, at which time he was killed by a train on the Burlington Railroad, near Broken Bow. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity, and the entire family is connected with the Baptist church.

W. R. CLINE. — Among the men who have contributed progressiveness of spirit, dignity of labor, and soundness of business management to the development of the agricultural interests of Custer county, one whose career has been worthy of note is W. R. Cline, who is operating a splendid farm in the Broken Bow community, in co-operation with his brother, E. J. Kline. The brothers are the owners of 388 acres of good land, in addition to which they have a share in the family estate of 320 acres.

W. R. Cline was born at Saybrook, Illinois, November 4, 1874, a son of W. H. and Etta (Brown) Cline. The paternal grandfather, George D. Cline, was born in Virginia, and

was a pioneer into the Western Reserve of Ohio, riding his only possession, a horse. Afterwards, he moved to Illinois, and there his death occurred. W. H. Cline was born in Ohio, where he was reared, and as a youth was taken by his parents to Illinois, where he was living at the outbreak of the Civil war. He early answered the call of his country, enlisting in Company D, Twenty-sixth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he fought in a number of leading engagements, including those connected with Sherman's great march to the sea. Enlisting as a corporal, during his four years of service he won steady promotion through his bravery and faithful service, and when he received his honorable discharge, it was with the rank of lieutenant. Following the war Mr. Cline returned to Illinois and was engaged in farming until October 11, 1888, when he came to Custer county, Nebraska, and took a relinquishment claim of 160 acres, on which he resided until his death. He was an industrious man and a capable farmer and won success in his operations. In politics he was a Republican, and his religious faith was that of the United Brethren church, in which he died in 1909. Mrs. Cline, who survives him and belongs to the same church, resides with a daughter at Tyrone, Oklahoma. They were the parents of six children, as follows: W. R.; E. J., who is farming with his brother; Olin O., the owner of a farm in Kansas, but a resident of Tyrone, Oklahoma; Junie, the wife of Fred Speakman, a banker of Tyrone; Warren H., a traveling salesman who delivers engines for the Avery Traction Company, of Peoria, Illinois; and Paul B., who enlisted in the United States Army Aviation Corps, and was in training at the flying field at San Antonio, Texas, at the time this sketch was being prepared.

W. R. Cline was educated in the public schools of Illinois and Nebraska, following which he took a business course in a commercial college at York, this state, and then settled down to farming, a vocation which he has since continued to follow with much success. In connection with his brother, as before noted, he is operating 388 acres which they own, carrying on a general business in farming and dealing in live stock, and in both directions he has made a success of his efforts, proper conservation and practical methods having been happily combined in his case with marked progressiveness and some amount of experimenting with new ideas and processes. Mr. Cline is a Republican, and has taken a keen interest in political matters and public affairs, being the incumbent at this time of the

office of town clerk. He was married December 20, 1903, to Miss Lillie Mast, who was born in Iowa, a daughter of Levi and Elizabeth Mast, natives of Indiana who became early residents of Nebraska. Four children have been born to this union, as follows: Junie, in 1905; Lois, in 1909; Phyllis, in 1912; and Donald, in 1917. Mr. and Mrs. Cline and their children belong to the United Brethren church.

E. J. Cline was born in McLean county, Illinois, May 16, 1879, a son of W. H. Cline, and received his education in the public schools of Custer county, Nebraska. He took up farming as his vocation in young manhood, and has since been associated with his brother, like whom, he owns a share in 388 acres, and in his father's estate. He is energetic in action and well informed as to his business, and the success that he has gained has come through industry and a direction of energy along well-defined channels. In 1913 Mr. Cline was married to Miss Hazel Hammond, born in Iowa, a daughter of Eli Hammond, and two children have been born to them: Vance, four years old; and Billie, aged one year. Mr. and Mrs. Cline are members of the United Brethren church. In his political affiliation Mr. Cline is a Republican.

JAMES FORAN.—The subject of this sketch is in middle life and full vigor of his manhood and strength. He is a prominent member of a prominent family and has contributed his full share to the rank and station the family has achieved. James was born in 1876, in Joliet, Illinois, where his early years were spent. He came from a well-known and respected family in whose veins coursed the blood of Irish lineage. He was the sixth born to Peter and Mary (Dougherty) Foran, the former of whom was a native of Ireland and the latter a native of Lockport, Illinois. The father died at the age of fifty-two but the mother reached the ripe age of seventy-six. In 1885 the father located a homestead in Custer county and domiciled his family in a sod house; it was on this place, while building a sod barn, that he was accidentally killed.

In the parental home were the following children: Dominic, a Custer county man of whom extended mention is made on other pages of this volume; Mary Power, who lives on a Custer county farm; Susan whose home is in this county; Ambrose, deceased; Rose Michel and Agnes Hukey, both of whom are living in this county; Thomas, of whom a life sketch is to be found in this volume. The

family were all devout Catholics and the men for the most part inclined to the Democrat party.

James is one of the substantial farmers and stockmen of the county; solely by his own efforts he has developed the present ranch which he operates and has embellished with due improvements for the successful operations with which he has charged himself. He homesteaded part of the land that now constitutes his ranch of one full section; the rest was added by purchase and paid for by hard work and good management.

He married Josephine Snyder, of Hayes City, Kansas. Mrs. Foran has been a valuable assistant to her husband and has co-operated with him in every detail of their domestic life or business operations. In their home are their bright children, whose names are Glen, Raymond, Lyle, and Wilford.

On the home ranch is found an excellent grade of live-stock, and the farm has been operated very successfully and profitably by Mr. Foran. He has paid considerable attention to dairy cows and thinks that they constitute a very profitable adjunct to farming. The Forans commenced in a sod house and have worked hard for their present day accumulation; they have now a good equipment of farm machinery, adequate improvements, and the sod house, having served its purpose, has been replaced with a new modern bungalow, comfortable and attractive. The Forans are fine people and maintain a hospitable home.

JOE E. ORCHARD.—The subject of this sketch is a lifelong farmer and is one of the heavy producers of the county. He was born June 27, 1883, in the state of Iowa. He is a son of Shipton G. Orchard, whose sketch may be found elsewhere in this volume.

He came to Custer county at an early age and here received his education in the public schools. In 1910 he was married to Mary Dobesh, the daughter of Francis Dobesh, who lives near Ansley. Since that time the years have brought five children into the family circle of Mr. and Mrs. Orchard. They are: Vivian Grace, Arthur Lamon, Donald Woodrow, Rachel Lucile, and Bonnie Elsie—all bright, happy children who bring a flood of sunshine into the farm home and who will be a valuable addition to the coming generation to which they belong.

Mr. Orchard runs 520 acres of land, on which he raises splendid crops. The land belongs to his father-in-law, Francis Dobesh. In addition to general farming and stock-raising

ing, he specializes on hogs and for a number of years has turned off 100 square, blocky porkers each year. With present prices for pork, this becomes a very profitable operation.

Mr. Orchard has spent all his life on the farm and knows every phase of the calling. By the neighbors he is rated a very successful farmer and stockman, which is owing not more to good judgment than to industrious habits.

The Orchards are very active in social circles. The family belong to the Christian church, in which they are rated as very valuable communicants. They are also members of the local Grange and in connection with this institution have contributed their part to make Custer county noted throughout the entire state as the home of the Grange. Mr. Orchard also belongs to the Non-partisan League, a somewhat modern organization composed mostly of farmers whose object is to secure favorable legislation for farmers and producers generally. In politics the affiliation is with the Democratic party, although a great deal of independence is exercised in the matter of local candidates.

CAPTAIN LYNN J. BUTCHER. — This review is dedicated, with pardonable pride on the part of Custer county people generally, to the life story and military career of Captain Lynn J. Butcher, who was born in Custer county and is therefore a Custer county product in the fullest sense of the term. If his family are proud of his achievements they are only exercising a family right, for which no apologies are necessary.

The future captain made his debut into Custer county March 28, 1883. His father, Solomon D. Butcher, is the well known pioneer citizen, photographer, and historian. The father's native state is West Virginia. The captain's mother, Lillie M. (Barber) Butcher, now deceased, was a Custer county lady of fine culture and rare fibre, and amid the hardships and privations of pioneer life she reared her son in the most creditable manner possible.

The Captain's early years were spent upon a Custer county farm in the vicinity of Gates. It was here that he began his career by performing his first labor and earning his first money. His first work was gathering potato-bugs off the potato vines which the bugs were bent upon devouring, and he was paid at the rate of one cent per hundred. Just who counted the bugs is not disclosed, and at this late day is not germane to the topic. It should be added, however, that the bugs were plenti-

ful and in a short time the future captain had a small bank account, which he carefully guarded. He was given a common-school education and when seventeen years of age took a course in the Broken Bow Business College. Shortly after he had finished his business course his parents moved to Kearney, Nebraska, where his father engaged in the photographic business and Lynn J. secured a position as clerk in the W. O. King department store, in which he remained for some time.

Afterward he formed a partnership with his father in the photograph business and made a specialty of publishing postal-card views, under the firm name of Butcher & Son. This firm soon became well known as card publishers throughout western Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma. The father was on the road most of the time, making negatives and taking orders from retail dealers, while Lynn J. managed the business at home, employing at all times from four to six young ladies, who worked at finishing and shipping cards. Aside from the regular gallery work, the books show that, during the three years they featured the postal-card work, they published and shipped to towns in the above mentioned territory 2,250,000 postal-cards.

Lynn J. Butcher finally took over his father's interest in the business and continued it for more than five years. He became very proficient as a photographer and would probably have made an unusual financial success if the fortunes of war had not called him from his occupation.

A glance at his military record below will disclose the fact that before leaving his business he had been actively identified with the National Guard, in which he had won promotions. On March 25, 1917, the government requisitioned his services and ordered him to the colors, and his active service in behalf of his county had then its real beginning. The following is his military record up to the present time:

Enlisted in Company A, Second Nebraska Infantry, July 14, 1904. At the close of his enlistment he was honorably discharged, July 15, 1907. He re-enlisted in Company A, same regiment, June 5, 1911, and was appointed corporal, December 1st of the same year; he was appointed quartermaster-sergeant, January 22, 1913, and was honorably discharged March 10, 1913, to accept a commission as second lieutenant in Company L, Fourth Nebraska Infantry.

On April 21, 1914, by special order of the



CAPTAIN LYNN J. BUTCHER

war department, No. 8, he was given a commission as first lieutenant in the same company and regiment. This was rapid promotion, but the end was not yet. June 22, 1914, he was commissioned captain of his company in the Fourth Regiment of Nebraska Infantry. June 27, 1916, he was ordered into active service and, with other United States units, his command mobilized at Camp Lincoln, and entered upon Mexican border service.

From July 7, 1916, to December 27, 1916, he was with his company on the southern frontier, stationed in the Brownsville district, at Llano Grande, Texas, and later he was mustered out of the expeditionary service of the United States, at Fort Crook, near Omaha, on January 15, 1917.

At Kearney, Nebraska, March 25, 1917, he was ordered back into the service of the country. He left Kearney with his company, which afterward divided, and did guard duty at the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad bridge over the Platte river near Ashland, with one division of the company, while the other performed a like service at the Union Pacific Railroad bridge near North Platte. The North Platte division was in charge of Second Lieutenant K. Y. Craig.

Captain Butcher left Ashland August 25th of the same year, with his assembled company of 141 members, and joined the rest of his regiment at Omaha, from which city they en-trained for Camp Cody, at Deming, New Mexico, where the mobilization camp for the states of Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota National Guard troops was located.

Following is the personnel of Company L of the "Fighting Fourth" line-up for "Uncle Sam":

Captain, Lynn J. Butcher; first lieutenant, Frank G. Tracy; second lieutenant, Kenneth Y. Craig.

Sergeants — Pitke, Edward F., first; Geist, William, mess; Foster, Clarence L., supply; Allhands, Lee; Dunn, Lawrence C.; Fisher, Roy A.; Sadler, Walter B.; Sandberg, Ned J.; Schneringer, Raymond; Stoetzel, Henry W. Corporals — Ayers, Wayne; Beyer, Dewey E.; Bruck, Edward E.; Hanover, Arthur C.; James, Charles R.; Larimer, Clifford; Mattson, Paul C.; Shively, John P.; Smith, Earl; Stround, Charles W. Mechanics — Lewis, Thomas; Simon, Simon A. Buglers — Bennett, Delmar A.; Hein, Walter. Cooks — Larson, Leo F.; Plummer, Floyd W. Privates — Adams, Arthur H.; Albers, Otto; Albin, Nelson O.; Anderson, Andrew; Anderson, Robert; Aston, Raymond; Bargar, Henry; Barry, James N.; Blauvelt, Ercel M.; Blood-

good, Grant; Bragg, William J.; Briggs, Benjamin F.; Briggs, Vernon F.; Brown, Robert G.; Chadd, Ira C.; Chadd, Oral; Comstock, Bryan; Cone, George; Cooney, Ray H.; Cooney, Theron B.; Cornish, James L.; Corlew, August; Danner, John A.; Davidson, Harrison; Dexter, Frank D.; Drum, Erwin G.; Drum, Herbert L.; Eddy, Eugene L.; Ely, Arthur; Erickson, Clifford; Frederick, Ray F.; Graham, William; Gray, Calvin G.; Groeger, Francis A.; Gustus, Vanner A.; Hagstrom, Arvid; Harmon, Harvey J.; Haynes, Byron H.; Irish, Lyman; James, Alfred; Johnson, Floyd; Johnson, Fred; Johnson, Guy; Johnson, Herbert; Jones, Charles E.; Kelley, Harry E.; Kelly, John J.; Keyser, George A.; Kolbo, Clarence; Lacey, Edward L.; LaFleur, George H.; Lansing, Claude I.; Lewis, Herbert H.; Littell, Jasper; Mansir, Charles R.; Mattson, Herman G.; Mayfield, Oviel; McCammon, Benjamin; McCartney, George; McComb, Carrol G.; McConnell, Ira O.; McFate, James W.; McKenzie, Charles J.; Murdock, Lloyd; Nichols, Ralph E.; Norris, George W.; Oglevie, John B.; Oglevie, Richard; Overhiser, Harry C.; Patterson, Floyd B.; Perdue, King R.; Pierce, Otis; Pressey, Joseph W.; Rawson, Rufus R.; Reddick, Lester; Reynolds, Foster M.; Reynolds, Paul; Richter, Carl; Root, Dave; Root, Leo J.; Rosenthal, Charles R.; Sadler, Fred T.; Sanborn, Wallace O.; Schneringer, Earl E.; Sellars, Wilbur; Shaffer, Charles W.; Shue, Ray; Sivill, John E.; Slattery, Don T.; Solomon, George F.; Stiles, Gerald H.; Streeton, Guy V.; Swinyer, Earl; Tilgner, Philip E.; Tongish, Herman F.; Towery, James E.; Tripp, Harvey; Troth, George; Vath, Adam; Wagner, Andy V.; Wakefield, Richard M.; Walker, Clarence J.; Walsh, Patrick E.; Walton, Charles A.; Ward, Merritt; Ward, Ray M.; Warner, Rolland R.; Watkin, Thomas R.; Weaver, Walter L.; Webber, Joseph; Wells, Elmer; Whitehead, Dillow S.; Williams, Bert A.; Yaegle, Harold P.; Zimmerman, Fred.

Captain Butcher and his company arrived at Deming on the 27th of August, 1917; on October 21, 1917, the new organization of the National Guards of the United States was effected, and the Fourth Nebraska Infantry lost its identity. In the reorganization the regiment became the One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Heavy Field Artillery. As there was a surplus of captains, Captain Butcher, at his own request, was transferred to the Fifty-ninth Depot Brigade, on October 24, 1917. For the next two months he was assigned to special duty in photograph work for General George H. Harries, and also acted as range

officer at the rifle range. He was also in command for some time of training Company No. 2, Depot Brigade.

Once more came a transfer, and this time, December 30, 1917, Captain Butcher was assigned to the One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Infantry, which was, under the old organization, the Fifth Nebraska. Here he was attached to Company B until February 11, 1918, when another transfer assigned him to the aviation camp of the signal corps at Waco, Texas. February 15th he was assigned to the command of the Twenty-third Recruit Squadron, of 200 men. On April 1st, order No. 27 transferred twelve majors and thirty-eight captains, including Captain Butcher, to Camp Wadsworth, Spartanburg, South Carolina, at which place all reported. April 5th Captain Butcher was attached to the Fifty-fourth Pioneer Infantry. On July 7, 1918, the new Sixtieth Pioneer Infantry was organized, and he was assigned to it and given command of Company B. Of this office he continued the incumbent until the signing of the historic armistice brought the war to a close, his command having thus far not been called to service in France.

At Kearney, Nebraska, in April, 1907, Captain Butcher married Miss Elma Carey, daughter of Edward and Cynthia (Shroy) Carey. Mrs. Butcher is a lady of refinement and culture and is highly respected in the community where she is known. In the Captain's "home squad" is only one soldier, Master Melvin, a bright lad of eight years, who even now dreams of following in the military footsteps of his father. The Captain and his wife are members of the Christian church. He is an Odd Fellow high in the order, and is devoted to the fraternal interests fostered by this order. Politically he votes the Republican ticket.

FREDERICK G. BEARDSLEY.—Arnold gets credit for a large community of independent, substantial farmers; men whose energy and ability have enabled them to do well for themselves and at the same time develop the county and make for it a reputation.

Frederick Beardsley is a native of the Empire state, where he was born in 1867. He is the son of C. A. and Mary (Miller) Beardsley, both of whom have been dead many years. The father reached the age of 55 but the mother died at the age of 35. They were very estimable people, the father, a blacksmith by occupation, followed iron work for the most of his life. There were eight children

in the family. James, now deceased was a homesteader near Cozad. T. C. lives in Hastings. William is in New York. Melvin died in infancy. Charlotte Morton lives in Massachusetts. Rebecca Swart lives in Minnesota. Ida and Ella are deceased. Mr. Beardsley came to this county forty-one years ago, worked for his brother on a farm eighteen months, which was the first money he remembers making. He homesteaded in 1896 and later homesteaded again, in Logan county. He sold this also and is now operating a rented farm, upon which he is making a fine showing with good grades of live stock. Mr. Beardsley is considered a good farmer and stock-man. He took unto himself a life partner and since that time Abbie C. Wilcker, a native of Ohio and a very estimable lady, has been the sharer of his joys and sorrows. She has co-operated with him in all his toil and plans and deserves like credit with himself for the home that they have been able to maintain and the property accumulated. They have raised a large family of children, all of whom do them credit. Ward Olsen, Homer, and Daniel are all Custer county farmers getting a good start and developing into citizens of the first type. Cora Parell lives in David City. Lottie and George are at home. Mildred Parell lives in David City. Florence, Albert, and William are at home. Melvin is deceased. adie Wardrobe lives on a farm in this county. That Mr. Beardsley stands for advancement and progressive innovations in the community is witnessed by the service that he has rendered as school director and road overseer. He has been a patriotic citizen of unquestioned loyalty during the recent war drives and one of the men upon whom the different county committees could depend for school district organization, and it is largely due to his efforts that his school district made a splendid record. The Beardsleys stand high in the local community.

L. O. WELCH, who has passed his entire career as a farmer of Custer county, is now the owner of 440 acres of finely improved land not far from Ansley. A part of this property was the original homestead of his pioneer father, who came to Custer county in 1885, and whose reputation as a constructive and progressive citizen and a skilled agriculturist the younger man is worthily maintaining.

L. O. Welch was born on a farm in Cass county, Iowa, October 30, 1881, a son of O. S. and Leila (Harrington) Welch. His paternal grandfather was Samuel Welch, a na-

tive of Vermont and a pioneer of Iowa, where he died; and his maternal grandfather was Newbri Harrington, also born in the Green Mountain state, whose death occurred in Nebraska. O. S. Welch was born in Vermont and was a young man when he went to Iowa to decide upon locating there. Being favorably impressed with the outlook, he returned to his native state for his bride, and they began life on the prairies of Cass county, where they made their home for some years. In 1885 Mr. Welch, who was not satisfied with his progress in the Hawkeye state, brought his family to a homestead in Custer county, Nebraska, and here passed the remainder of his life in the cultivation of the soil and the establishing of a good home. He and Mrs. Welch were the parents of two children: Leota, the wife of E. A. Foster, a farmer of Custer county; and L. O., of this notice. Mr. Welch was a Populist in politics, and served for a time as county supervisor of Custer county. He died in 1912, while his wife passed away in 1905.

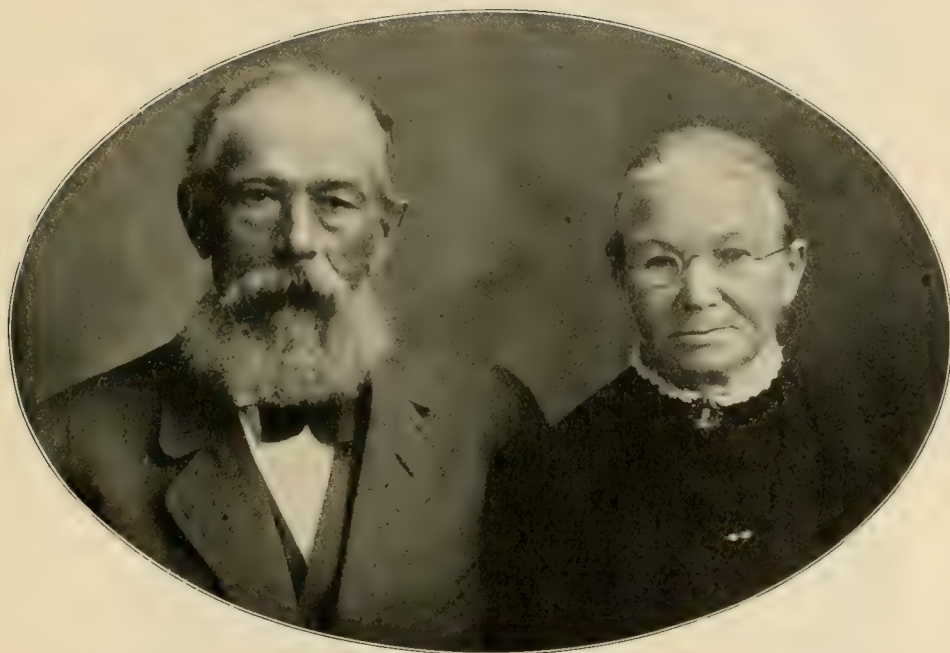
L. O. Welch acquired his education in the district schools of Custer county, where he was brought as a child of four years, and his early training was all along agricultural lines. When he reached his majority he adopted farming for his life work, and this has held his attention to the present time, when he is the owner of 440 acres of good land. He has made many improvements on his property, including a fine set of modern buildings, and is accounted a skilled farmer and stock-raiser and a man of broad information on many lines. An active member of the Grange, he has made frequent lectures before that body, in regard to pertinent questions of the day, and is particularly interested in the work of the Non-Partisan League. In regard to political matters he is independent of party connection. His fraternal connection is with the local lodge of the Highlanders.

Mr. Welch was married in November, 1904, to Miss Grace Tunnell, who was born at Kearney, Nebraska, a daughter of William Tunnell. Mr. Tunnell passed away when she was a child, and she was reared by her stepfather, John Hoge, a prominent attorney of Kearney, where she completed her education in the high school. Mr. and Mrs. Welch are the parents of three sons: Frank S., born in 1906; John Hoge, born in 1908; and Robin Adair, born in 1911. A daughter, Iris, died when three years old. Mrs. Welch is a member of the Baptist church.

GOTTLOB HISER. — When he first came to Custer county, in 1886, Mr. Hiser had near-

ly reached middle age and was still a poor man. While he had worked hard and intelligently, his activities had failed to bring him the success for which he had so eagerly and untiringly worked, and he sought the greater opportunities, although harder toil, of a new and developing country to grant him the prosperity that had been denied him in the more populous communities. That his faith has been vindicated and that his judgment was sound, is shown in the fact that he is to-day one of the substantial agriculturists of Custer county, in the Litchfield community.

Mr. Hiser was born in Würtemberg, Germany, February 5, 1847, a son of John and Dorothy (Stark) Hiser. His parents were natives of Germany and were small agricultural people, the mother dying on the home place in her native land, and the father subsequently, in 1849, coming to the United States. In addition to Gottlob, there were five other children in the family, and all became communicants of the Lutheran church. Gottlob Hiser was an infant when his mother died and was but two years of age when his father left Germany for America, so that he was reared virtually as an orphan. However, he was well trained in his youth, being the recipient of a fairly good common-school education and early assimilating the lessons of industry and honesty. In 1867, when he was twenty years of age, he immigrated to the United States, a fellow-passenger on ship-board being Christina Reif, who later became his wife. Mr. Hiser made his way to Huntington county, Indiana, where he secured employment as a farm laborer, by the year, and, being sober, industrious, and capable, he had no trouble in getting a man's wages and in holding his position. After he had worked three years for the same employer, he started on a more independent career, and for a long time rented and leased land in Indiana. This did not prove satisfactory, and in 1885 he took the step which he had long contemplated, that of coming to Nebraska. For one year after his arrival, while he was familiarizing himself with conditions, he rented a property, but in 1886 he came to Custer county and homesteaded a property of forty acres. He paid out on this original home, and then bought 160 acres of rough land, without improvements, and put it under cultivation in addition to erecting buildings and installing equipment that made it a valuable and productive farm. His structures now include a pleasant and comfortable home, which he built himself, and which is furnished with the latest conveniences. During his career as an agriculturist Mr. Hiser has raised consider-



MR. AND MRS. GOTTLÖB HISER

able live stock, and at present he feeds all his corn. As one of the self-made men of this county he is worthy of and receives the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens. In politics he is a Republican, and he has served as a member of the county board of supervisors, a capacity in which he displayed ability and a conscientious effort to assist his community in a practical way.

Mr. Hiser was united in marriage February 8, 1868, to Miss Christina Reif, who was born in Germany and came to America at the same time as her husband and settled in Huntington county, Indiana, where their marriage took place soon afterward. To this union there were born six children: Mary is the wife of Joe Ulrey, a farmer of Indiana; Elias is a ranchman in Wyoming; Nona is the wife of John Myers, a cement manufacturer at Davenport, Iowa; Sarah is the wife of Charles Grant, on a Wyoming ranch; Minnie is the wife of Herman Holm, a farmer of Custer county; and Edward resides with his parents.

W. E. OWEN, whose successful operations as a general farmer and stockraiser on a very large body of land, make him prominent and important in the agricultural affairs of Custer county, resides in a comfortable and attractive residence situated four miles southeast of Broken Bow. He was born in Grant county, Wisconsin, March 23, 1858. His parents were Henry Clay and Elizabeth (Martin) Owen, the former of whom was born in Michigan and the latter in Ohio.

On both sides of the family the grandparents settled in Wisconsin when their children were young and there the latter grew to mature years and were married. Henry Clay Owen was a farmer in Wisconsin when he enlisted for service in the Civil war, entering the Thirty-third Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, but he did not long survive, dying in 1862, from disease brought on by the hardships of army life. He was survived by his widow and the following children: W. E.; Mary, who became the wife of Charles Hamlin, an old settler of Custer county and now a resident of Texas; and J. A. Owen, who carries on a teaming business at Broken Bow. Henry Clay Owen was a member of the Church of God. In political opinion he was a Republican. His widow married again and continued to live in Wisconsin.

W. E. Owen had comparatively few educational advantages in boyhood, attending the district schools for a short time only, but by the time he was twenty-one years of age had become competent as a farmer and during the

succeeding eight years followed farming in Iowa. In 1886 he came to Custer county, Nebraska, took up a pre-emption, and after proving up on his claim continued to acquire land and at the present time has 2,773 acres of fine land, which he devotes to his agricultural industries. He has been able to make farming and stock-raising in Custer county very profitable.

In Iowa, in May, 1879, Mr. Owen was married to Samantha Snyder, who was born in Virginia and was brought to Iowa when a child. Her father, Allen Snyder, served three years in the Civil war. She died April 6, 1903, without issue. Mr. Owen was married May 4, 1905, to Minnie Hayes, a native of Missouri, and they have two children: Claris, born January 29, 1906, and Iva, born September 21, 1912. Mr. Owen is a member of the Church of God.

NICHOLAS JACQUOT.—In the years that have passed, many of the honored citizens of Custer county have gone to their reward. The impress of their lives and the evidences of their labors are found on every hand. The subject of this memoir was one whose record, as a citizen of genuine worth, should have a place in the annals of Custer county.

Nicholas Jacquot was born in the village of Tonnonville, France, December 11, 1844. In his native land he was reared to the age of nineteen years, and he then ran away from home and sailed for the United States. Three months later he enlisted in the Union army, and he served until the close of the Civil war, receiving an honorable discharge. At Wesley, Illinois, where he had charge of a hotel, he married Josephine Mitchell, and in 1867 they moved to Livingston county, that state. On the 10th of March, 1880, his wife died, and June 12, 1882, he married Margaret Kearn. In the month of January, 1883, he came to Custer county and secured a homestead in section 33, township 18, range 22. His first home was in a sod house, in which the family lived three years, with only a dirt floor. Mr. Jacquot had been in Nebraska some time before coming here to make his home, and had purchased land in Valley county. He was engaged in farming in Livingston county, Illinois, and, not being the owner of the land, was paying crop rental. To see those big crops of corn and other grain gathered after so much hard work all summer, and then give the landlord two-fifths of all he raised, made him feel that he might do better in Nebraska, where he could own his own land. To his



MR. AND MRS. NICHOLAS JACQUOT

wife and family he pictured Nebraska in anything but glowing colors, but they decided to try it. They endured all the hardships and privations incident to the period of development in Custer county and contributed their full share in the work of progress. Among other hardships, no greater one had to be encountered than that of securing water for stock as well as for family use. A large lagoon on the land he took as a homestead furnished the water not only for his own family but also for other early settlers, who would come for miles with barrels and haul away the precious water. But in the month of June Mr. Jacquot dug a well, and for several years he engaged quite profitably in boring wells for other settlers. He engaged in farming, and for years bought and shipped stock, an enterprise that added to his yearly income. He later engaged in the grain business, at Merna, where he operated an elevator, as did he also one at Ravenna, and later he bought one at Anselmo. His son Frank later entered into partnership with him, and this continued till failing health compelled the subject of this review to give up all business cares. He and his wife spent two years in California, thinking to benefit his health, but he continued to grow worse, and at Rochester, Minnesota, on the 23d of June, 1911, the end came.

In the passing of this pioneer, Custer county lost a good business man and worthy citizen, and his family a loving husband and father. Nicholas Jacquot was a successful man in all his varied business ventures and left his family a valuable estate. Herewith is given a record of the children: Of the first marriage six children were born—John, a resident of Colorado; Frank, of Merna, Custer county; Mary, the wife of George Milligan, of Anselmo, this county; Jennie, who died in Illinois at the age of ten years; Kate, the wife of Ellis W. Given, of Custer county; and Lizzie, the wife of John Leonard, of this county. Of the second marriage there were five children—Edna May, wife of Archie Bolen, of Custer county; George, residing on the old farm; Eva, the deceased wife of Charles Luce; Nicholas, of Merna; and Jennie, deceased. By a former marriage Mrs. Jacquot had three children—Elizabeth, widow of B. F. Edwards, of Anselmo, this county; Josephine, wife of E. J. Foley, of Anselmo; and Joseph, a farmer of Custer county.

The data for this record of Nicholas Jacquot and his family were furnished by his widow, who now makes her home in Merna. She came to Custer county with her husband thirty-five years ago, shared in all those years of toil

and hardship, and recites an interesting story of pioneer days in Custer county. It was on Decoration Day, 1891, she and her husband were driving to Anselmo, and in passing fields of grain on which he had loaned money he would point them out and remark that he would lose so much on this field and so much on that if they did not get rain. His wife tried to be cheerful and told him that rain would come, and, sure enough, that day a small cloud appeared in the sky and before night the country was drenched with a good rain. They had their good times and hard times, but, withal, they lived to see the county develop into a prosperous one and the members of their family all become useful members of society.

Nicholas Jacquot was a Catholic in religious faith and in politics was a Democrat, though he never aspired to nor held public office. He helped organize and served as president of the Home Bank of Merna. He was a successful man in all he undertook and will long be remembered as a substantial pioneer of Custer county.

WALTER W. WATERS.—In his development from a country school teacher to the proprietorship of a flourishing business enterprise and the mayoralty of a thriving and growing city, Walter W. Waters, of Broken Bow, has displayed the possession of perseverance, industry and real ability, and of personal qualities that attract and hold general confidence, whether in business or public life. He was born in Clark county, Missouri, April 19, 1873, a son of George O. and Elvira (Story) Waters, but has been a resident of Custer county since 1879.

George O. Waters, who was a native of Ohio, went to Missouri about the year 1865, and was there married, his wife being a native of that state. They resided in Missouri, on a farm in Clark county, until 1879 when they removed to Custer county and Mr. Waters almost immediately became an active factor in the public life of the community. He was a member of the first board of county supervisors, was deputy clerk of the county court and at one time was elected county recorder, but found the population of the county was not large enough and declined the office. Mr. and Mrs. Waters, of whom further data will be found in the sketch of R. E. Waters, elsewhere in this work, are now residents of California. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Waters is a Republican.

Walter W. Waters attended the graded and high schools of Broken Bow, graduating from

the latter in 1894, and then furthered his education by attendance at Peru Normal school, where he completed his course in 1898. He immediately entered upon his career as an educator, an experience which extended over a period of twelve years, during which time he first taught in the rural districts, later was principal of schools at Shelton and elsewhere, and finally became superintendent of schools at Saint Paul, Nebraska. When he gave up teaching as a vocation, in 1909, it was to enter commercial affairs at Broken Bow, where, in partnership with C. S. Tooley, he embarked in a hardware business. After two years the partnership was dissolved and Mr. Waters engaged in the implement business on his own account at Broken Bow, an enterprise which he has since built up to large proportions. He carries a full and up-to-date line of tools and farming implements and machinery, and has had the satisfaction of seeing his trade grow in commensurate value with the efforts he has exercised and with the fairness of policy that he has used in the conduct of his transactions. Mr. Waters not only bears an excellent reputation in business circles but is one of the foremost men in Broken Bow's civic and public life. When the people of this community came to the conclusion that they needed a chief executive who possessed business ability and at the same time the qualities necessary for leadership, Mr. Waters' name at once suggested itself, and he duly became the Republican candidate and was elected mayor. So satisfactory was his first term that he was re-elected by the largest majority ever given a candidate for this position. His administration of affairs has been characterized by constructive work and civic advancement.

Mr. Waters was married in 1895, to Miss Stella Brown, who was born in Illinois, and to this union there have been born three children: Helen, a graduate of Broken Bow High School, class of 1917, the same high school that her mother graduated from; Carroll, a pupil in eighth grade; and Emily, a fifth grade pupil. Mr. and Mrs. Waters and their children are consistent attendants of the Christian church.

FRANK HEAPS, who is one of the successful agriculturists of the community of Broken Bow, is another representative of the farming industry who has won success in his native state. Mr. Heaps was born on a farm in Hamilton county, August 15, 1884, and is a son of Charles G. Heaps.

The paternal grandparents of Mr. Heaps,

Golden and Elizabeth (Woodruff) Heaps, were natives of England, the former born at London and the latter at Liverpool. They had nine children, of whom three still survive: Mary, who is the widow of Thomas W. Palmer, a farmer; Elizabeth, the wife of Frank Groll, formerly a farmer but for the past two years a retired resident of Evansville, Indiana; and Charles G. Charles G. Heaps was born in Gibson county, Indiana, September 6, 1859, and received a public school education at Princeton, that state. Reared as a farmer, he adopted that profession upon the attainment of his majority, shortly after which he came to Nebraska and bought eighty acres of land in Hamilton county. This he cultivated for several years, when he sold out and in 1884 came to Custer county, where he homesteaded a tract and where he has resided ever since. He is a practical and progressive agriculturist who has made a success of his affairs, because of his good judgment and persevering industry, and his standing in his community is that of a good citizen and a man of the highest integrity and strictest probity of character. He was reared in the faith of the Baptist church and has continued to follow its teachings. Politically he is a Democrat. He and Mrs. Heaps have had eight children, all of whom are living: J. O., who married Zoe Bishop and is engaged in farming at Lillian, Nebraska; Ada, the wife of David Dewey, a farmer; Frank, a widower, who is engaged in farming in Custer county; Earl, a farmer of this community, who married Velma Smith; Maggie, the wife of Hugh Campbell, a farmer of Weissert; Leone, the wife of Clarence Brown, a farmer; and Charles and Rex, who reside with their parents.

Frank Heaps received his education in the common schools of Custer county, and when he completed his studies embarked in farming, which has been his vocation to the present time. He has applied modern methods to his operations, with the result that he has made a success of his work, and gradually has become known as one of the more progressive members of the younger farming element. Mr. Heaps is a Democrat, but has applied himself so closely to his agricultural labors that he has had little time for outside interests. He is not affiliated with any religious body or organization.

Mr. Heaps was married to Miss Catherine Barnesberger, who is now deceased, and they became the parents of three children: Rosella, born September 28, 1912; Virginia, born March 28, 1914; and Edwin, born January 4, 1916.



MR. AND MRS. PHILIP JOHNSON

FOSTER JACKSON, who since his arrival in Broken Bow, in 1910, has been increasingly successful in his business operations, has gradually developed into one of the leaders of his community's dealers in houses and general real estate. He was born on a farm in Van Wert county, Ohio, August 27, 1878, and is a son of Simeon A. and Rebecca (Hayes) Jackson.

Simeon A. Jackson was born in Pennsylvania, and as a young man went to Ohio, where he was residing at the outbreak of the Civil war. He was one of the first to answer the call for volunteers, joining one of the first Ohio infantry regiments, and during his four years of service took part in many important engagements, including Lookout Mountain. In that battle he was severely wounded and confined to the hospital for a time, but upon his recovery rejoined his regiment and fought until peace was declared. Returning then to Ohio, he resumed his farming operations in Van Wert county, where he passed the rest of his life and where his widow still survives. They became the parents of seven children, of whom the following survive: Willis, a contractor of Columbus, O.; Minnie, who married Frank Richards, engaged in the implement business at St. Paul, Minnesota; Oscar, who is a contractor and builder of Van Wert, Ohio; Elias, a contractor of Lima, Ohio; Otis, engaged in leasing oil lands at St. Louis, Missouri; and Foster, the only one in Nebraska. The father of these children was a Republican in his political faith, but was never an office seeker. His wife, who was born in Mercer county, Ohio, is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

The education of Foster Jackson was secured in the public schools of Mendon, Ohio, near which town the old homestead was located, and as a youth he was thoroughly trained in the various departments of agriculture. Thus equipped, in young manhood he went to Idaho, in which state he secured employment as foreman of a ranch, a position which he retained for two years. Mr. Foster came to Broken Bow February 27, 1910, and established himself in business in the line of moving houses. This gradually led him into buying and selling houses, and he was quick to recognize the opportunities offered in the real estate field here, so that he has developed into one of the pushing and energetic men in the field of handling realty and is now carrying on a large business which has assumed important proportions. Mr. Foster has himself contributed to the upbuilding of the community by the erection of his own modern home, near the square, and several other residences, and a specialty of his business is the

remodeling of houses. Mr. Jackson is independent in his political views, preferring to choose his own candidates rather than to vote blindly with any certain party. He has attached himself to several movements which have been promulgated for the betterment of Broken Bow's interests and has shown himself in various ways a constructive and public-spirited citizen.

Mr. Jackson was married January 18, 1903, prior to leaving Ohio, to Miss Maude Dull, who was born in the Buckeye state, in 1882, a daughter of Delbert and Malissa Dull, both of whom were born in Ohio, where the father died and where Mrs. Dull still makes her home. Two children have come to this union: Ralph, born November 9, 1905; and Vaughn, born August 22, 1906.

PHILIP JOHNSON.—In the death of Philip Johnson, Custer county lost one of its highly respected pioneer citizens—one who had shared in the hardships and experiences of the early settlers and contributed in a large measure to the building up and development of the community in which he lived.

Philip Johnson was a native of Ohio, his birth having occurred April 23, 1842. In his native state he was reared and there he was united in marriage to Miss Wilhelmina Nolsch, who was born in Germany, February 19, 1843, and who came to the United States when she was ten years old. Mr. Johnson became a successful farmer and land owner in Ohio, where he carried on agricultural pursuits until 1886, when he came to Nebraska and secured a homestead in Custer county. His first home was a primitive sod house, and after proving up on the homestead he sold the property and bought land in township 18, range 22, and township 18, range 23. This farm he admirably improved, and he made it one of the valuable properties in Custer county. Here he resided until his tragic death called him from the scene of his earthly activities.

On June 17, 1912, Mr. Johnson and his wife were on their way to visit his sister, when, at Mt. Vernon, Iowa, while changing trains, they were struck by a fast train and instantly killed. Their passing was a severe blow to their family and their many friends, as they were devoted parents and loyal friends. They were the parents of eight children: Jacob, of Broken Bow; Annie, wife of F. S. Ackerman; Sarah, deceased wife of John Varnek; David, a resident of Ohio; Martin, who owns and operates the old farm; May, who married Sam McGinnis and resides in Thomas county, Nebraska; Eva, wife of A. C. Anderson, of Lin-



M. LUDWIG JACKSON AND FAMILY

coln, Nebraska; and Minnie, wife of Charles Higgins, of Lincoln.

Philip Johnson and wife were members of the United Brethren church and in politics he was a Republican.

In recording the lives of those brave men and women who established homes in Custer county when the work of development was only initiated and who devoted years of sacrifice and labor to make better the conditions of living for those who follow after them, we present to the readers of this volume a brief sketch of a worthy pioneer couple who did their full share and who are entitled to a memorial tribute in this history of Custer county.

M. LUDWIG JACKSON, whose standing as a substantial farmer and public-spirited citizen rests upon thirty years of connection with the agricultural and civic interests of Custer county, has won honorable success and reputation through his own efforts. He started his career as a landholder in 1888 and during the time that has elapsed has proved himself prepared for every emergency and worthy of every trust. Like many others whose homes are in Custer county, Mr. Jackson was born in Sweden, his birth date being January 31, 1858, and his parents Jacob and Maria (Nelson) Jackson.

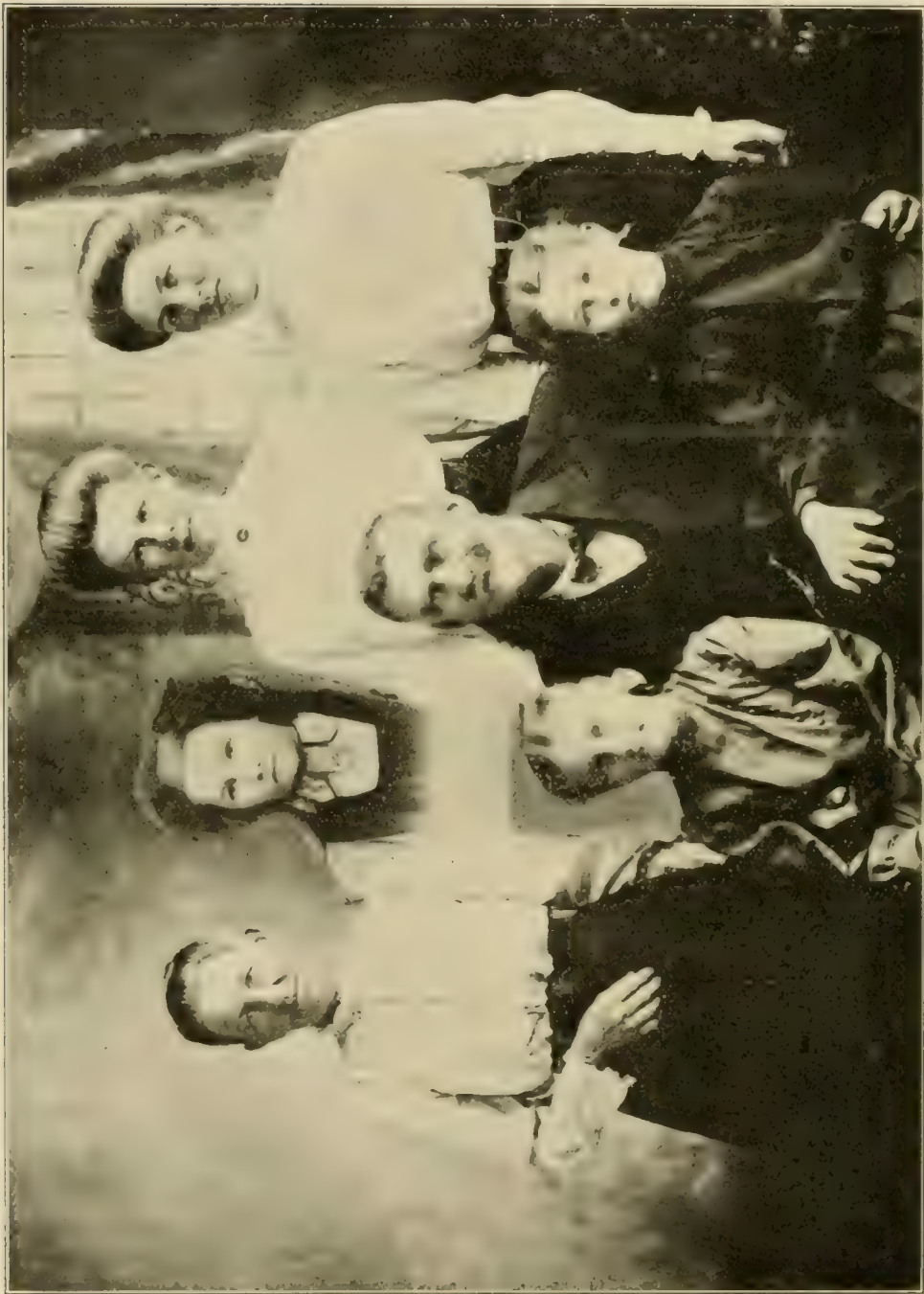
Mr. Jackson was reared in an agricultural family, his father and forebears having followed the pursuits of the soil for many years in Sweden. His parents never left that country, nor did any other children in the family with the exception of John C. The youngest of the family, M. Ludwig Jackson, received ordinary educational advantages in the schools of his native land, where he was brought up under a rigid training as to the virtue of honesty and industry. He was dissatisfied with such opportunities as he found for advancement in Sweden, and shortly after attaining his majority he left that country and immigrated to the United States. He soon found that in order to gain a start he must work hard and faithfully, and that opportunities were offered only to the worthy and ambitious. For several years after reaching Grand Island, Nebraska, he followed railroading, and also for a like period was variously engaged in other employments, but when he reached Grand Island he had only seventy dollars. However, he finally started out on another line, determined to gain success in the pursuit in which he had been reared, that of agriculture, to which he applied himself as a renter of land. He con-

tinued in the same capacity for three seasons and succeeded in saving enough money with which to purchase a team, and in 1888 came to Custer county and bought one quarter-section of land. He paid his indebtedness on this land, and then purchased eighty acres more, and since then he has made other additions, besides making improvements of all kinds, including the erection of substantial buildings. He has a pleasant and comfortable modern home, equipped with all conveniences, and his farm is a model of neatness and order. As a general farmer he has succeeded through the use of modern methods and processes, combined with hard and constant work, and in the line of stock-raising he has also met with prosperity, having a good grade of cattle and being considered a well informed man in that direction. Mr. Jackson has not been prominent in public life, but has been a public-spirited supporter of worth-while movements and one who by his influence, precept, and example, has tried to secure good legislation for his community. In political affairs he takes an independent stand, depending upon his own judgment in his selection of candidates and principles, rather than that of the parties. With his family, he belongs to the Baptist church.

In 1891 Mr. Jackson married Miss Sadie Bray, daughter of William N. and Frances (Ogburn) Bray, natives respectively of Ohio and West Virginia. Mr. Bray is a retired farmer of Custer county, now living at Mason City. He came to this county in 1885 and spent thirty years in farming and stock-raising. A full sketch of his career will be found elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Jackson became the parents of seven children: George L., who, at the time of this writing, is in training for service in the United States army, in camp at Cambridge, Massachusetts; Carl F., who is with the American Expeditionary Forces, in France; Edward W., who is now in service in the United States army; and Clara M., Cressie, Kermit J., and Archie C., who are at home with their parents.

AMOS B. LEWIS. — Another intelligent, progressive farmer and stockman who belongs to one of the widely known pioneer families of the county is the one whose life sketch here follows.

Amos B. Lewis was born in 1877 and has been a resident of the county ever since he was two years of age. Here he received his education, lived through the days of childhood and boyhood, and he finds himself to-day in the prime and vigor of middle life, surrounded



HERMAN H. E. HUENEFELD AND FAMILY

by an interesting family and engaged in a profitable occupation. He is the son of Moses and Martha E. (Howe) Lewis, both very excellent people. The father was a native of New York and the mother of Illinois. The father, who was a Civil war veteran, was possessed of a mechanical genius and was the inventor of some very helpful farm tools, notably ledger blades for a mowing machine, and a cultivator of exceptional utility. He came to the state in 1879 and homesteaded one mile east and north of Broken Bow. Both the father and mother were charter members of the First Baptist church of Broken Bow. The father is deceased. The mother has since remarried and is living in Grand Island. They were the parents of five children, all of whom have done exceptionally well out in the world of useful activity. John, the first born, is a prominent citizen of Wayne, where he is a member of the faculty of the Wayne State Normal. Amos, whose name appears above, is the second born. George M. is in Seattle, where he is engaged in electrical railroading. Garland E. is at Niagara Falls, where he is professor of chemistry in a noted institution of learning. Leland J. is an instructor in the Columbia University. Both John and Garland were among the superintendents of public instruction of Custer county, each serving with credit to himself and profit to the school system.

Amos B. Lewis homesteaded in 1905 and to this has added other acres until to-day he has a holding of 2,450 acres, upon which he usually runs about three hundred head of cattle the year around. The cattle are fine-grade Polled Durhams. His fancy in hogs runs to the Duroc Jerseys and in the breeding of this type he has made a splendid showing. Since nearly all his life has been spent in this county he has known its progress and development and has had much to do himself with some of the early events.

He claims the distinction of being on the first railroad engine that ran into Broken Bow. He was joined in holy wedlock to Leota C. Russom, a daughter in one of the first families of the county. Mrs. Lewis is an estimable lady of culture and refinement and has been an able assistant to her husband in all his agricultural enterprises and community service. Into their home the years have brought five children, all interesting and of much promise. They are Loma E.; Eula V.; Theodore V.; Rowena M.; and John R. All are at home and in full pursuit of their education. The family belongs to the Baptist church, and is rated as a leading family in the community.

Amos is a Republican, a township officer and a general contributor and supporter of all local enterprises.

HERMAN H. E. HUENEFELD.—Along with other substantial farmers of the Roten valley must be placed Mr. Huenefeld, whose life story follows.

Herman H. E. Huenefeld was born in Grant county, Wisconsin, July 3, 1864, and he is a son of Carl and Louisa (Hasse) Huenefeld, both natives of Germany. The parents were splendid people, and they had five children—Carl, Fred, Louise Klein, Simon, and Herman H. E. The father was a farmer, and he came from Germany to Freeport, Illinois, when Carl, the first-born son of the family, was but one year old. The family stopped in Freeport for a short time, and from there moved to Grant county, Wisconsin, where the subject of this sketch was born and reared. Concerning his early days spent on a farm, Herman H. E. Huenefeld remembers that he had to carry a light cradle in cradling a field of grain full of stumps. It was his job to locate the stumps and have his cousin stop and cradle around them. For this service he received the first fifteen-cent piece in script that he ever saw. When he was thirteen years of age his mother died, and one year later his father passed away, leaving the children doubly orphaned. They remained on the farm, however, the sister keeping them together and tending to the household duties. When the brother Fred married, his wife took charge of the home, and the brothers worked the land together until the farm was sold and the family came to Custer county. This was in the spring of 1886. The three brothers, Fred, Simon and Herman, located about sixteen miles southwest of Callaway, in Roten valley. Each bought a half-section of railroad land, for two dollars and fifty cents an acre. At the present time this land is worth at least fifty dollars an acre.

February 26, 1889, in Grant county, Wisconsin, was recorded the marriage of Herman H. E. Huenefeld to Miss Emma Casper, a daughter of Joseph and Mary (Herberlein) Casper, who were natives of Germany, and who had ten children, eight of whom are living at the present time—Jacob, Carl, Henry, Emil, Albert, William, Joseph, and Emma.

Mr. and Mrs. Huenefeld started their home in a very modest way, and they maintained it over the extreme difficulties of the first years. Like their neighbors, they hauled water from five to nine miles, and then had to pay five

cents a barrel for it besides the hauling. Sometimes the wagon sent for water had to wait all night for the wind to come up and start the pump. In connection with those early days Mr. Huenefeld says that it was an interesting proposition to figure out how they could get the three per cent. a month to pay for money they had to borrow at the bank to tide them over the hard times. Yet the family survived all these difficulties and have come now to the crest of the hill, where life is easier and labor not so strenuous. The landed holdings consist of 480 acres, well improved and in high cultivation. Farming and stock-raising have paid for everything, supported the family, and are responsible for the present accumulation. Following is brief record concerning the children of Mr. and Mrs. Huenefeld: Clara is the wife of Leslie Dickerson, a farmer living about three and one-half miles south of Cozad, and they have two children; Lena is a teacher who received training at the business college at Broken Bow, and she makes her home with the parents; Rosa is deceased; Erma and Nora have finished the eighth grade in the public schools and both are at the parental home.

The family belong to the Evangelical church, in which they are faithful, consistent members. Mr. Huenefeld declares allegiance to no political party, rating himself as an independent. In exercising the franchise he makes his own selection of candidates.

ALONZO B. ASH.—The Ash family came to Custer county, Nebraska, with the first settlers, and for almost forty years the name has stood for good citizenship, enterprising spirit and sound, practical business methods. The family has always been an agricultural one, farming and stock-raising claiming the attention of father and sons, and in these industries they have been very successful. A representative member of this old Custer county family is found in Alonzo B. Ash, whose fine farm is located on section 31, township 21, with postoffice at Broken Bow, Nebraska.

Alonzo B. Ash was born September 26, 1871, at Marshalltown, Marshall county, Iowa. His parents were Jesse M. and Indiana Ash, both of whom were born at Shelbyville, Indiana. There were ten children in the family, namely: Elva, Alonzo B., Ward, Blanche, Harry, Herbert, Boyd, Vennie, George, and Corbett, all of whom are living with the exception of George. With prudent preparation for the future of his growing family, Jesse M. Ash for some time consid-

ered the relative advantages presented by different western states before he decided on coming to Nebraska, led thereto by the state's even temperature, fertile soil and, at that time, an extensive farm area for homesteading. Alonzo B. was eight years old when, in April, 1879, settlement was made in Custer county, and here he has continued to live contentedly ever since. He was educated in the public schools and was trained to efficiency in his vocation, through the routine of farm work. Mr. Ash now finds himself a man of the utmost value to his country in her time of need, and as a loyal and patriotic citizen he is making every effort to add to the already bounteous yield of his acres. He has long been deemed one of the county's most progressive stock-raisers, his farm showing standard stock only. He raises pure-bred Shire horses and makes a specialty of Poland China hogs.

Mr. Ash was married at Broken Bow, Nebraska, November 4, 1906, to Miss Etta Doty, who is a daughter of Josephus and Martha Doty, and they have the following children: Blanche, Fern, Boyd, Chris, and Ernest. Mr. Ash has never been very active in politics but votes with the Democratic party.

JOHN O. JACKSON.—In naming the pioneers of Custer county the late John O. Jackson will be recalled, for he was one of the dependable men here in early days and subsequently prospered with the county. He was a fine man in every way—courageous and resourceful, keen in business and industrious in habit—and in all he did he was honorable and upright, and just to his fellow men.

John O. Jackson was born December 11, 1849, in Sweden, and died in Nebraska, January 2, 1914. He remained in his native land until he was eighteen years old and then started out alone to make his way in the world. He crossed the Atlantic ocean to the United States and landed on hospitable shores, for he easily found employment wherever he went and before reaching Nebraska had traveled through many of the states of the Union. He located at first in Pennsylvania, then went to Minnesota and then to Arkansas, and he visited other sections prior to 1878, when he came to Merrick county, Nebraska. In the meanwhile he worked on farms, saved his money, and became acquainted with the language and customs. When he reached Custer county, about 1879, he had matured plans and settled convictions. He homesteaded in a desirable part of the county and took up a tree



JOHN O. JACKSON

claim. He kept on adding to his possessions until, at the time of his death, he owned a whole section of land. His homestead was well developed and well stocked and continues to be a source of large revenue to his family.

Mr. Jackson was married August 10, 1878, to Miss Florence Beaman, a daughter of A. and Esther (Lamb) Beaman, who were natives of Franklin county, New York, and who came to Nebraska at an early day. Mr. Beaman owned a large estate in Merrick county and both he and his wife died there. Of their family of nine children Mrs. Jackson was the first born. To Mr. and Mrs. Jackson five children were born, the survivors being: Maude is the wife of Thomas Bahr, a farmer near Montevista, Colorado, and they have four children — John, Grace, Margaret, and Robert J.; Grace, second daughter of the subject of this memoir, is the wife of Ralph Keplinger, who not only farms his own quarter-section but also a quarter-section belonging to Mrs. Jackson, he and his wife having two children — Maude and Lyle; Belle, who resides with her mother at Grand Island, has completed a course in the Nebraska Normal School at Kearney, and is now in the pedagogic profession.

Mr. Jackson always took an interest in politics and had sound opinions on the leading issues of the day. In his early political life he was a Republican but later he found himself more in sympathy with the Democratic party. He belonged to the Ancient Order of United Workmen and attended the Mason City lodge of the same. For many years he was a faithful member of the Baptist church, and in various ways he contributed to other agencies for good in the county. He was a marked example of the self-made man, and what he accomplished was the result of his own unassisted efforts.

E. P. WALTER is now entering his thirtieth year of service with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad and is without doubt one of the best known railroad men in Nebraska, having entered upon his career in 1889. Mr. Walter, who started his service with the Burlington route as a roustabout and who is now general agent for that great company at Broken Bow, was born in Corning, Iowa, December 14, 1871, and is a son of Jacob and Emily (Weaver) Walter.

Jacob Walter was born in Bavaria, in 1833, and was five years of age when brought to the United States by his parents, who settled in Ohio. There he was bound out to learn the harnessmaker's trade, which he mastered

and followed as a journeyman in Ohio prior to his migration to Missouri, when he was still a young man. In the latter state he was married to Emily Weaver, who was born at Canal Dover, Ohio, in 1836, and they soon moved to Quincy, Iowa, where they established their home prior to the advent of the railroads, which necessitated their freighting their household goods from Saint Joseph. For a number of years Mr. Walter was engaged in business at Corning and later at Creston, but he eventually retired and in his declining years moved to Colorado, his death occurring in 1898 at Denver, while Mrs. Walter passed away in 1892, at Colorado Springs. They were the parents of two sons and two daughters: Cora, the wife of T. H. Campbell, auditor of the Colorado National Bank of Denver, with which institution he has been identified for thirty years; Sarah, of Los Angeles, California, widow of Will Foreman, who for twenty-eight years was traveling auditor for the Burlington; Charles S., engaged in the piano business at San Francisco; and E. P. Mr. and Mrs. Walter were consistent members of the Congregational church and were actively interested in church affairs. He was a Republican.

E. P. Walter completed his education in the high schools of Omaha and Denver, from the latter of which he graduated in 1889, and in that same year he joined the service of the company with which he is yet connected. Railroad work appealed to his nature as a youth, but as he was untrained he was forced to start in a humble capacity and began his labors as a common roustabout. However, his industry and energy soon won him promotion; he became in turn telegrapher, operator and agent, and at various times was transferred, as his usefulness grew, to larger and more important posts. Until 1907 he was on what is known as the McCook Division, but in the year mentioned he came to the Alliance Division, and after being at Crawford for three years came to Broken Bow, in 1912, as general agent for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, having complete charge of everything pertaining to the road's interests and possessions at this point. Coming into daily contact with thousands of people, as he has and does, it is but natural that Mr. Walter should have a wide acquaintance and that he should be unequivocally popular. He is recognized as a skilled, thorough and well informed railroad man, in whose hands the company's interests are safe.

Mr. Walter was married at Brighton, Iowa, in 1895, to Miss Jessie Wilkins, who was

born at Lexington, Iowa, and four children have been born to them: Ben, attending Creighton University as a medical student; Joe, who graduated from the Broken Bow high school in 1918; Paul, a freshman in that school, at present spending his time with his uncle in Colorado; and Edna, a public school student. Mr. and Mrs. Walter and their children belong to the Methodist Episcopal church. He is a Royal Arch Mason, has served as master of his blue lodge, and is a Republican with independent inclinations. He has taken a deep interest in civic affairs, and was practically the founder of the Public Service Club, of which he is at this time secretary.

ORLANDO M. WOLF, now one of the prosperous farmers and stockmen of the Sargent community in Custer county, belongs to that class of men who have attained their present positions of prominence and leadership solely through the medium of their own efforts. When he first came to this region, more than thirty years ago, his capital in regard to finances was represented by the sum of five dollars, and in the several years that followed he experienced all the hardships imaginable connected with life in an undeveloped locality. However, he has persevered and labored, and to-day is the owner of 960 acres of land, highly cultivated, and made more valuable by improvements of a modern character.

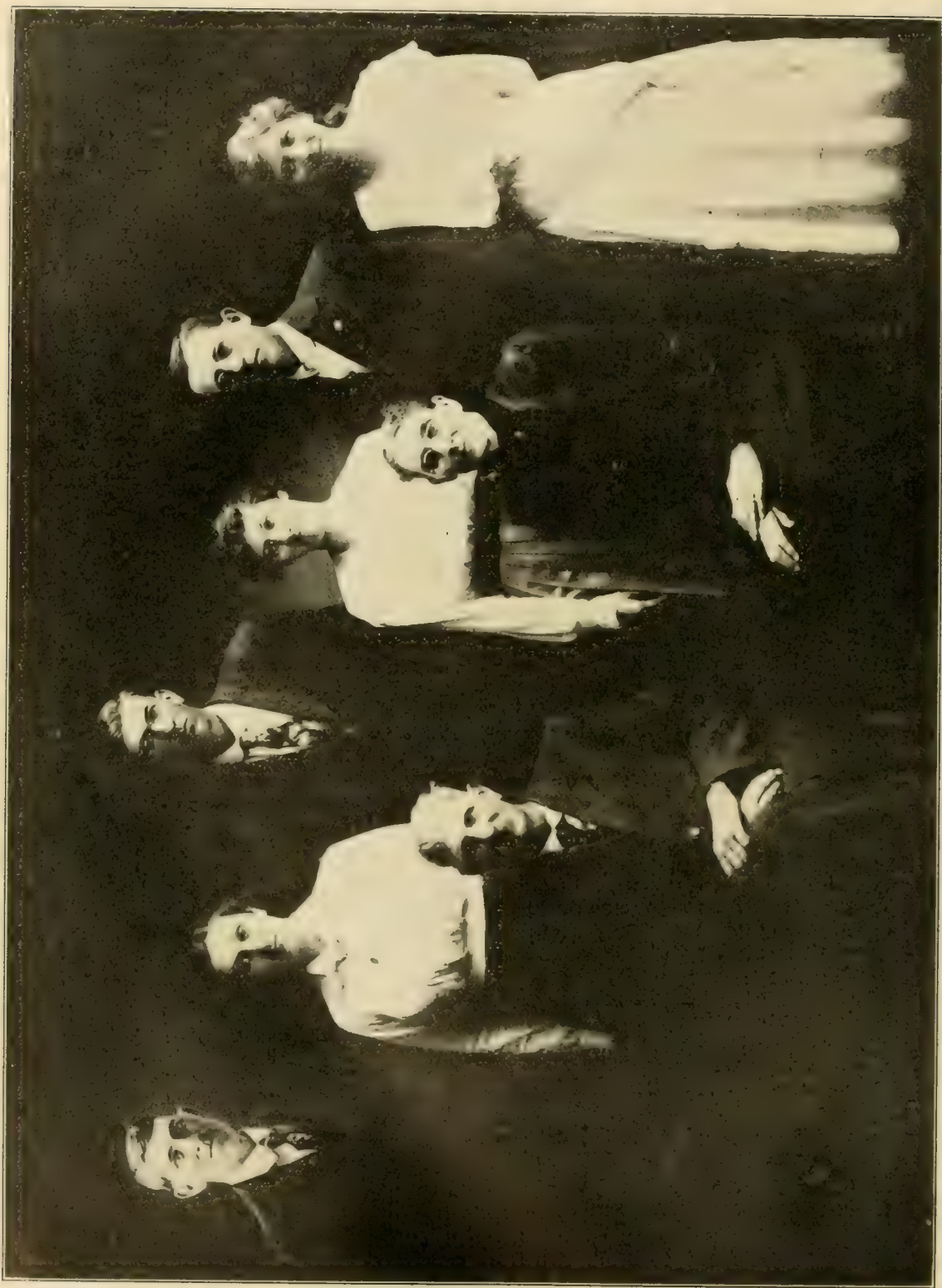
Mr. Wolf was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, April 2, 1865, a son of Peter and Caroline (Woodmansee) Wolf, natives of Pennsylvania, who passed their lives in their native state and were devotees of the peaceful pursuits of the soil in a highly civilized community. They were devout church members, highly respected by their neighbors, and Mr. Wolf was a staunch supporter of Democratic principles. They had seven children, of whom six are living: Elizabeth, who is the wife of Joseph Bailey, a miner of New Cumberland, West Virginia; John, a farmer near Sargent, who married Alice Lundy; Sarah M., a resident of Oakdale, Pennsylvania, who is the widow of William Chapman; Orlando M., of this notice; William H., a steel mill operator of Tylerdale, Pennsylvania, who married Laura Blair; and Charles, whose present whereabouts are unknown.

Orlando M. Wolf received his education in the common schools of Pennsylvania, where he was reared on the home farm, and was variously employed until after he was eighteen years old, when he severed home ties and

struck out to make his own way in the world. He arrived at Grand Island, Nebraska, with but five dollars, and in November, 1883, started to work in Custer county. The time did not seem auspicious for his permanent settlement, however, and in March, 1885, he went west and for eleven years was employed in various ways. During this time he experienced discouragements and disappointments that would have broken the spirit of a less persistent and sturdy man, for he lost his crops by hail, had them burned up by drought, and suffered various other misfortunes, and one winter he and his wife were both compelled to go out and work, at \$13 per month, in order that they might live through the winter months and have something with which to start the following spring. However, their perseverance and courage were rewarded, for when Mr. Wolf returned to Custer county he had sufficient means with which to purchase a farm, and also to homestead 120 acres, and this latter tract, in section 30, township 17, still forms a part of his 960 acres. Of this land, 800 acres is all in one body, and the whole property is in an excellent state of cultivation. Mr. Wolf has engaged to some extent in farming, but has made more of a feature of stock-raising, and in this has been very successful. He has his property improved with a fine home, substantial barns and good outbuildings, and the entire place evidences Mr. Wolf's energetic and progressive spirit and his modern ideas of agriculture. He has not entered actively into public affairs, but supports good movements and is known as a public-spirited citizen.

Mr. Wolf was married December 25, 1888, to Miss Clara Ferris, a daughter of William and Evaline (Huntley) Ferris, of Round Valley, and to this union there have been born five children, as follows: Sylvia, who is the wife of Howard Cooper, engaged in farming near Sargent; Charles, who married Edith Woods, and is engaged in agriculture in this community; Mary E., the wife of Elmer Ellingson, of Round Valley; and Ernest and Leonard, who are single, and are their father's assistants in the work of the home farm and ranch.

JESSE BRADBURN, who is an enterprising and careful farmer on section 7, township 34, near Round Valley, Custer county, has practically spent his entire life in this part of the state of Nebraska. He was born at Elton, Custer county, August 1, 1886. His parents, Joseph and Mary (Lawton) Brad-



RALLY E. HICKENTBOTTOM AND FAMILY

burn, came here in 1884 and bought a homestead right. They had seven children and five of these survive, namely: Grace, who is the wife of Charles Fresch, a lumberman, of Glenville, Nebraska; Jesse; Wilbur, who was born September 4, 1892, lives at home; Ernest, who is a farmer in Round Valley, married Permelia Ward; and Twila, who is the wife of George Martin, at present a worker in a munitions plant at Utica, New York.

Jesse Bradburn was educated in the country schools in Custer county and the high school at Broken Bow. Farming and stock-raising have engaged his attention ever since.

RALLY E. HICKENBOTTOM. — The reader may well note the name that initiates this paragraph and then read the following story of a thrifty farmer who credits all he is and has to the opportunities of this western country.

Rally E. Hickenbottom was born in Jefferson county, Iowa, on the 4th of January, 1864, and is a son of Stephen and Caroline (Taylor) Hickenbottom, the former of whom was born and reared in Kentucky and the latter of whom was a native of West Virginia. In the home circle of this excellent couple were twelve children, all of whom are living except three. Those deceased are Mrs. Mary Snyder, Stephen and Mrs. Margaret F. Bayles. The surviving children are Mrs. Prudence Pfoutz, William T., Mrs. Jane Eastman, Mrs. Sadie Moore, Mrs. Josephine Baker, Mrs. Johanna Jensen, Mrs. Belle Case, Rally E., and Jane. Stephen Hickenbottom was a farmer by vocation and he maintained a comfortable home for his family.

Rally E. Hickenbottom lived at home and worked on the farm until he was twenty-one years of age, and in the meanwhile he obtained a good common-school education that has stood him well in hand in later years. When he became of age his father gave him a span of horses, with harness and wagon, and started him out into the world. What became of the harness and wagon is not recorded, but it can safely be said that the team hauled him over the long road that eventually led him to his present home, more than thirty years ago.

In Jefferson county, Iowa, on the 4th of May, 1887, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Hickenbottom to Miss Lora C. Stallman, a daughter of Solomon and Hannah (Herman) Stallman, of that county, her parents having been Pennsylvania people and both having been faithful members of the Presby-

terian church. Since that day the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hickenbottom has been blessed with seven children: Rally C. married Miss Frances Schreyer and they reside on a farm six miles north of Callaway. They have two children. Rally C. Hickenbottom was assigned to class No. 4 in the selective draft for service in the world war. Mrs. Lydia J. Volenweider lives with her husband on a farm near Oconto, and they have three children. Leslie A., a farmer near Callaway, was registered in the last draft and was assigned to class No. 2. The maiden name of his wife was Annie Lewis. Frederick J., who is associated with his father in the operations of the home farm, was classified in the first division in the war draft. Mamie D. and Mary C. were twins, and the latter died at the age of eight months. Mamie D. is the wife of Edmond K. Lichtenberger and they reside on a farm near Callaway. Della, who remains at the parental home, is a student in the Callaway high school. The boys of the family are all Republicans in politics and all are doing well in their initial activities in farm enterprise. The married daughters have excellent husbands and are establishing comfortable and ideal homes.

Mr. Hickenbottom came to Custer county in 1887 and located on Spring creek, where he rented land during the first year of his residence in the county. He then purchased 160 acres on the Tallin Table, where he lived two years, and he then returned to Iowa. Two years of further residence in the Hawkeye state proved sufficient, and once more he turned his face westward and made his way to Custer county. At this time he purchased what was known as the old Chris Nelson homestead, and here he has continuously maintained his home to the present time. He has 600 acres of good land, and the property is so well improved, with an excellent array also of good live stock, that the fine farm home may consistently be said to face "easy street." Mr. Hickenbottom has placed himself in a substantial financial position by means of his successful operations in agricultural enterprise and stock-raising. He and his sons are affiliated with the Royal Highlanders and in politics he maintains an independent attitude, giving his support to men and measures meeting the approval of his judgment, irrespective of partisan lines. He holds membership in the Callaway lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The Hickenbottoms are in every sense one of the first families of Custer county.

ROSCOE M. LEACH, one of the native-born sons of Custer county who has made a success of his farming and stock-raising operations, is located in section 10, township 2. His entire career has been devoted to work of an agricultural character and his property gives evidence of the presence of good management and skilled treatment. Mr. Leach was born on a farm northwest of Sargent, December 5, 1884, a son of Edward P. and Mary (Exley) Leach.

The paternal grandfather of Mr. Leach, William Leach, was born in Kentucky, from whence he went to Indiana, and there married Emily Henderson, a native of that state. They farmed in Johnson county for a time, but in 1859 removed to Lucas county, Iowa, where Mrs. Leach died April 22, 1875, her husband surviving until March 27, 1911, when he had reached an advanced age. Edward P. Leach was born in Johnson county, Indiana, and was still a youth when his parents removed to Iowa. He reached manhood there, but in 1883 left that state and came to Custer county, where he settled on a homestead. A man of marked industry, he succeeded in the development of a good and paying farm, but about 1903 his health failed, and he turned his attention to the monument business, at Sargent, with which he had been connected for some five years previously. He is one of the prominent and influential citizens of his community and has been a leader of the Democratic party there for some years. He has been frequently called upon for public service, having served as justice of the peace for the past four terms, as road overseer for two terms, and as a member of the board of school directors for the past twenty-two years. With Mrs. Leach, he belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church. They are the parents of five children, as follows: Charles, a farmer seven miles south of Sargent, who married Emma Niell; Roy, engaged in general merchandising at Sargent, who married Hettie Gatliff; Roscoe M.; Mabel E., the wife of Claude Athey, a farmer of the Broken Bow community; and Verna, a farmer three miles northwest of Sargent, who married Grace Towne.

Roscoe M. Leach was educated in the district schools near Sargent and was reared to manhood on the home farm. He took up farming on his own account when he entered upon his independent career, and has never followed any other vocation, being satisfied with life in the country and the results that his industrious and well-applied labor has brought him. He carries on general farming in a modern way and also raises stock to some

extent, and is accounted progressive and enterprising by his fellow-citizens. His reputation for integrity in the community is of the best and while he has not been an office holder he has given his support to movements in a way that exemplifies his public spirit. Mr. Leach is a Republican, and his fraternal affiliation is with the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America.

On August 30, 1909, Mr. Leach was married to Miss Elsie E. Gatliff, who was born at West Union, Custer county, August 9, 1889, a daughter of William and Sarah (Stone) Gatliff, and they have six children, born as follows: Berta, August 28, 1909; Elton, November 29, 1910; Dale, April 10, 1912; Elwood, February 1, 1914; Vera, July 21, 1915; and Dotty, November 29, 1916.

DR. LEONARD C. HAYES.—Among the new developments which have been brought about by the endeavor of man to assist in the alleviation of the physical ills of humanity, a profession which is rapidly assuming a recognized place is that of chiropractic—briefly a system or practice of adjusting the joints, especially of the spine, by hand, for the curing of disease. In this field, the first legally qualified and licensed chiropractor to locate in Custer county was Dr. Leonard C. Hayes, who since February, 1916, has been successfully engaged in practice at Broken Bow.

Doctor Hayes was born at Salem, Henry county, Iowa, March 31, 1882, a son of Lawrence Monroe Hayes and Mary Alice (Breach) Hayes, and a grandson of John Wesley Hayes and Isaac Breach. His father was born at Salem, Iowa, in 1847, and there occurred his marriage to Miss Mary A. Breach, who was born in Belmont county, Ohio, in 1851. In the spring of 1885, with their children they removed to Chase county, Nebraska. There they resided on a homestead farm until 1895, when they moved to Lincoln, the death of Mr. Hayes occurring June 29, 1911, in that city, where Mrs. Hayes still makes her home. There were four children in the family, all of whom are living: Lillian, the wife of James Anderson, of Sheridan, Wyoming; Daniel W., president of the Nebraska Normal School at Peru; Alvin C., a farmer of Aitkin, Minnesota; and Leonard C., of this review.

Leonard C. Hayes prosecuted his earliest studies in a sod schoolhouse in Chase county, Nebraska, which he attended from 1887 to 1895, and then he was given the benefits of attendance at the public schools in Lincoln, where



DR. LEONARD C. HAYES



FRED HAUCK AND FAMILY

he was graduated in the high school as a member of the class of 1898. He then entered the normal school there. Leaving school in 1899, in the fall of that year he took employment as a clerk with the Western Union Telegraph Company, in Lincoln, and he was subsequently promoted operator, then assistant manager, and finally was made manager of the company's office at St. Joseph, Missouri. In 1907 he left the service of the Western Union and entered that of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, as station agent at Marsland, Nebraska, but in 1910 he resigned his position to enter college at Lincoln, to study chiropractic. After graduating from the Nebraska Chiropractic College, Doctor Hayes opened his first office at Omaha, in the summer of 1913, and he enjoyed a very good practice there until his removal to Broken Bow, in February, 1916. His practice here began to grow from the very start, and at the present time he usually treats from forty to sixty patients a day. Doctor Hayes is a member of the United Chiropractors' Association, the Universal Chiropractors' Association, and the Nebraska Chiropractors' Association. Politically he is a Democrat. He took membership in Yeoman Lodge, August 14, 1914, and at present is foreman of that lodge at Broken Bow. Doctor Hayes was converted by Harold Bell Wright and joined the Christian church at Kansas City, Missouri, in 1905. He remained a member of that church until his removal to Broken Bow, in 1916, when he became a member of the First Baptist church of this city.

At Omaha, in April, 1915, Doctor Hayes married Miss Helen Louise Cramer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Cramer, of that city, where Mrs. Hayes' father is a successful building contractor. There were six children in the Cramer family—Helen Louise, Mildred K., Clarence C., Charles, Margaret, and Richard.

PETER GEERSEN.—Among the leading farmers and stock-raisers and extensive landowners of the vicinity of Sargent, few hold a more enviable position in the esteem of their fellow-citizens than does Peter Geersen. Mr. Geersen has been a resident of Custer county for only about four years, but during this period has added to the reputation established by him in Howard county, as a skilled agriculturist and a public-spirited citizen.

Peter Geersen was born at Kelso, Howard county, Nebraska, October 18, 1873, a son of Frank and Gertrude (Jensen) Geersen, the

former born in Denmark and the latter in Norway. Frank Geersen came to the United States about the year 1866 and took up a homestead at Kelso, Howard county, but subsequently moved to Dannebrog, in the same county, where he continued to be engaged in farming until his death, June 13, 1910. He was a Democrat in politics and he and Mrs. Geersen were faithful members of the Lutheran church. Of their six children, five are living: Peter; Anna, the wife of John A. Johnson, a farmer of Dannebrog; Mary, the wife of Isaac Ohlund, a railroad man of Laramie, Wyoming; George, who is single and lives with his brother Peter near Sargent; and Julia, the wife of Axel Hansen, a painter of Dannebrog.

Peter Geersen was educated at Dannebrog, in the public schools, and when he reached manhood followed in the footsteps of his father and devoted himself to agricultural pursuits. He remained as a resident of his native county until 1914, in which year he came to Custer county and bought, near Sargent, the property known as the George Brown farm, a tract in section 8, township 17. Here he has carried on general farming, making a specialty of breeding pure-bred Percheron horses, for which this farm has gained somewhat more than a local reputation. His operations have been extensive, his methods modern, and his manner of transacting business such as to stamp him indelibly as a man of practicality as well as integrity.

Mr. Geersen was married at St. Paul, Nebraska, March 6, 1901, to Miss Lillie M. Hood, a daughter of James A. and Emily (Shafer) Hood, pioneers of Nebraska, and they are the parents of six children, born as follows: Beulah, born July 3, 1902; Harold, born March 12, 1906; Lela, July 30, 1907; Marion, January 11, 1909; Albert, June 26, 1911; and Norma, August 24, 1913. Mr. Geersen is a Democrat. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and at present is noble grand in the latter order at Sargent.

FRED HAUCK has been a resident of Custer county for thirty years and during this time has developed a career that has been as honorable as it has been satisfying. He has identified himself with movements that have been progressive and constructive, and at all times has conducted himself and his activities in a manner that has gained him the good will and respect of his associates and acquaintances.

Mr. Hauck was born in Germany, Decem-



HEINRICH KROEGER AND FAMILY

ber 13, 1855, a son of Peter and Selma (Miller) Hauck, who passed their entire lives in Germany. The father was a member of the agricultural class, and was an industrious worker who was honored in his community as a home-loving man, and who was respected because of the success he made of his undertakings, he and his worthy wife having been devout members of the Lutheran church. They became the parents of twelve children, of whom four are living: Christ, who is engaged in farming in California; Selma, who is the wife of Fred Bresh, of that state; Fred, who is the subject of this sketch; and Volun-tine, who is the proprietor of a transfer business at St. Louis. Fred Hauck was educated in the public schools of Germany and was reared to habits of thrift, industry, and integrity. He was brought up as a farmer and followed that vocation in his native land until he reached the age of thirty-two years, at which time he immigrated to the United States and made his way to Custer county, Nebraska. He was originally the owner of a tree claim in Sherman county, which he sold, and later he homesteaded a tract in Custer county, which he also sold. He then bought his present farm, a valuable tract which he has brought to a high state of cultivation, and on which he has numerous improvements that are of modern type and that add to its value and attractiveness. Mr. Hauck was by no means a rich man when he came to Custer county; in fact, he had little capital except that represented by his ability and other personal attributes, but his work has been so well done and his affairs so capably managed that he is now accounted a well-to-do man, and is placed among the substantial agriculturists who have made their own way. His present holdings approximate 780 acres of good land, on which he does general farming in an intelligent, intensive, and modern way, in addition to which he has been successful in his activities as a raiser of cattle and hogs, of which he ships many to the markets each year.

May 5, 1888, Mr. Hauck married Miss Anna Beck, of Sherman county, she being a daughter of Hans Beck, an early settler of that county. To this union there have come ten children: Charles, who is engaged in farming in Custer county; Henry, who is his father's assistant on the home farm; Rosatte, who is the wife of Vern Fleming, a farmer of Custer county; Kate, who is the wife of Toney Devish, of this county; William, who is on the home place; Minnie, who is the wife of Arthur Salone, a farmer of Grant, Nebraska; Selma, who is the wife of Charles Foster, a

farmer and stock-raiser of Custer county; and Dora, Gertie, and Floyd, who remain at the parental home. The family belongs to the Lutheran church, and Mr. Hauck is a Democrat in his political allegiance.

DALE P. STOUGH will be remembered by citizens of Custer county as a member of the bar of this county from 1911 until 1915. He came to Broken Bow in 1911 and associated himself with Judge James R. Dean, who is now serving as supreme judge of Nebraska. Mr. Stough was reared at Creston, Iowa, and for five years had been a member of a Sunday-school class under the tutelage of Rev. W. L. Gaston, editor of this Custer county history. Mr. Stough attended the University of Nebraska in 1908-9 and in 1911 he was graduated in Creighton College of Law.

During his residence in Custer county, Mr. Stough took an active part in numerous lines of activity pertinent to the county's affairs. He served as secretary of the Broken Bow Merchants' Federation for more than three years, resigning when he went to Lincoln, in 1915, as secretary to the chief justice of the supreme court. He was secretary of various political committees and clubs, including the Sixth District Democratic Congressional Committee, Wilson and Marshall Club, in 1912, and other political bodies. For three years he was clerk of St. John's Episcopal parish and superintendent of the Sunday school. He served two years as secretary of the Custer county Sunday School Association. Since leaving Broken Bow, Mr. Stough has been author of numerous articles and is now engaged in editorial work on a history of Hall county, similar to this history of Custer county.

Mr. Stough was united in marriage in June, 1913, to Miss Cassie Mary Beeler, of Davenport, Iowa, and their first home was in Broken Bow. Their only child, Ida Mildred Stough, was born in Broken Bow, in 1914. Mr. and Mrs. Stough are now residing at Grand Island, Nebraska, where Mr. Stough holds the position of official court reporter of the Eleventh judicial district.

HEINRICH KROEGER. — No better illustration of the value of industry, perseverance, and the intelligent management of one's resources and interests could be found than the career of Heinrich Kroeger, now one of the representative farmers of the Mason City locality of Custer county. Coming to this coun-

try with absolutely no capital except that represented by his native ability, he has made the most of his opportunities and has so well directed his activities that he is to-day in a position of independence, the while he is respected and esteemed as a well-to-do and substantial citizen.

Mr. Kroeger was born in Holstein, Germany, February 13, 1856, and is a son of August and Margaretta (Folkmier) Kroeger. Mr. Kroeger's father was a native of Germany, where he spent his entire life with the exception of seven years, when he was in the Danish army as a musician, playing a single-valve horn. By trade a weaver of cloth, during the harvest seasons he acted as a hand in the field, and he thus rounded out a useful and fairly successful career. He and his wife, who also died in Germany, were members of the Lutheran church. They had five children, of whom four are living: Heinrich, of this sketch; Maggie, the wife of Theodore Liehs, who is individually mentioned on other pages of this volume; Mary, the wife of William Trent, of Buffalo county, Nebraska; and Fred, a resident of Colorado.

Heinrich Kroeger received his youthful education in the public schools of Holstein, Germany, and was twenty-six years of age when he immigrated to the United States. His first settlement was at Comanche, Iowa, where he secured employment at plowing, at a wage of twenty-five cents a day. At that time he could not speak English, and his efforts to get ahead were greatly hampered by this fact, but he rapidly learned to speak the language of his adopted land and was thus able to get better employment. Eventually he obtained a position in a saw mill, where he worked about two years, and during his stay in Iowa succeeded in saving \$400, which he brought with him to Custer county in 1884. In that year he homesteaded 160 acres of land, and subsequently he bought a timber claim, for \$600, and planted many trees. From a start of absolutely nothing, Mr. Kroeger has built up his fortunes until to-day he is the owner of 1,280 acres of valuable Custer county land, all secured through legitimate business channels and through the medium of his own ability and hard work. When he came to Custer county Mr. Kroeger made his home in a little sod house, which boasted of the barest necessities of life. To-day he owns four sets of modern buildings, equipped with the latest appliances and conveniences. Mr. Kroeger is a general farmer and a skilled one, and he also raises white-faced Hereford cattle, of which he has a herd of eighteen head, with a thor-

oughbred bull at the head, and in addition to this he breeds a good grade of hogs, having twenty-four at this time. In politics Mr. Kroeger is independent, and his religious belief is that of the Lutheran church.

In 1878 Mr. Kroeger married Miss Doris Hepner, who was born in Germany, and to this union there have been born three sons, all of whom are engaged in agricultural operations on their father's land, and all of whom are married and the heads of families. William, the eldest, has two children — Bertha and Bessie; Frank has three children — Edwin, Edith, and Elaine; and John has three children — Irene, Raymond, and Glenn.

THOMAS TEAHON.—The story in these paragraphs contains a splendid tribute to Irish thrift and energy. The sons of Ireland have always made good in America. The opportunities of the west have always come to their hand to meet universal improvement.

The name in the headline belongs to Thomas Teahon, a prominent resident in the section southwest of Anselmo. He was born in Ireland, in 1860. He is the son of Patrick and Elizabeth (Donahue) Teahon. The parents were very estimable people of Irish lineage, who came to America in 1885, attracted by the free land to be obtained through the homestead or pre-emption laws. They were the parents of eleven children, and on the family roster are inscribed the following names: John, a Custer county farmer; Thomas, the subject of this sketch; Mary, deceased; Patrick, who was killed in a railroad accident in Deadwood, S. D.; Jerry, a Custer county farmer; Joseph, deceased; Johannah Skinner, a resident of Thermopolis, Wyoming; Nelly lives in Alliance, Nebraska; Mike lives in New York, where he is connected with the Metropolitan Insurance Company; Ted, a Custer county farmer; and Elizabeth, who is deceased.

The family are staunch Roman Catholics and the men for the most part are independent voters, paying little attention to party affiliation.

Two marriages enter into the life of Mr. Teahon; His first wife was Bridget McGowan, who became the mother of five children; Vernie was killed by lightning; Louis was killed by a horse falling upon him; Clara Beal lives in Colorado; the fourth child died in infancy, and the fifth child, Agnes, lives in York.

The second wife is a native of Ireland and at the present time is fifty-two years of age. To the second union has been born another

family of five children: Herbert, eighteen; Thomas, fifteen; Charles, eleven; Julian, seven; the third born died in infancy. The four living children are all in the home domicile and in connection with home duties and farm work are attending school, and give promise of developing into characteristic Irish-American citizens of whom the parents may well feel proud.

Mr. Teahon homesteaded 150 acres and also pre-empted another quarter section. These became the nucleus of his present day holdings. At the present time he is the owner of 900 acres, adapted to agriculture and stock-raising. In addition to the land he owns he has a section of land leased and all this combines to make this a splendid stock ranch. He has fair improvements, adequate for the stock operations he carries on.

The ranch carries an average of 130 head the year round, and in addition to cattle Mr. Teahon has given some attention to sheep and now has a small flock of 120 head which he finds very profitable.

When on the Teahon ranch it is hard to realize that when Mr. Teahon landed in Custer county the sum total of his capital was five dollars, and all he possesses to-day is the accretion of that capital combined with tireless energy and indomitable pluck.

In the local community Mr. Teahon has always been a progressive spirit and during the war time did his share in contributions and work, to secure for his local district the amounts required of it by the quotas levied. He has served on the school board for the last six years.

He lived through the pioneer times, has had his experiences in sod houses, blizzards, and prairie fires, and notwithstanding, unusual fatalities seem to have attended the family to which he belongs. He is to-day hale and hearty and bids fair to survive another quarter of a century, in which to enjoy the fruits of his toil.

JOSEPH A. HAUMONT, who is a prosperous farmer and stock-raiser of Custer county, Nebraska, is well and favorably known all over the county, which has been his home all his life. Mr. Haumont is an example of what may be accomplished by the application of intelligent energy in one direction, his success in his agricultural activities depending not only on his natural leanings but also upon his special training along scientific lines.

Joseph A. Haumont was born May 21, 1893, in Custer county, Nebraska. His par-

ents are Louis and Phoebe J. (Thompson) Haumont. Louis Haumont was born near the beautiful old city of Brussels, Belgium, and left there when a young man and came to the United States. During the time he lived in the state of Illinois and worked on farms, he was married to Phoebe J. Thompson, who was born in that state, a daughter of William Thompson. Afterward they came to Custer county, Nebraska. They had the following children: Joseph A., William, Jules, Stella and Loren L.

In the public schools of Custer county Joseph A. Haumont secured his early education, and he grew up on his father's farm. As he grew older and recognized the responsibilities that would be his in developing the land and raising the best of stock, he determined to thoroughly prepare himself by acquiring practical as well as scientific knowledge along these lines and became a student in the University School of Agriculture, at Lincoln, Nebraska. There he became acquainted with the scientific methods of advanced farming and live-stock raising and he is applying this knowledge in carrying on his industries on his farm, which is situated in section 27, township 21, Custer county.

Joseph A. Haumont was married December 22, 1915, at Broken Bow, Nebraska, to Miss Emma Gutzman, a daughter of Daniel and Diana (Kepless) Gutzman. The father of Mrs. Haumont is deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Haumont have one son, Owen G., who was born May 20, 1918. As a well educated young man, Mr. Haumont takes a deep interest in public matters, especially in regard to Custer county and, like his father, is a Republican in politics.

EUGENE ARMSTRONG, of Sargent, is one of the men who, starting their lives as agriculturists, have turned their attention to commercial affairs and through their ability and industry have placed themselves in positions of independence. Mr. Armstrong's line at the present time is the windmill and pump business, which he has followed for eighteen years, and in which he is one of the best known men in Custer and the surrounding counties, having developed his specialty to large proportions. He is a native of Carroll county, Indiana, and was born October 14, 1864, a son of W. H. and Lucinda (Crabhill) Armstrong.

W. H. Armstrong, a native of Kentucky, was taken by his parents as a child to Indiana, where he met and married Lucinda Crabhill, a native of Pennsylvania. He had received a

good education in his youth and his first vocation upon entering actively upon a career of his own was that of an educator, but he gave up the labors of the school room in favor of the implements of the agriculturist. In 1866 he removed to Iowa, where for two years he tilled the soil, and about 1869 he took his family to York county, Nebraska, where he homesteaded a tract, pre-empted another, and took up a timber claim, and there rounded out his life in farming and stock-raising, having quite a large business in the latter direction. He was a progressive man in many ways and extended his energies to numerous fields of activity. He was the builder of the first store at Waco, Nebraska, which he himself occupied as a dealer in general merchandise, and did a large business with the farmers in buying live stock and grain. He and his wife were the parents of eleven children.

Eugene Armstrong, more familiarly known to his associates and business friends as "Gene," was two years of age when he was taken to Iowa, and about five years old when the family located in York county, Nebraska. There he received his education in the district schools and received a good training along both agricultural and business lines, which experience has since been of the greatest value to him. When ready to enter upon a career of his own, he chose farming, which he followed in connection with other business until 1900, when he gave up all other interests to devote himself exclusively to the windmill and pump business, to which he has since given his best energies and talents. With headquarters at Sargent, he commands a large and constantly growing trade throughout this section of the country-side, and his straightforward manner of doing business and his fidelity to engagements and contracts have gained him many friends and a warm and sincere regard in business circles. Mr. Armstrong is not active in public life, but is a sound and substantial man whose citizenship is of a public-spirited and practical quality.

On December 24, 1893, Mr. Armstrong was united in marriage with Miss Ella M. Wood, of Coburg, daughter of the late Lemuel Wood and of Mrs. Minerva A. Wood, a resident of Sargent. Three children have been born to this union: LeRoy, single, a graduate of Sargent high school and of Creighton University of Omaha, now first sergeant in the United States Medical Corps, Base Hospital No. 101, American P. O. 701, American Expeditionary Forces, France, born November 24, 1894; Lona, born March 1, 1905, who is attending school; and Gaylord E., born May 6, 1908, who is also a public school student.

JAMES R. LANG. — Many causes contribute to the almost invariable interest surrounding the first actual settler in any community. As the years add distance and romance to his arrival, the honor becomes a coveted one, especially if the settlement has utilized its most enlightening opportunities and has become the abode of peaceful and prosperous humanity. So it is that more than passing mention is due to James R. Lang, who was the first to file on a homestead in Custer county, the date being June 8, 1874, although he had settled thereon several weeks previously. To-day Mr. Lang, living in comfortable retirement at Litchfield, is the personification of a life well lived, of energies well directed, of a mind tuned to the harmony of his surroundings, and of a heart which has lost nothing of its warmth and sympathy in its journey from the rude dugout of pioneer times to the affluence of the twentieth century. This vigorous personality, outlined against the background of events in Custer county since 1874, commands the confidence and respect of his fellow citizens. He has built up character as well as fortune, and has supported the substantial and fundamental processes of civilization.

James R. Lang was born in Harrison county, Indiana, February 27, 1852, a son of Isaac and Amy (Laymon) Lang, and a grandson of Francis Lang and Emanuel Laymon. His father was born in Indiana, and was married in that state, his wife having been born in Virginia but having been brought to the Hoosier state as a child. Isaac Lang was an industrious and enterprising farmer and had made a position for himself in life prior to the outbreak of the Civil war. A staunch Republican, he was a strong Union man, and during the struggle between the north and the south he enlisted in the Home Guards, in connection with which he met his death during the famous Morgan Raid. Like Mrs. Lang, he belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church. There were eight children in their family, of whom but three survive: James R., of this notice; Howard, engaged in farming and stock-raising near Litchfield, Sherman county; and Mrs. Elmira Weaver, residing at Mason City.

The education of James R. Lang was secured in the public schools of Harrison county, Indiana, and as a youth he was called upon to start early to contribute his support to the family, the father having died. Shortly after he passed his majority, he decided that better opportunities for advancement awaited him in the west, and April 12, 1874, he left home, arriving at Grand Island, Nebraska, three days



JAMES R. LANG AND FAMILY



JOEL F. LANUM AND FAMILY

later. On the 20th of the following May he made settlement on a homestead in Custer county, filing on this June 8th of the same year. Mr. Lang tramped out his first crop of wheat in 1876, and in the following year purchased a small sorghum mill and began making sorghum. In 1878, in partnership with two neighbors, he bought the first threshing machine to be found in Custer county, this machine having two-horse power. In 1881, in line with his spirit of progress, Mr. Lang made a donation of ten acres of land for the location of a gristmill, and in the same year he became the owner of his first mower. Also in that year he opened a small general store on his old homestead, and this was largely patronized by the early settlers of the locality.

In 1888 Mr. Lang had the distinction of sowing the first alfalfa in Custer county, the seed coming from California, and this was plowed up in the spring of 1918, having stood for thirty years. During the early days, when money was scarce, Mr. Lang engaged in various employments in order to make a living, and for several years he hauled wood, which he sold at Kearney. The first barn which was built on his farm was used not only for agricultural purposes, but also for the holding of religious services and for the dances of the early settlers. He also assisted in the settlement of the county by locating claims for various newcomers, from 1879 to 1882, during which time there was a large influx of pioneers. Gradually, as the years passed, he prospered in his affairs, to such an extent that he became possessed of 960 acres of land, and in 1910 he retired from active pursuits and moved to Litchfield. Here he became one of the organizers of the Farmers Lumber Company, of which he is at present one of the interested members. Mr. Lang voted the Republican ticket for the first time in Custer county, at Georgetown, and he still continues to support the party cause as a general rule, although inclined to be independent. He is well known fraternally, having passed the chairs of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, belonging to the Modern Woodmen of America, and being a thirty-second-degree Mason. He is very popular with his fellow members in these orders.

In 1873, while still a resident of Indiana, Mr. Lang was united in marriage with Miss Rovilla Jane Foster, who was born in Indiana, a daughter of Samuel Foster, who died in that state. To Mr. and Mrs. Lang there have been born nine children: George W., who is the proprietor of an automobile garage at Litchfield; Cortez, who is engaged in farming

in Sherman county; Albert, who is a member of the police force of Richmond, California; Robert, who is a brakeman of Alliance, Nebraska; Eunice, who died in infancy; Harvey, who is a clerk in the Bank of Litchfield; Blanche, who is the wife of Charles Mills, of Custer county; James R., who resides on the old homestead in Custer county; and Frank, who also is on this Custer county farm.

CHARLES HICKEY.—This paragraph introduces a young farmer and stock-raiser who belongs to a prominent family, several members of whom have special mention on other pages of this volume. His residence and farm operations are staged in Eureka Valley, noted as a semi-agricultural and stock-raising region. Charles was born in Saline county, this state, in 1881, but most of his life has been spent in Custer county, he having come to the county when ten years of age. Here he received a common school education and was initiated into the ways of western pioneer life. As to the family history of his father, see sketch of Jerry Hickey. Charles formed his life partnership with Agnes Foran, whose brother, James Foran, is written extendedly in this history and which sketch contains mention of the father and family.

Into the home established by Mr. and Mrs. Hickey have been born five children: Clarence, the second child, is deceased; Alice, Viola is deceased; and LeRoy. All the children are at home and are energetic, promising Custer county youngsters in whom the parents can feel a justifiable pride. This aggressive young farmer owns three hundred and sixty acres, of which two hundred and sixty is under cultivation. Here he follows diversified farming and has embarked in stock-raising on a scale that will insure profitable accumulation as the years go by. The place carries fifty head of cattle. These are of high grade, inclining to blooded types. He is also a breeder of good horses and keeps on the place a splendid Percheron stallion. In the local activities of the community, Mr. Hickey is road overseer, a promoter of all public enterprises, is an independent voter and the family are connected with the Catholic church. Eureka Valley is a good neighborhood and the family of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hickey have helped to establish its reputation.

JOEL F. LANUM.—For thirty-seven years Joel F. Lanum has been helping to make history in Custer county, and so well has he directed his energies that he is now spending

the evening of life in gracious retirement, free from all business and financial cares. He has led a simple, active, and methodical life, and his busy hands and mind have worked together in gaining him success along agricultural and commercial lines, while his admirable qualities of character have served to win to him respect and esteem in the communities in which he has made his home.

Mr. Lanum was born March 20, 1851, in Morrow county, Ohio, and is a son of Dennis and Phoebe (Brown) Lanum. His father, a native of Virginia, moved to Ohio when eighteen years of age and was there married, Mrs. Lanum being a native of the Buckeye state. In 1866, after spending some years in farming in Morrow county, Dennis Lanum removed with his family to Indiana, where he purchased a farm, in DeKalb county, that community continuing to be his home until his death. He was a Mason and a Democrat and was a man of industry and honorable conduct. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which his wife, who died in Ohio, also belonged. They had six children, of whom two are living: Joel F., and Mary, the latter being a resident of Edison, Ohio, and being the widow of Caul Bell.

Joel F. Lanum was given the advantages accruing from only a limited education in the district schools, as he was early called upon to do his share in supporting the family, and both in Ohio and Indiana he not only labored on the farm, but also, in the winter months, went into the lumber woods and plied his axe with the timbermen. After his marriage he moved to Macon county, Illinois, where he resided several years, without adding materially to his fortune, and in 1881 he came to Nebraska, where he took up a claim in Custer county. In the following year he brought his family to Nebraska, having made some preparations for receiving them, and when they were all settled he found that his financial resources were reduced to about \$100. However, he possessed strength of mind and body, self-reliance and determination, and with these he set about to work his way to success. How well he succeeded in his aims and ambitions can be seen in the fact that he not only transformed his homestead and tree claims into fertile and valuable farms, but also increased his acreage until he is now the owner of a half-section. In 1898 Mr. Lanum transferred the hard work of the farm to younger shoulders and moved to Ansley, where he purchased lots and erected a feed and livery stable. His good business ability enabled him to also make a success of this venture, and he continued as

proprietor of the business until his retirement from all activities, in March, 1918.

In 1871 Mr. Lanum married Miss Esther Ann Davis, who was born in Pennsylvania, and of this union were born nine children: Mary Belle, who is the wife of Albert Arnold, a retired farmer of Ansley; Rufus, who is engaged in farming in Minnesota; Dennis, who is a member of the police force of San Francisco, California; Frank and John, who are associated in the ownership of the livery barn at Ansley; Perry, who is engaged in the meat-market business at Ansley; Kem, who is a railroad man at Ravenna, Nebraska; Lula, who is the wife of William Gooch, engaged in the automobile business at Grand Island; and Judson, who carries on operations on his father's Custer county farm. Mr. and Mrs. Lanum and their children are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is a Democrat in politics and while not an office-seeker is a man who willingly and generously supports all worthy and beneficial movements and discharges the duties of citizenship in an honorable manner.

EDWARD F. SKOLIL, who is a prominent citizen of Custer county, is mayor of Comstock, and also cashier of the Citizens Bank of that thriving town. Notwithstanding his connection with affairs of so much importance, Mayor Skolil is yet a young man. He was born July 1, 1891, in Valley county, Nebraska, one of a family of seven children born to Joseph and Magdalena (Bedlivy) Skolil, both of whom were born in Bohemia, Austria-Hungary. The parents came to the United States in 1873, the father stopping first in Michigan, and the mother coming directly to Saline county, Nebraska.

In spite of the many hard, practical facts connected with the life of Joseph Skolil, father of Mayor Skolil, it reads almost like a romance. Coming to America a poor laborer from the Austrian mines, with no knowledge of the English language and no influential friends, within a period of less than forty years, through industry and good judgment, he built up a substantial fortune; through personal integrity won confidence and esteem; and, dying, left an honorable name and record behind him. After his marriage he secured a homestead near Comstock, but across the line in Valley county, Nebraska, and set about developing his own property, besides working for others at farm labor, although prior to this he had had no agricultural experience. He was determined to succeed, and the time



MR. AND MRS. EDWARD F. SKOLIL AND THEIR ELDER SON

came when he was able to give each of his sons a farm. Besides this, he still owned 480 acres of additional land at the time of his death, March 11, 1911. As indicated above, he started with nothing, and he left an estate worth \$40,000. His children were as follows: Frank, who is a farmer and dealer in agricultural implements at Comstock, married Antonia Tyrdik; Emil, who is a farmer near Arcadia, Nebraska, married Ida Radil; James, who is operating his farm of 340 acres, north of Comstock, married Emma Kokes; Joseph lives on the homestead with his mother; Anna is the wife of John Vodehnal, who is a farmer north of Comstock; Mary is the wife of John Novotny, who operates a farm of 160 acres, north of Comstock; and Edward F. is the immediate subject of this review.

Edward F. Skolil had no educational advantages beyond those afforded by the public schools, but that he appreciated and profited by these may be inferred from the fact that he was graduated from the high school before he was eighteen years old. The Citizens State Bank of Comstock is now one of the substantial financial institutions of Custer county. It began business with a capital of \$5,000, which has been increased to \$30,000, with resources now over \$50,000, and Mr. Skolil has been cashier since he was nineteen years old—a fair testimonial to his business acumen.

Edward F. Skolil was married at Comstock, Nebraska, December 2, 1913, to Miss Beulah Dunbar, who belongs to one of the pioneer families of Otoe county, Nebraska, her father, W. E. Dunbar, being one of the very early and prominent men of that section, and in his honor the name Dunbar having been given to the present town of that name. Mayor and Mrs. Skolil have two sons—Edward F., who was born July 1, 1916, and Eldon Dunbar, who was born April 7, 1919.

In addition to his business activities, Mr. Skolil from earliest manhood has taken a deep and earnest interest in civic matters and has worked for the advancement of Comstock with commendable energy. In politics he is a Republican. He has been chairman of the town board for the past year and is at the head of municipal affairs, being elected to the mayoralty in 1918. Fraternal life has also engaged the attention of this active, vigorous, wide-awake young man, and he is a member of a number of the leading organizations, including the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, Z. C. B. J., and the Modern Woodmen of America. In the last named order he passed through all the offices, and served four years as clerk.

WATT W. PERRIN.—Custer county is well represented in the agricultural industry by energetic men of the younger generation, upon whom the county is depending for its development and progress as a producing center in the future. Among these is found Watt W. Perrin, who has passed his entire life in the vicinity of Sargent, a worthy representative of a pioneer agricultural family of central Nebraska. Mr. Perrin was born on the farm which he now occupies, in section 16, township 17, a son of Similien L. and Sophia (Tobias) Perrin.

The father of Mr. Perrin was born at New Orleans, Louisiana, and was a young man when he came to Custer county and took up a homestead. He continued to be engaged in farming and raising stock until 1899, in which year he moved to Sargent to become proprietor of the Beatrice Cream Station, which he conducted for nine years. He was then appointed postmaster and discharged the duties of that office capably for seven years, since which time he has lived in honorable retirement at Sargent. He married Sophia Tobias, a daughter of Isaac C. Tobias, and they became the parents of three sons: Harold I., a jeweler of Sargent, who married Allona Wood and has two children; Louis E., manager of the Arnold Lumber Yard of the Dierks Lumber Company, who married Lorene Russmell, and has one child; and Watt W.

Watt W. Perrin received his early education in the public schools of Sargent, following which he spent two years in the State University at Lincoln. When he adopted a vocation it was that of farming, and while still classed among the younger agriculturists of his locality he has already demonstrated the possession of qualities that should lead to his success, and his property bears every indication of being handled by one thoroughly familiar with his business, and progressive by habit and nature. Mr. Perrin maintains an independent stand in regard to political matters, and his only fraternal connection is with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He was married November 4, 1917, at the home of the bride, to Miss Gladys Ruse, a daughter of Charles W. and Mary (Cooper) Ruse, pioneers of Custer county. Mr. and Mrs. Perrin are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, which they attend at Sargent.

W. R. SYNDER.—Prominent among the native sons of Nebraska who have won success in the field of agricultural effort, one who has won his own way to position and stands



MR. AND MRS. W. R. SYNDER

high in the regard of his fellow citizens is W. R. Synder. While not a native of Custer county, during the twelve or more years that he has made his home within its borders he has become so thoroughly inoculated with the spirit of energy and progressiveness that characterizes this thriving and fertile community that he has adopted its customs without exception, and is uniformly accepted by the older residents as a sterling citizen whose presence is beneficial to the community.

Mr. Synder was born on a farm in Seward county, Nebraska, January 6, 1877, and is a son of Carl and Louise (Templen) Synder. Through years of industry and honorable dealing his father, who was a successful agriculturist in that county, had won the esteem of his neighbors and associates. In his youth W. R. Synder was given good educational advantages in the public schools, while his leisure time was passed in assimilating the principles of modern agriculture. He remained in the county of Seward until 1884, when he moved to Nance county. There he remained until 1906, when he came to Custer county, having received assurance of the fertility of the land and of other advantages and opportunities here. He has had no chance to regret his move, for his ventures in this locality have been uniformly satisfactory and successful. At the present time Mr. Synder is the owner of a farm of 160 acres, which is in a high state of cultivation, and on which he has modern improvements and handsome and substantial buildings, this attractive farmstead being located in section 26, township 71. Here he carries on farming in an up-to-date way, and makes a specialty of growing corn and raising hogs, in both of which fields of endeavor he has been markedly successful. Mr. Synder takes a good citizen's interest in matters pertaining to the welfare of his community, but has not been attracted by politics or public life. He and his wife hold membership in the Evangelical church.

Mr. Synder first married Miss Martha Roder, who is now deceased. Prior to her marriage, the present Mrs. Synder was Miss Esther Wischmeier.

EMIL C. OHME. — This name belongs on the roster of pioneers. It belongs to a man who is a native of Nebraska and practically all of his life has been spent in Custer county. There are few if any who have lived here longer than he. He was less than one year of age when his parents brought him here and has been a constant resident of the county

for forty-four years. He was born in Omaha, August 26, 1873, and is a son of Frank and Caroline (Smith) Ohme, of whom extended mention is made elsewhere in this volume.

It was here in the early days of the county that Emil spent his boyhood and here he grew to manhood. It was in the first school of the county that he acquired his early education, and here he began life for himself. February 21, 1896, he married Luella Thomas, a daughter of Isaac and Rachel (Connor) Thomas, both of whom were early settlers in Valley county. Her father is deceased and her mother is still living, making her home with Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Ohme.

Mr. and Mrs. Emil Ohme have eight children: Frank is serving in the United States navy and is captain of a gun crew on the cruiser "Seattle"; Sylvia married Frank Spear and lives west of Comstock; Ernest, Bernice, Caroline, Harold, Rachel, and Emil, Jr., are still at home.

Emil Ohme is the owner of 560 acres, with good improvements, \$5,000 having been spent the last year in improvements. The stock on the place are of a good grade and show that good care is given them. The family are interested in community development and improvement. They have a host of friends who agree that they are entitled to the prosperity that has come to them.

CLARK J. STEVENS. — From the time of his arrival in Custer county, Clark J. Stevens has been continuously identified with prominent interests at Ansley — connected with the rising mercantile, industrial, financial, and civic interests of the community — and there is probably no other man who has contributed in greater degree or in more diversified ways to the development of this section. Merchant, banker, miller, farmer, and promoter of public-spirited undertakings, he has at all times wielded a beneficial influence, and his work has been constructive and helpful.

Mr. Stevens was born May 10, 1861, at Salem, New York, and is a son of Clark A. and Julia A. (Rice) Stevens. His paternal grandfather was Franklin Stevens, who spent his life in his native state of New York, and his maternal grandfather, Roswell Rice, also a life-long resident of the Empire state, was a wealthy business man, and virtual founder of the Jerome B. Rice Seed Company. Clark A. Stevens was born in Washington county, New York, but passed the greater part of his career at North Adams, Massachusetts, where he was a successful shoe merchant, his death



CLARK J. STEVENS

occurring at Salem, New York. He was a Republican, and his religious faith was that of the Methodist Episcopal church, as is that of his widow, who now resides at Kingston, New York. They had two children: Clark J., of this review, and Harriett O., the wife of J. E. Browning, a capitalist of New York city.

Clark J. Stevens was educated at Salem, New York, where he was graduated in the high school and also a business college. He received his first banking experience with the First National Bank of Hoosick Falls, New York, an institution of which he was teller for seven years. In 1886 he came to Ansley and became the first banker of this community, continuing in the banking-business until 1902, when he sold his interests to Clarence Mackey. He had large holdings also in the Bank of Commerce, the Bank of Broken Bow, and the Bank of Mason City, and was and is still accounted one of the best informed banking men in this part of the state. When he left the banking business, in 1902, he engaged in mercantile pursuits, and in this direction has achieved a like success, his store now being the largest in the town, with an extended supporting patronage on the part of the representative people of this section. Mr. Stevens' splendid business abilities were also directed for fifteen years to the ownership and management of a mill, but after his milling property was destroyed by fire he retired from that field of endeavor. His progressive spirit led him to establish the first telephone company here, of which he has been president for a number of years; and he was likewise the builder of the first electric-light plant west of Grand Island, of which he was the operator and president of the company for fifteen years. In each of these directions his business transactions have been handled in a manner that has left his record without a blemish, and his associates and those who have known him in business dealings have found him a man of the strictest integrity. His faith in the future of his adopted community has been expressed by his investment in realty, and at present he is the owner of two well improved and highly cultivated Custer county farms.

Mr. Stevens was married (first) to Miss Carrie McNaughton, by whom he had four children, of whom two are living: Florence E., the wife of Dr. Richard Harvey, a practicing physician of San Francisco, California; and J. Eugene, employed as engineer of the State Harbor Commission, of San Francisco. In 1903 Mr. Stevens married Miss Anna Green, of Seward, Nebraska. Mr. Stevens has long been prominent in Masonry. He has filled

all the offices of the blue lodge, has received the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite, is a Knight Templar, and is also a noble of the Mystic Shrine. A Republican in politics, he has been interested in civic affairs, and has rendered his community helpful service as a member of the town board for a long period and as a member of the school board for fifteen years.

CHARLES D. LAMB, who is a prosperous business man of Mason City, to which place he came in 1918, is well known in Custer county, where he has followed agricultural pursuits for many years. Mr. Lamb was born in Fremont county, Iowa, in 1871, and first came to Nebraska in 1894.

The parents of Mr. Lamb were Silas O. and Martha (Meeks) Lamb, the former of whom was born in Indiana, 1837, and the latter in Indiana, in 1838. They had children as follows: Julian, who lives at Shenandoah, Page county, Iowa; M. L., who owns a moving-picture theater at Mason City; Mrs. Ellen Mayer, who lives at Riverton, Iowa; James Elwood, who is employed by an elevator company at Riverton; Mrs. Marilla Carroll, who lives at Mason City; Mrs. Mattie Roberts, who lives at Riverton, Iowa; Charles D., of this sketch, who is in the garage business at Mason City; Chester, who is a farmer in Custer county; and Ida, who is deceased. The mother of the above family died when fifty-four years of age, she having been a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as is also her husband, Silas O., who is one of the most venerable of the Methodist congregation in the community in which he yet lives. He moved from Indiana to Iowa and in 1867 bought what was known as the Riverton mill, which he operated for twenty years, in the meanwhile acquiring land in Fremont county. He is a Republican voter.

Charles D. Lamb attended the public schools in Fremont county, Iowa. In 1894 he first came to Nebraska but was called back to Iowa by the death of his mother, in 1895. He then came back to Nebraska and for three years worked as a railroad man. He spent four years in Cherry county, where he had success as a cattle and sheep man. In 1900 he bought 160 acres in Custer county, and here he lived until 1918, with the exception of two years in the lumber business in Oregon. In June, 1918, Mr. Lamb established himself in business at Mason City, erecting a fine garage there, its dimensions being 50 by 100 feet. It is a modern structure in every particular. Mr. Lamb carries a complete line

of automobile assessories, has expert mechanics in his employ, and does all kinds of car repairing.

Charles D. Lamb was united in marriage to Miss Cora M. Jenks, who was born in Virginia, in 1876, and they have the following children: Leonard, Leah, Carrie, Mabel, Edward, Lester, and Wilma, all attending school except Leonard, who is associated with his father in business. In his political views Mr. Lamb is a Socialist. Since coming to Mason City he was accorded evidence of popular confidence through election to the school board, but his business affairs engage his attention at the present time and he failed to qualify for office, although not failing in appreciation of the honor. He has not accepted many public offices but the county does not forget the excellent service he rendered it for nine years as road overseer.

ASMUS JESSEN chose Custer county for the operations of his lifetime. He was born at Kaffan, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, November 27, 1849. He lived the major portion of his life in this county and here ended his days. He departed this life, in Custer county, on the 23d of December, 1915, aged sixty-six years and twenty-seven days. He came to Custer county twenty-eight years ago and got his start in land possessions by homesteading, he having immigrated to America in 1879. He met the conditions of the time, worked hard and made a fair success. In all his undertakings he was ably assisted by his wife whose maiden name was Lena C. Michels, and who is a native of Iowa, she being a daughter of Christopher and Gertrude Michels. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Jessen occurred April 27, 1905. The name of Mrs. Jessen's first husband was Hickey, and she has seven children, as here noted: Anna McClure, who lives in this county; Christopher, who lives in Lincoln, where he conducts a real-estate business; Charles Hickey, who lives on a Custer farm; Jerry Hickey, who also is a Custer county farmer; Elizabeth Foran, who lives on a farm in this county; James, who also farms in this county; and Rosella Tobey, who lives on the home place. Mrs. Jessen continues to reside on the home place, has 600 acres in all, with good improvements and a fine grade of stock. Her father was a pioneer Nebraskan who homesteaded in Saline county. He was the first stone-mason in that section of the country, although the first house he himself occupied was made of hay. The second was made of logs. He was the first of any of the relations to come to Custer

county, at which time he possessed but a team and wagon. He was a man of intelligence and public spirit and served as justice of the peace both in Saline county and Custer county. He also was a school officer. He belonged to the Catholic church. There were eleven children in this family, three of whom are dead. Joe lives in Michigan; John and Henry and Katie Bass lived near Merna; August lives near Arnold; Elizabeth Monahan lives in Colorado; Charles lives in Colorado, and his son lives with Mrs. Jessen.

Mr. Jessen was a progressive citizen, was a member of the German Lutheran church, and was affiliated with the American Brotherhood. Since his death Mrs. Jessen has been conducting the general farming operations so long carried on under the direction of her late husband, and she has made a decided success. She has also continued his interest and service in local or community affairs. For the last seven years she has been a member of the school board, in which capacity she has rendered splendid service. She is a woman of force and ability and has brought her farm into the list of paying, profitable Custer county ranches.

Mr. Jessen is survived by one sister, who remains in Germany, and by two brothers, John and William, who are residents of the state of Pennsylvania.

ARTHUR C. SHAW, who proudly claims Custer county as his birthplace, is one of the substantial men of this section and is prospering in all his farm undertakings. He belongs to one of the early pioneer families of the county and the name of Shaw is well known not only in agricultural life but also in the cement industry, in which the father of Mr. Shaw has been financially interested since 1907, and which he has developed into a large business.

Arthur C. Shaw was born August 4, 1883, near Sargent, Nebraska. He is a son of D. M. and Mary (Courtney) Shaw, the second of a family of four children, namely: Earl L., who is employed as a bookkeeper in a business house at Roundup, Montana, married Ruth Pickle; Arthur C.; Jessie, who died at the age of nineteen years; and Ethel, who is the wife of Lee Cooledge, of Central City, Nebraska, a commercial traveler for the Mutual Oil Company.

When the parents of Mr. Shaw came to Custer county, in 1878, they homesteaded two miles east of Sargent, and this land is yet owned by Mr. Shaw and is occupied and operated by Arthur C. Shaw. Through the



HARVEY STOCKHAM AND FAMILY

hard times that followed, many of the earliest settlers became so thoroughly discouraged that they gave up their land and returned to eastern states, but Mr. Shaw and his family were never willing to do that and the time came when they were well rewarded for their courage and determination. In those early days it sometimes seemed as if the elements were in league to drive the ill-prepared settlers from this neighborhood, and there is tradition that no winter was ever quite so severe as was the winter of 1889. It has often been demonstrated that people grow somewhat indifferent when continually under the shadow of danger, hence in Custer county neighborhood social activities were not neglected and when Mrs. Shaw, mother of Arthur C., was invited to a party some little distance from home, she accepted, as did all the members of the Sager family near by, except Mrs. Sager herself. Mr. Shaw fortunately had not given himself the treat of a little social intercourse but remained at home to take care of the children and keep the fires going, as the weather was bitterly cold and soon a blizzardly snow storm was sweeping over the prairie. As it grew worse, Mr. Shaw remembered their neighbor, Mrs. Sager, who had been left entirely alone by the merry-makers. With that feeling of neighborly responsibility that even yet is sometimes apparent among these worthy people who have weathered hard times together, he struggled through the snow to her home, probably a sod house, and found her greatly in need of help, and he remained to attend to her fires and cook her some food. Then he started back home and probably would never have reached there except for being blown against a wire fence, which gave him something to hold to, and he finally reached home almost dead with the cold. The storm kept Mrs. Shaw at the home of her entertainers for three days. In 1911 Mr. Shaw retired from the farm and moved to Sargent. He has been interested in the cement business since 1907 and expanded its scope at Sargent and still carries on this enterprise.

Arthur C. Shaw obtained his education in the public schools of Sargent. He has always lived on his father's farm and has the entire management of the same, carrying on its industries very successfully. He raises fine crops that reflect credit on his farm knowledge and methods, and raises also some of the best standard stock in the county — Aberdeen-Angus cattle and Poland China hogs in particular. Mr. Shaw is unmarried. In politics he is a Democrat. He has always taken a great deal of interest in all movements

that have promised substantial development and feels justified in asserting that the present generation should never forget how helpful in bringing about present conditions were that sturdy band, their pioneer fathers and mothers, who sometimes stood, as in military parlance, "with their backs to the wall," and still overcame drouth, storm, insect pests, disease, poverty and hunger. Some of these have passed on, but others yet remain and have been privileged to enjoy a measure of recompense for their labors.

HARVEY STOCKHAM, who is one of Custer county's successful agriculturists and representative citizens, came here thirty-five years ago and still owns, with much other valuable property, his original homestead. Mr. Stockham was born in Scioto county, Ohio, April 18, 1863, and is a son of William and Elizabeth (Bennett) Stockham.

When Harvey Stockham was a boy, on every convenient location on various farms in many states, might at some time or another, be seen the lazily rising smoke from the charcoal pits, for then the burning of charcoal was a profitable industry, carried on, as it was, after primitive methods. His father's occupation in Scioto county was the burning of charcoal, but as a charcoal collier William Stockham did not find himself able to lay aside much for the future, as he had nine children to provide for, and thus came about his resolution to move to Nebraska, secure a homestead, and through agricultural industry, find a competency. In 1864, three years before Nebraska became a state, he visited the territory and bought a farm in Cass county, and in the fall of 1865, with his family and household goods, he started with team and wagon to make the long journey across the country. The travelers reached Clarke county, Iowa, when the father was stricken with typhoid fever, and he died at Osceola, that state. Three days later, the baby daughter, Mary, succumbed also and her ashes rest at Albia, Iowa. There was nothing for the desolated wife and mother to do but to continue on the way, and finally the new home in Cass county was reached. There the mother and children all lived until the latter were grown. In 1875 the mother married E. H. Russell.

Harvey Stockham recalls very distinctly many of the hardships of pioneer life, in both Cass and in Custer counties, to which latter county he came in 1883. Of his parents' family the following reached maturity: James, Samuel, William, Joseph, Harvey, and David.



JOHN YOHN



MRS. JOHN YOHN

Eliza, Hannah, and Mary all died in infancy. Mr. Stockham homesteaded the 160 acres on which he lives, and took a tree claim of 160 acres—a total of 320 acres. His homestead is situated on Red Fern Table, ten miles west of Oconto, and he has gradually added to his estate until he now has 480 acres of land—all of high value. He has devoted himself diligently to his farm industries for these many years and has met with entirely satisfactory results, his enterprise and good judgment, his courage and perseverance, all having been called upon largely within the many years Mr. Stockham has lived here.

Mr. Stockham was married January 4, 1893, near Lodi, Nebraska, to Miss Anna Thurman, who was born in Seward county, this state, and who died in Custer county, January 17, 1916. She was a daughter of Joseph and Rebecca (Schlonaker) Thurman. Mr. and Mrs. Stockham had one son and one daughter—Emery, who is a farmer in the county, conducts operations on both his own and his father's land, and Esther is the wife of Ray Walker, who is a farmer fifteen miles northwest of Oconto. Emery and Esther are twins. Emery was looking forward to donning a soldier's uniform and his friends, of whom there are many, know the uniform would have been creditably worn by him in the world war for universal freedom.

Mr. Stockham is a Democrat in politics, and he and his children belong to the Evangelical church. He is preparing to take things a little easier in the future, after practically retiring, and expects to purchase a winter home in the south.

FRANK OHME.—This is the name of a man who has been a resident of this county since the beginning of white man's occupation. He was among the very first of the early settlers and by reference to the historical part of this work you will find that he was the first man to file on land in Custer county, the land office being at Grand Island.

Mr. Ohme was born in Germany, February 13, 1844. His parents were Charles and Mary (Menike) Ohme, both of whom were natives of Germany and spent their entire lives in that country. Frank is the only survivor of the family and the only one to come to America. Mr. Ohme came to America in 1869 and spent one year in Wisconsin, and then came to Nebraska and spent four years in Douglas and Sarpy counties. He came to Custer county in 1874 and located in the northeastern portion of the county. Here he

built a sod house and with the same plow turned the sod of the second, if not the first, field in Custer county. In 1873 he was married to Miss Caroline Smith a native of Germany, whose parents died in the fatherland. In that pioneer home privations and hardships were endured and here their four children were born, all of whom have now grown to manhood and womanhood. Emil is a farmer in this county; Emma is the wife of Frank Thomas, of Mitchell, Nebraska; Otto is married and lives at Mitchell, Nebraska; Oscar is married and lives near Sargent.

The achievements that Mr. and Mrs. Ohme have accomplished during these years is indicated in the fact that the homestead of 160 acres and a tree claim of forty acres have grown to a farm of over 1,000 acres and it is one of the best stock farms in this part of the country. In speaking of hardships Mr. Ohme recalls the grasshopper years of 1874-5-6. These were followed by years of plenty and from 1880 to 1890 Mr. Ohme raised an average of sixty bushels of corn to the acre. They well remember the Indian scare of the early days and one one occasion Mrs. Ohme and the children were sent to Loup City. In those years the country abounded with wild game and though Mr. Ohme was no hunter they always had plenty of fresh meat. He exchanged potatoes, etc. for game. He is independent in politics, so far as the home ticket is concerned, but in state and national affairs votes the Republican ticket. The name is one of the first in the county and they have always taken a leading part in the affairs of their community.

ROBERT YOHN.—Still rated among the younger generation of agriculturists in Custer county, Robert Yohn is one of the progressive and energetic tillers of the soil upon whom much depends for the future prosperity of this section of Nebraska. He has spent his entire life within the county's borders and has an intimate knowledge of conditions prevailing here as pertaining to agricultural matters—a knowledge gained through experience and one which is assisting him materially in his individual advancement.

Mr. Yohn was born on his father's homestead in the vicinity of Mason City, Custer county, Nebraska, August 16, 1890, and is a son of John and Julia (Wiland) Yohn, natives of Austria. His parents immigrated to the United States in 1884, settling at once in Custer county, where the father homesteaded a tract of eighty acres, in 1885, and where he continued to be engaged in farm enterprises until



THE JAMES R. YOUNG FAMILY

his death. John Yohn was born in Austria, September 27, 1827, and died November 19, 1914, aged eighty-seven years, one month, and twenty-three days. He was fairly successful in the business affairs of life, was independent in his political stand, and in religion was a member of the Catholic church, to which his widow, who survives him and makes her home with her son Robert, also belongs. They were the parents of six children, as follows: Annie, who married Fred Trampy, a farmer of Buffalo county, Nebraska; Bertha, who married Mack Scully, a farmer of Wyoming; Tillie, who married Herman Jones, a farmer of Buffalo county, Nebraska; Robert, to whom this sketch is dedicated; Will, who enlisted in the United States service in August, 1918, and was stationed at Camp Dodge, Iowa, at the time this article was written; and Ernest, who is deceased.

The district schools of Custer county furnished Robert Yohn with his educational training, and when he completed his studies he adopted farming as his life work. One year before the death of his father he bought eighty acres of land, and this he cultivates at present, in addition to the old homestead, the management of which he assumed when his father passed away, but which is still owned by his mother. Mr. Yohn still makes his home in the old sod house which was built by his father in the early days, but he has good farm equipment and numerous improvements. He does general farming, and makes a specialty of raising red Duroc hogs, of which he has 126 at this writing. As a citizen and a business man, his record is beyond reproach.

CHARLES L. HORN.—Elsewhere in this volume is recorded the life history of U. S. Horn, a native of Nemaha county. We now record the life sketch of his brother, Charles L. Horn, who was born in Nemaha county, this state, May 10, 1864. For record concerning his parents reference may be made to the sketch of U. S. Horn.

The early years of Charles L. Horn were spent in Nemaha county, where he improved the opportunities of farm and outdoor life and laid the foundation for the successful career into which he has now developed as a farmer and stock-raiser. It was here that he received his education in the common schools and laid the foundations of manhood and business acumen, both of which are part of his valuable assets at the present time. When twenty-three years of age Mr. Horn thought it time to take unto himself a helpmeet and

settle down for a home-making career. Accordingly he married, December 22, 1887, a Nemaha county young lady, Maud Faulkner, who comes of splendid lineage, and who, like himself, is a native of Nemaha county, where she had like social and school advantages.

To the union of Charles L. Horn and Maud (Faulkner) Horn seven children were born: Stella is the wife of Troy Jewell, a young Custer county farmer; Charles, Jr., married Nellie Kellogg and is operating a farm for himself in the good old county of Custer; Ralph is another young Custer county farmer who is married and doing well, his wife's maiden name having been Minnie Kellogg; the fourth child, a daughter named Helen, is deceased; Alice is pursuing her studies in the Nebraska State Normal School at Kearney; and Louis and Hazel are at home.

The Horns were successful farmers and stockmen in the eastern part of the state before coming to Custer; accordingly, they came here in a position to secure good land and commence farming under the best possible conditions. Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Horn came to Custer county in 1904, and settled on the place which is now their home. Their holdings to-day comprise 1,050 acres of splendid land, well improved and in a high state of cultivation, and, with its equipments, theirs is one of the best farms in the entire county.

Mr. Horn delights in farming and in the matter of stock-raising he seems to be "to the manner born." He takes an active interest in both social and public affairs, has been generous in his contributions to different phases of war drives and, withal, manifested a patriotic and commendable attitude in the national crisis incidental to the great world war. He is prominent in the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

JAMES R. YOUNG.—Here is presented the name of a very substantial farmer who lives in the Gates community, who since the early pioneer days has been a resident on the land he now occupies, and who has been one of the constructive factors in the community. Mr. Young is a native of the Hoosier state. He was born September 8, 1837, and is now past the four-score line. He is a son of James and Minerva (Evans) Young, the former a native of Pennsylvania, and the latter of Kentucky. The father was a farmer of lifelong occupation. His last years were spent in Illinois. He was a member of the Democratic party and the family affiliated with the Universalist church. In the family of James

Young there were twelve children, only five of whom are now living.

James R. Young is the only one of the family living in Custer county. He stayed at home until he married. This was in March, 1868, in Harrison county, Indiana, where he wedded Miss Mary Miller, a daughter of Peter L. and Lydia (Dutrow) Miller. The Millers were pioneers of Indiana and were a very prominent family.

James R. Young received a liberal education in the Indiana schools, and by occupation he has been a farmer all his life. He came to Custer county in the fall of 1882 and made a fine selection of land in the region of the Middle Loup. Here he entered both a homestead and a tree claim, and he still lives on the tree claim, while the homestead lies just across the road. To-day his possessions are 800 acres, well improved and well stocked. Speaking reminiscently, he says that he had but very little when he made his start in this county and that all he has to-day was made by work and hard knocks. He likes the free and easy west, and believes that these are happy and prosperous times that the present generation is not prepared to fully appreciate. He was reared in the place where Morgan, the Confederate raider, crossed the Ohio river during the Civil war and he saw part of the fighting — could see the explosion of shells as they were hurled through the air by the great guns. He is very familiar with the happenings of the war days, having lived in the vicinity of some of the great battle fields.

Mr. Young and his good wife have always maintained a hospitable home, and they are the parents of five children: William E. married Nellie Howe and lives near Gates; Amos W. married Hattie Vose and lives in Wisconsin; Charles P. married Ruby Wallace and lives near Gates; George E. and James A. are twins: the former married Flora Ford and lives near Gates, and the latter married Lydia Hatcher and lives on the old homestead. Mr. and Mrs. Young also reared a girl by the name of Nettie Fessenden, who came into their home at the age of six years and remained with them until she was married to Fred Sims, who lives in Colorado.

Mr. Young is a Democrat in politics and has been a member and trustee of the Methodist church at Gates ever since it was organized. The name of Young is widely known throughout all the Middle Loup vicinity and is highly respected, and James R. Young and his wife have a host of friends who wish them every comfort and happiness during their declining years.

JACOB WORACEK. — One of the pioneer families of Custer county that is still represented here, bears the name of Woracek. Jacob Woracek the elder, came here with his two sons in 1883. They homesteaded, the elder son finishing the proving up, and the father continued on the homestead until his death, in 1918. The younger son, who bears his name, is Jacob Woracek, who is one of the county's substantial farmers and successful stockraisers.

Jacob Woracek was born August 10, 1872, at Green Bay, Wisconsin. His parents were Jacob and Anna (Scklesch) Woracek. They were born in Bohemia and when they came to the United States, in May, 1871, they sought a home in a section where other Bohemians had already settled, finding it in Brown county, Wisconsin. There the father bought forty acres of land and was making satisfactory progress when, the death of the mother, in 1875, caused a change in his plans. He disposed of his Wisconsin land and moved to Colfax county, Nebraska, and entered upon the life of a farmer there. He remained three years, when, discouraged on account of his consecutive loss of crops from chinch bugs, grasshoppers and rust, he came with his two sons to Custer county to begin over again, after some years of residence in Omaha, where his children had a chance to go to school. The Woraceks reached Custer county in 1883 and settled in section 2, township 18, range 17. There were four children in the family and all survive, namely: Albert, who is a resident of Jamestown, North Dakota, married Fannie Penas; Jacob; Joseph, who is a farmer, lives at Comstock, Nebraska, married Kate Woracek; and Anna, who is the wife of Frank Trvidek, a farmer living southwest of Comstock.

Jacob Woracek was eleven years old when he accompanied his father and brother to Custer county and he lived at home until he was twenty years old. He never had many school advantages but was naturally quick to learn and picked up a fair education by paying close attention to instruction given him by those with whom he worked. When twenty years old he returned to Omaha and learned the butchering business, but in 1901 he returned to Custer county, in order to engage in farming and stock-raising for himself. At first he rented land but soon made purchases, and he now owns 480 acres, all well improved. He has had hardships, like a large majority of his neighbors, but has found that hard work and careful management have been helpful in overcoming them and now has reached a position of financial independence. He makes a

specialty of raising White Face cattle and has a fine herd at all times. According to his experience the Jersey Red breed is the best kind of hog to raise in Nebraska, and he sells a fine lot every year. He also has a good stock of horses, mainly Percherons. All his operations are carried on with care and good judgment and the results are proving highly satisfactory.

Mr. Woracek was married at Ord, Nebraska, April 8, 1902, to Miss Mary Danskey, and they have the following children, all of whom live at home: Vaclav, Mary, Rosa, Edward, Adolph, Frank, Joseph, and Veronica. The children of the family have an unusual pet that has been on the farm for the past four years, it being a wild deer. It is a beautiful creature and not only Mr. Woracek's family takes an interest in it, but the entire neighborhood is proud of it and there is no danger of any one in this part of the county ever disturbing it.

HARVEY E. LEACH. — Nebraska, and Custer county especially, was settled in the early days by men and women who came from Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana and Ohio and who sought here the opportunities that did not exist in the older states.

Harvey E. Leach belongs to the contingent that came from Indiana. In that state he was born November 28, 1861. He is the son of Abraham and Mary (McKnight) Leach, excellent people of sturdy qualities, from whom their son inherited the traits of thrift and industry upon which his present day accumulations are based. The father was a native of Canada and the mother a native of Scotland. The father was a carpenter and millwright by trade but followed that occupation only in the earlier years of his life. He is still living and makes his home with his son Harvey E. and a daughter living in Beatrice, Nebraska. The mother died in 1905. The parents came to Custer county in 1885, locating on a homestead, in the vicinity of Clear creek, on which they lived until 1896. That has since been sold and the old gentleman has retired from active life. In the day of his activity he was a Democrat in politics, for many years was a member of the county central committee, and he served as justice of the peace and in other township offices for many years. This worthy couple were the parents of twelve children, seven of whom are living. A daughter, Margaret Wilson, living at Ansley, and Harvey E. are the only ones living in this county. The others are, Hanford, deceased; Harry, living at Blair, Nebraska; Bert, living

in Joliet, Illinois; Mary Alden, living at Beatrice, Nebraska; Hugh, living at Oakes, North Dakota; Wellington, living at Thedford, Nebraska; and Eliza Dawson, deceased. Three others died in infancy.

Harvey Leach received the education of the common schools, inclined to farming as an occupation and has consequently been a tiller of the soil all the years of his life. December 25, 1881, he married Sarah Gentry, a daughter of Andrew and Mary Gentry, early pioneers of the county, where they located in 1882, both being now deceased. Mrs. Leach became the mother of six children and her death occurred March 21, 1902. Mr. Leach contracted a second marriage, with Elizabeth Slater, daughter of James Slater, who is now a resident of Los Angeles, California. To this union five children have been born: Herbert, Leland, Ruland, Willard, and Louise.

The Leaches maintain a splendid home and operate a farm of 1,120 acres, 300 acres of which are in cultivation and the rest in alfalfa and grass land. Mr. Leach deals extensively in stock of all kinds and keeps about 200 head of horses and cattle on the place the year round. He is independent in politics, is entirely without political aspirations, and never held public office. Socially he is a prominent member of the Masonic order. The entire community count the Leaches as popular citizens and good neighbors.

RAYMOND GEISER. — The young farmer named above is thirty-five years of age and is engaged in active operations on a farm in the Arnold vicinity. He was born in 1883, in Creston, Iowa, and is a son of Jacob and Barbara (Miller) Geiser. The father is a native of Switzerland where he was born in 1849. The mother, however, is a native of New York, where she was born in 1851. They are still living and make their home in Sargent. The father, who worked at the carpenter trade for twelve years, came to America and landed in New York in 1869. From there he came west and located on an Iowa farm. He stayed on this farm twelve years, then followed again the star that leads westward, and came to Custer county. Near Sargent he bought 320 acres of land, on which a part of the town is situated. He sold this land, then bought 496 acres in the Arnold district, and practically put on all the improvements himself, all of which are good and belong to the first order. He had but little money when he landed in the United States. As a boy he worked in the mills in Switzerland. He and his good wife are the parents of eight child-

ren: Charles lives near Sargent; Charlotte Sullivan lives in Idaho; Georgia was next in order of birth; Ella Scriber lives in Burwell, Nebraska; Wilbur, and Raymond are Custer county farmers; Alma Amos lives in Dry valley; Jesse is a Custer county farmer. The father affiliates with the Democratic party and has been a member of the school board in Sargent for six years.

For thirty-four years of his life Raymond Geiser has lived in Custer county, which reveals the fact that he was only one year old when he came to the county. Accordingly it was here that he received his education and early training. Here he began his farming operations. His first work was in Sargent, near which place he lived when a boy. He was married on December 17, 1904, to Margaret Davis, of Blaine county, a daughter of George and Sarah Davis. Since their marriage they have maintained one of the commendable homes in the county and have become the parents of four children: Henry, is twelve years of age; Floyd, ten; George, eight, and Barbara, five. All of the children are at home, are attending school and are candidates for useful manhood and womanhood. The Geiser farm consists of 280 acres, of which 220 are in cultivation. Good improvements, a fair grade of live stock and general indications of thrift are to be seen on the premises. Mr. Geiser has served as road overseer for four years, is treasurer of the school board and has been prominent in all local matters concerning war drives.

SEDONIA GRIEBEL is a woman of indomitable spirit. She is of foreign extraction and has more than made good in America, the land of opportunity. She had a part in the pioneer days of Custer county development and with her husband gathered together enough of this world's goods to give to each of a large family of children a good education and a fair start in life. Besides her land holdings Mrs. Griebel has a beautiful home in Sargent, where she has opportunity to spend her remaining years in comparative ease and luxury.

Mrs. Griebel was born July 4, 1851, in Bavaria, Germany, and is a daughter of John and Rosalie (Neiterhemmer) Kieveline, both natives of Germany. The father came to the United States in 1853, when his daughter Sedonia was but two years of age. He worked in Sharpsburg, Pennsylvania, in the rolling mills and saved his money, with which he bought land at a low price, near the town. For this land he was afterward offered \$1,000 an

acre, but refused to sell. He died several years ago. In his family were six children, all of whom are living, but the subject of this sketch is the only one in Custer county. The mother of Mrs. Griebel died before the father came to the United States. Mrs. Griebel's advent into this country did not occur until she was twenty-one years old, when she joined her father in Pennsylvania.

In 1847 Miss Sedonia Kieveline became the wife of Benedict Griebel and they continued their residence in Pennsylvania until the spring of 1875, when they came west and settled near Columbus, Nebraska, where Mr. Griebel farmed until 1880, when they came to Custer county and homesteaded near Walworth. They took a tree claim and a pre-emption, established a home, endured the trials and privations, worked, economized, saved, invested their earnings, raised stock, proved up on their land, bought more, and at the time of Mr. Griebel's death, September 28, 1902, they owned 1,600 acres. Since then Mrs. Griebel has divided nearly 1,000 acres of the land among the children. She still owns 640 acres.

Mr. and Mrs. Griebel became the parents of eleven children, ten of whom are still living: Minnie, who became the wife of A. P. Smith, is now deceased; Frank married Jessie Young, and they reside near Walworth; Katherine is the wife of A. L. Luce and they live at Shelton, Colorado; Florendena lives at home; Magdeline, single, is living on a homestead in Wyoming; Rosena is the wife of Ira Williams and is living north of Walworth; Lawrence married Pearl Dewey and is living on the home place, near Walworth; Benedict is unmarried and lives at Walworth; Jerome is in the national army and at the time of this writing is located at Camp Funston; Leo is on the home place; and Sedonia is a popular school teacher at West Union.

Mrs. Griebel and her husband drove overland from Columbus to this county, and started with forty-two head of cattle and three hogs. Two of their cows were killed on the way, at Central City. The span of horses they drove through cost \$400 and was an extra fine team—at that time considered the best span of horses in the county. On their way Mr. and Mrs. Griebel were offered many trades for the horses. When they came to this county there were four homes in Sargent, one of these was owned by Mr. Spacht, one by Mr. Austin, one by Mr. Savidge, and one by Mr. Perrin. The home of the Austins was a dugout, and Mrs. Griebel thought that it would be impossible to live in such a house, but she found out that her own home was to be similar. They moved into



BENEDICT GRIEBEL

a hunter's dugout, which had a willow roof, and the first night in this habitation Mr. Griebel had to be away looking after the cattle. There came up a violent rain storm and Mrs. Griebel stayed up the entire night, fearing what might happen.

In 1912 Mrs. Griebel sold the stock, closed up the affairs of the farm, and moved into Sargent, where she owns one of the most beautiful homes in the city. She is a faithful and devout member of the Catholic church.

MRS. FRANCES C. DWORAK, who successfully conducts a large mercantile business at Comstock, is not only recognized as competent in business affairs, but also as an exemplar of a long unrecognized force that is quietly but surely moulding public opinion. Mrs. Dworak, who is highly educated, was for a number of years a valued teacher in the public schools of Nebraska, and in many ways she has been connected with cultural activities that have worked for the betterment of the communities in which she has lived.

Frances C. Rybin was born at Anamosa, Jones county, Iowa, and is a daughter of John and Josephine (Sokol) Rybin, the former of whom was born in Bohemia, Austria-Hungary, and the latter in Jackson county, Iowa. Mrs. Dworak is the elder of the two children, and Josephine is the wife of Walter Williams, who is engaged in the plumbing business at Ames, Iowa.

John Rybin came from Bohemia to the United States about forty-five years ago, settling first in Iowa and later moving to Valley county, Nebraska, where he and his wife still reside. Farming has been his vocation and he has prospered. In his political views he is a Republican.

Endowed with a quick understanding, even in childhood, Frances C. Rybin very early completed the common-school course in Jackson county, Iowa, and after being creditably graduated in the high school she embraced school-teaching as a profession. As a teacher she became well known and highly appreciated in Valley county, Nebraska. In 1894 John F. Dworak went into a furniture and undertaking business at Genoa, Nance county, Nebraska. Prior to that, on April 11, 1891, he was united in marriage to Miss Frances C. Rydin, at Ord, Nebraska, and one son was born to them, Lamore, who was born April 13, 1905.

In 1904 Mr. and Mrs. Dworak returned from Genoa to Ord, Nebraska, where he became associated with his brother in a mercantile business and where Mrs. Dworak re-

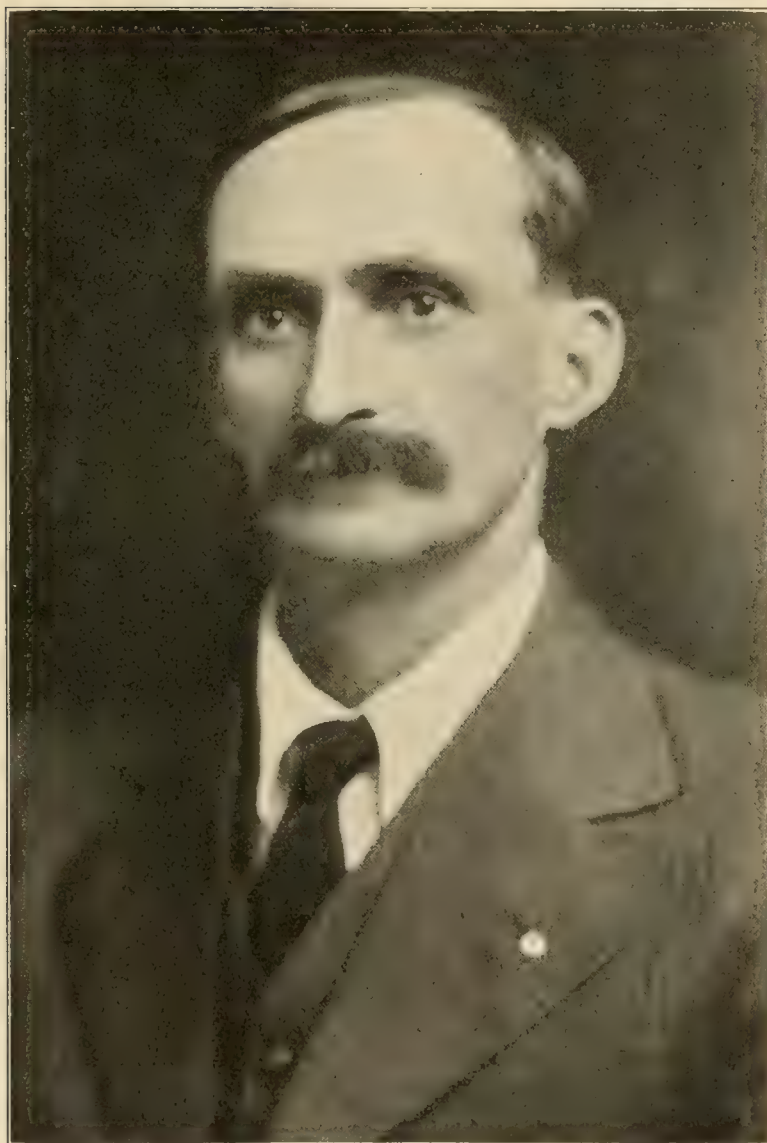
sumed teaching. In 1905 they engaged in the general merchandise business at Comstock, with a small stock of reliable goods, and established a representative business house. This proved a very successful enterprise, both Mr. and Mrs. Dworak devoting themselves to its furtherance until the death of Mr. Dworak, which occurred in June, 1909. Since that time Mrs. Dworak has assumed all responsibility, and, with good judgment and thorough understanding of business principles, she has made her business a very important factor in the commercial life of Comstock. She occupies a store forty-eight by sixty feet in dimension, well lighted with a Delco lighting system, and modern and up-to-date in its equipment.

In politics Mr. Dworak was a Democrat. He was a member of the Presbyterian church and Mrs. Dworak holds membership in the same religious body. Although Mrs. Dworak is very modest in speaking of her efforts in the business field, they are apparent enough to reflect great credit upon her.

CHARLES G. SANDERS is one of the wide-awake, progressive men of Custer county, where he is interested in several enterprises that help to make Anselmo one of the leading business centers of the county.

Mr. Sanders is a native of the south. He was born in Kosciusko, Atala county, Mississippi, March 6, 1869, and is a son of Zachariah and A. J. (Davis) Sanders, both natives of Mississippi, in which state they spent their entire lives, having passed away many years ago.

Our subject was thrown upon his own resources when quite young and was a boy of fourteen when he came to Nebraska and found employment on a farm near Nebraska City. He diligently applied himself to agricultural pursuits and in 1897 he came to Custer county. Here he engaged in the cattle business on the Middle Loup river, in partnership with J. H. Catron, a banker of Nebraska City, who had large land holdings in Custer county. Mr. Sanders made a success of the stock business and conducted a ranch for several years. For eight years he resided on a farm of 640 acres, which he still owns and which is eight miles south of Anselmo. There he carried on diversified farming operations, but recently he took up his abode in Anselmo. Other enterprises have profited by his good judgment. He is president of the Farmers' Mercantile Company, Inc., of Anselmo, is president of the Anselmo State Bank, and also manages the Custer county affairs of the Catron estate.



CHARLES G. SANDERS

At Nebraska City Mr. Sanders was united in marriage to Miss Lydia Harmon, who was born in Virginia, and who accompanied her parents, Joseph and Sarah Harmon, to Otoe county, Nebraska, in 1883. Mr. and Mrs. Sanders have a family of six children: Elsie is the wife of M. C. Waddington; and Erma, Nelson, Winona, Lucile, and Henry are still under the parental roof.

The family are members of the United Brethren church and in politics Mr. Sanders is a Democrat. Loud in his praises of the opportunities to be found in his adopted county, he has been an important factor in enterprises which have had to do with the unbuilding of his community, and he is held in the highest of esteem by all who know him.

WILLIAM M. GILMORE.—There are many still familiar names that are closely associated with the pioneer history of Nebraska, and one of these that is worthily represented in Custer county is that of Gilmore. William M. Gilmore, who owns a fine property in Ryno valley, came to Custer county in 1898, and here he has ever since been identified with land development and agricultural industry. He is a native of Nebraska, born in York county, August 4, 1867, and is one of a family of fourteen children born to Jacob R. and Sarah Gilmore.

William M. Gilmore grew up when pioneer conditions still prevailed in York county—when a large part of that section was practically unsettled. He recalls the many hardships of those days and also, with feelings of admiration, remembers the courage and resourcefulness with which they were met and overcome. His school opportunities were somewhat meager but were such that he was able to lay a sound foundation for the substantial superstructure of practical knowledge which he has since built up and through which he has effectively overcome the early handicap. He has been careful that his children should have the best educational advantages possible.

Mr. Gilmore remained at home with his parents until he was twenty-one years of age. In 1898 he came to Custer county and located at first on land situated four miles east of Oconto, south of the South Loup river. There he remained one year and he then moved to a farm two miles east of Oconto, where he continued operations two years. In 1906 he bought his present fine property in Ryno valley, where he has 240 acres, well developed and improved. In addition to operating this land, in partnership with his son

Harry E. Gilmore, he also leases an additional 160 acres. Mr. Gilmore has the reputation of being a very efficient farmer, careful and experienced, and his agricultural undertakings have been very successful. His postoffice address is Callaway.

In 1890, at York, Nebraska, William M. Gilmore was united in marriage to Miss Mattie MacDaniel. Mrs. Gilmore has three brothers and two sisters, namely: Theodore Walter, Henry, John, Maie, and Ellen. Mr. and Mrs. Gilmore have four sons, fine, sturdy, patriotic young Americans who are a credit to state and country. The eldest, C. Homer Gilmore, is engaged in farming in the southern part of the county, near Oconto; Harry E., the second son, who is in partnership with his father in the large farming operations above mentioned, was preparing for military service in the national army at the time when the world war came to a close; Orville L., also did his best to make Custer county a banner section in raising crops with which to help win the world war; and Samuel R., is yet in school. Mr. Gilmore and his older sons are Democrats in their political views.

GEORGE W. STOUFFER was born in Ogle county, Illinois, March 2, 1860, a son of Daniel W. and Frances (Petrie) Stouffer, who were born in Maryland and who were early settlers in Ogle county, Illinois, where both passed away.

George W. Stouffer was reared in his native state and when a lad of sixteen he began working by the month on a farm, later engaging as a farmer on his own account. For a time he operated a tract of land in Plymouth county, Iowa, this property having belonged to his father.

In 1888 Mr. Stouffer came to Custer county and bought a relinquishment of 160 acres in section 20, township 18, range 21. He proved up on this claim, and upon selling the same he purchased land in Dale valley. In 1892 he bought 160 acres where he now lives, the place at that time having a sod house and other meager improvements. To-day he is the owner of 800 acres, all in one body, and successfully conducts a general farming and stock-raising enterprise. A good grade of cattle is to be found in the pastures and some fine Percheron horses are raised on the place. The improvements are among the best in the neighborhood, all having been put there by the present owner.

Mr. Stouffer was married, in Iowa, to Miss Mattie Johnson, who passed away in Custer county, leaving two children: Guy, who is mar-



GEORGE W. STOFFER

ried and has two children, owns and operates a farm of 200 acres adjoining his father's place; and Terry is now deceased.

For his second wife Mr. Stouffer married Miss Lillie Taylor, and she passed away five years ago, leaving five children: Mattie, Gladys, Daniel, Mabel, and Frances, all of whom are at home except Daniel, who is in the national army at the time of this writing.

Mr. Stouffer is a member of the Merna camp of the Modern Woodmen of America, and in politics is independent. He is one of the progressive, up-to-date farmers of Custer county and is widely and favorably known.

EDGAR E. THOMPSON, who owns and resides upon a well improved farm and cattle ranch in the vicinity of Broken Bow, is one of the substantial exponents of farm industry in the county and is a sterling citizen who is entitled to recognition in this history.

Mr. Thompson was born in Scioto county, Ohio, and in 1918 he celebrated the forty-fifth anniversary of his birth. He is a son of Silas and Hannah (Gahine) Thompson, both likewise natives of the old Buckeye state. The mother passed away at the age of forty-two years and the father subsequently married Ellen Humphrey, he having continued his residence in Ohio until his death, at the age of seventy-seven years. Silas Thompson became the father of twelve children. Of the sons of the first marriage it may be noted that John is a resident of Rock county, Nebraska; Oscar is individually mentioned on other pages of this work; and David and Edgar E. are both residents of Custer county, where they are identified with farm enterprise, the latter being the immediate subject of this review. The three surviving daughters of the first marriage of Silas Thompson are Mrs. Belle Schriver, a resident of Kentucky; Mrs. Anna Benedict, of Urbana, Ohio; and Mrs. Lou Houston, of Geneva, Nebraska. Elbert and Aubrey are sons of the second marriage and both are residents of Custer county. Mrs. Cora Hickman, of Custer county, and Mrs. Maude Bass, of Omaha, are daughters of the second marriage.

Edgar E. Thompson was reared and educated in Ohio and in the earlier period of his residence in Custer county he was employed for ten years on the Parmelee ranch. Thereafter he was similarly employed on the Tierney ranch, for seven years. Thus he was given the best of advantages for gaining experience and becoming an adept in the handling and feeding of live stock. He is now the owner of 320 acres of land, of which 240

are available for cultivation and devoted to this purpose. He conducts a general agricultural and stock-raising business, and has good types of cattle, hogs and horses. He has resided on his preent homestead since 1915 and is gradually adding to the excellent improvements of permanent order. He has provided the requisite farm machinery and other accessories for the facilitating of operations, and his energy and progressive policies assure him cumulative success in his well ordered enterprise. His herd of cattle at the time of this writing numbers about 150 head.

The year 1898 recorded the marriage of Mr. Thompson to Mina Higgins, who was born in Iowa and who has proved a true companion and helpmeet to her husband. She has aided greatly in furthering his success and has made the pleasant home one of attractiveness and gracious hospitality. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson have two children—Charles, who is nineteen years of age (1918) and who gives valuable aid to his father in connection with the operations of the home farm; and Louisa, who is seven years old and is a medium for the dissemination of light and happiness in the parental home.

JOSEPH S. WHITE. — A fine strain of Hoosier blood was infused into Custer county in the early pioneer days, and the county has had from this source much to gain and nothing to lose. The stalwart sons and gracious daughters of Indiana are numbered among the best of Custer county pioneers.

Joseph S. White, to whom this sketch is dedicated, takes due satisfaction in reverting to the Hoosier commonwealth as the place of his nativity. He was born in Daviess county, Indiana, on the 3d of August, 1851, and is a son of Moses B. and Lucinda (McReynolds) White, of whose nine children seven are living, Joseph S., of this review being the eldest of the number; Mrs. Rebecca J. Smith resides in Douglas county, Missouri; Nancy S. likewise lives in that county; Anne maintains her home at St. Joseph, Missouri; Ellen is a resident of the state of Washington; George resides in the city of St. Joseph, Missouri; and James G. lives with his brother Joseph S., of this sketch.

Moses B. White, in company with his family and other relatives, immigrated to the west in the autumn of 1856, some of the number establishing residence in Missouri and others in Iowa. Moses B. White located in Clarke county, Iowa, where he gained his full share of experience as a pioneer settler of the Hawkeye state and where he continued his



MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH S. WHITE

residence until his removal to Andrew county, Missouri.

Joseph S. White was five years of age at the time of the family immigration to Iowa, and his early educational advantages, meager in scope, were those afforded during the ten years of the family's residence in Clarke county, Iowa. In April, 1889, Joseph S. White and his brother, James G., immigrated from Andrew county, Missouri, to Nebraska, and settled in Custer county. The subject of this review experienced many hardships and trials incidental to pioneer life in Custer county, and privations and isolation were bravely borne. Mr. White has stated that coyotes, jack-rabbits, and fleas seemed omnipresent, and that the maximum discomforts to settlers were entailed by the invasions of the fleas, which are now, fortunately, a thing of the past, while coyotes and jack-rabbits have been practically subdued. The sod shanties that dotted the pioneer plains have nearly all disappeared, though occasionally one is encountered, as a reminder of the early days. The prairie fires that used to sweep the country at intervals, adding materially to the troubles of the settlers, are now very infrequent. Thus Mr. White has satisfaction in knowing that he has been not only a witness of but also a participant in the march of development and progress in Custer county. He arrived in the county on the 20th of April, 1889, and forthwith entered claim to a homestead, about eighteen miles southeast of Broken Bow, in section 14, township 14, where he essayed the task of reclaiming a productive farm and developing a home worthy of the name.

Like most of the Custer county pioneers of the '80s, Mr. White had but little of this world's goods, and his original habitation in the county was a primitive dugout. When from this he was enabled to remove to a sod house, the latter seemed almost a mansion, in comparison with the bank dugout. The passing years have not denied to him a generous measure of success and prosperity, as is attested by the fact that to-day he is the owner of 360 acres of land, the same being well improved and effectively given over to diversified agriculture and stock-raising. His old homestead is still his place of residence and he is living in comfortable circumstances, the while he enjoys the unqualified respect and esteem of the community in which he has lived and labored to goodly ends. His wife died in Missouri, in 1887, and his children were thus denied a mother's care, though he established a comfortable pioneer home after coming to Custer county. He encountered his

full share of the vicissitudes and hardships that marked the earlier period of settlement in the county, and he merits enduring honor for the contribution which he has made to civic and industrial progress in this now favored section of Nebraska. In the retrospection that brings to him memories of the pioneer epoch, he can but feel that his efforts have been rewarded and that now his "lines are cast in pleasant places." He is an earnest member of the Church of God and is loyally interested in all things pertaining to the communal welfare.

In the year 1880 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. White to Miss Louella Courter, whose death occurred in Missouri, in 1887, as previously noted in this context, and the two surviving children of this union are Mary Elizabeth and Birdie L.

WEST WHITNEY.—With Mason City as his postoffice address, Mr. Whitney owns a well improved farm and is proving distinctly progressive and successful in his operations as one of the representative agriculturists and stock-growers of this part of the county.

Mr. Whitney was born in Johnson county, Nebraska, in the year 1879 and is a son of Delbert and Lucy Whitney. He has three sisters, concerning whom the following brief record may consistently be offered: Lou is the wife of John Clinton, a farmer in Colorado; May is the wife of Ed. Peterson, who is employed in one of the large packing houses in the city of Omaha; and Mattie is the wife of Roy Morgan, a prosperous farmer in Custer county.

Mr. Whitney is indebted to the public schools of Nebraska for his early educational discipline and has been associated with farm enterprise from his youth to the present time. In 1902 he wedded Miss Addie Nelson, who was born in Indiana, and thereafter he was engaged in farming on rented land until 1908, when he came to Custer county and purchased land which he has developed into one of the valuable and productive farms of the county, the place being devoted to diversified agriculture and to the raising of excellent types of live stock, including Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China hogs, besides which Mr. Whitney is the owner of a fine Shire stallion and has given special attention to breeding of horses of this type. In politics he is an independent voter and he attends and supports the Christian church, of which his wife is a member. He is one of the alert and progressive exponents of farm enterprise in Custer

county, is always ready to do his part in the support of measures and enterprises advanced for the general good of the community and is well entitled to recognition in this history.

GEORGE F. DEWEY. — It is a substantial farmer that answers to the celebrated cognomen in this caption line. He is a man of sterling qualities, is a successful farmer and stockman and is one of the leading spirits in the community where he resides.

George F. Dewey was born in the state of Iowa, in 1868. He is a son of Samuel and Amelia (Young) Dewey, very excellent people. The father was a native of Indiana, the mother was an English lady. Both have passed to their reward, at the ages of sixty-four and fifty years respectively. In their family were seven children: Mary Peck lives at Cedar Bluffs, Nebraska; James H. lives on a farm in Custer county; Louise lives in Lincoln; Laura Charling lives at Ithaca, Saunders county; Myrtle is in Nevada; Ellen Lemar is the wife of a physician living in Osceola, Nebraska, and the third born in this family was George F., of whom we are writing. The father came to Nebraska in 1880 and established his first home in Saunders county. From there he moved to Lancaster county, then to Wahoo and from there came to Custer county after retiring. He was always rated as a very successful man and was known as a breeder of pure-blood Poland-China hogs. He bought land here and he died in 1905.

George F. Dewey grew up on a farm, received a liberal education in the public schools, and twenty-two years ago, in 1897, he led to the marriage altar Miss Bertha Bristol, who was born in Iowa, in 1878, the daughter of very estimable parents and herself a lady of high standing and fine character. They have established a home and maintain it with all the comforts and advantages of modern life. They have two children: Laura is the wife of Edward Lee, of Custer county, and Frank is pursuing his studies in the Ansley school. Mr. and Mrs. Dewey bought the land that now constitutes their home and for a time they lived in a sod house. The degree of success attained by Mr. Dewey is well marked by the statement that he owns 720 acres, on which are good improvements and stock of high grade. Some of the cattle are registered. He has hogs of the Duroc-Jersey strain and the horses are patterned after fashionable Percheron models. Cattle raising is the most prominent feature of his operations. Everything around him on the farm is the result of his own labor and frugality, in all of which, how-

ever, he had valuable assistance on the part of his wife, who graciously presides over his household. The farm home is ornamented with fruit trees and everywhere a homelike appearance is presented.

In social affairs the Deweys are prominent and helpful promoters. They belong to the Grange, Royal Highlanders, and Modern Woodmen, and they give preference to the Grange. Independent in politics, Mr. Dewey claims no allegiance to any political party. This is a well known and respected family whose members are honored by all their friends and acquaintances.

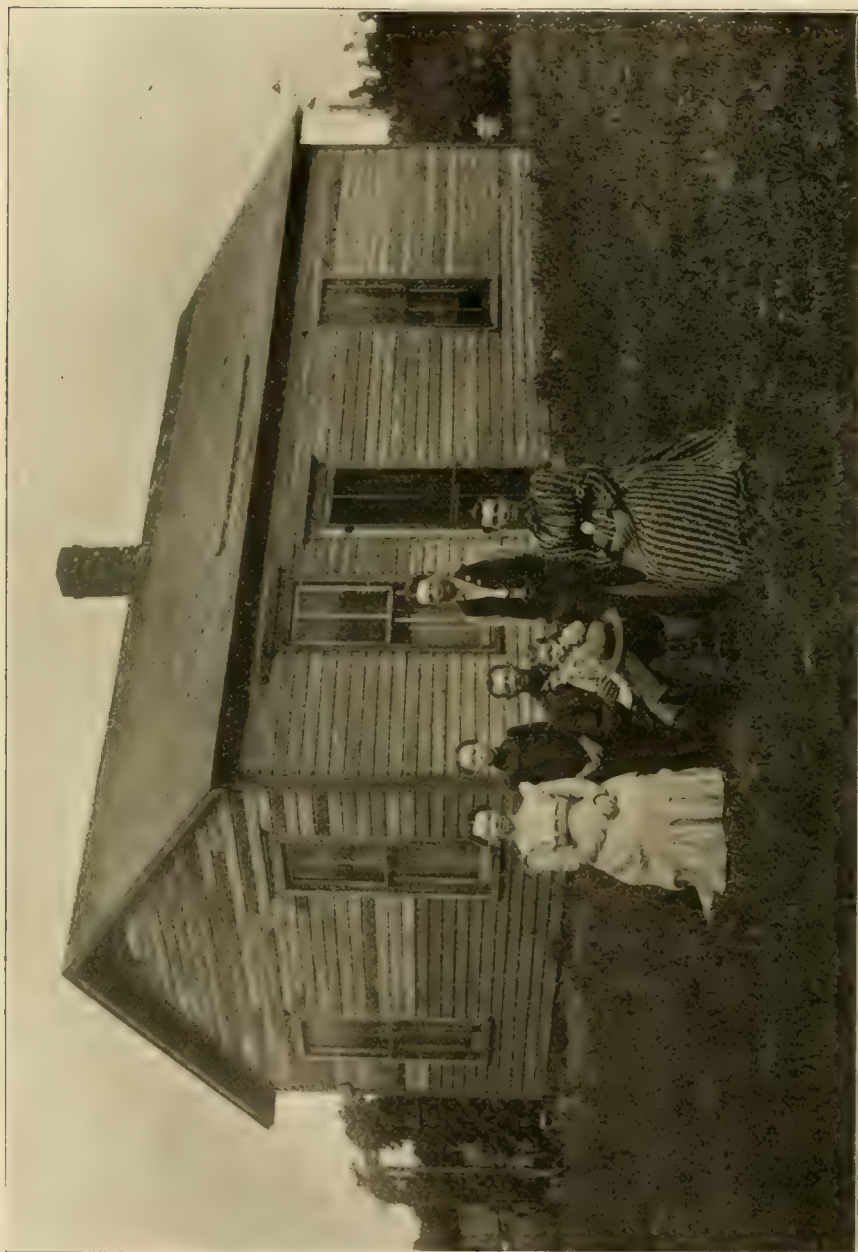
JOHN W. CHERRY has secure place as one of the representative agriculturists and stock-growers of the younger generation in Custer county, is a member of a well known and highly esteemed family of this county and takes justifiable pride in claiming Nebraska as the place of his nativity. Mr. Cherry is now the owner of a half-section of excellent land, well improved and equipped with modern machinery and other accessories essential to progressive farm enterprise, his home being in the vicinity of Cumro, which is his postoffice address. Concerning the family adequate mention is made on other pages of this work, in the sketch of the career of Joseph H. Cherry, father of him whose name introduces this paragraph.

John W. Cherry was born in Box Butte county, Nebraska, in the year 1889, and has been a resident of Custer county since early childhood, his parents having here established their home in 1891. Here he was reared and educated and here he has found splendid opportunity for successful achievement in connection with farm enterprise, his landed property being given over to diversified agriculture and the raising of good types of live stock.

Loyal as a citizen and duly interested in community affairs, Mr. Cherry is independent in politics and supports the men and measures meeting the approval of his judgment. He holds membership in the Presbyterian church and his wife is a member of the Baptist church.

The maiden name of Mr. Cherry's wife was Lucy Mason, and she is a daughter of Isaac and Mary Mason. Mr. and Mrs. Cherry have one child, Sylvia, who is six years of age at the time of this writing, in the spring of 1919.

JOHN FORTIK. — Bohemian blood and muscle, combined with Custer county soil and opportunity, make a combination hard to



THE STUPPLEBEN OLD HOME AND FAMILY GROUP

beat—a combination that is renowned for frugality and thrift. John Fortik is the combination and his farm home as presented to-day is the result of his toil and enterprise.

John Fortik was born forty-nine years ago, in Bohemia, a province that has given to America many men who have made a success in all the high callings of life. He came to the United States when but ten years of age, and made Saline county, this state, his first home. There he stayed six years, and he then went to Buffalo county, where he spent one year. From there it was an easy journey into Custer county, where he homesteaded upon reaching his majority. He proved up on the homestead, and it is to-day his home. He has added to it, however, until he is the owner of a half-section of good land.

During his early life Mr. Fortik received common-school education, applied himself diligently, saved his money, and consequently has been able to make the commendable showing that is here described. The improvements on his place are good. He has fine horses of the draft-stock pattern, and owns his land in fee simple, without mortgage or debt.

In speaking of the early days, Mr. Fortik says he worked out until he was twenty-three years of age, and that he had but very little when he reached Custer county. What he has to-day has been the result of farming operations. He remembers that on one occasion, when hard pressed for money, he tried to borrow twenty dollars, but, failing to secure it, he has never tried to borrow a cent since that time.

He belongs to the Catholic church, is independent in politics, trailing in the wake of no political party, and preferring to select his own candidates and vote for qualifications as men represent them, regardless of political brands.

MRS. SUE E. STUPPLEBEEN.—In the year 1884 there journeyed to Custer county from Kansas a young married couple who were to become well known to the early residents of the Callaway vicinity—Martin H. Stupplebeen and his wife, the maiden name of the latter having been Sue E. Parry. For years thereafter they occupied what was known as the "Half-Way House," twelve miles north of Callaway, and the hospitality which they extended to friends and strangers, settlers and travelers, is still well remembered with gratitude. Martin H. Stupplebeen departed this life January 14, 1916, and his widow is still the owner of the old homestead, although she now makes her home at Callaway, where she has a wide circle of friends.

Sue E. Parry was born March 22, 1860, in Richland county, Ohio, a daughter of Lewellyn H. and Mary E. (Schrack) Parry, natives of the same county, highly respected and honored farming people, and devout members of the Baptist church. Mr. and Mrs. Parry became the parents of nine children, of whom seven are living: Lilly F. is the wife of James D. Barrett, a farmer of Perry, Oklahoma; Sue E. is the immediate subject of this review; Howard V., who is a stock salesman of Fairview, Oklahoma, married Sadie Colwell; George F., who is a ranchman and stock farmer of Vici, Oklahoma, married Ella McCollum; Charles E. is a bachelor and is a farmer at Cestos, Oklahoma; Mary A. is the wife of Frank Phillips, a farmer of Coyle, Oklahoma; and Lew T., who is a farmer of Cestos, Oklahoma, married Frances Langley. The men in this family are, without exception, Democrats.

When Sue E. Parry was three years of age her parents removed to near Fort Dodge, Iowa, and at Frankfort, Kansas, on August 4, 1884, was solemnized her marriage to Martin H. Stupplebeen, a son of Martin and Gertrude (Holsapple) Stupplebeen. Shortly after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Stupplebeen came to Custer county and located twelve miles northwest of Callaway, at what was known as the "Half-Way House," this title having been applied because of the fact that the house was about half way between Callaway and Arnold. At that time, and for several years thereafter, settlement was slow and neighbors were few and far apart. On the opposite side of the Loup river lived Mrs. Frank Brega, and Mrs. Brega and Mrs. Stupplebeen became fast friends who would regularly meet and visit across the river. On all too many occasions it was necessary to cut these meetings short, because of the activity of the insects, which in those days were omnipresent in this region. Many of the pioneers traveling up and down the Loup river in early times have reason to remember with gratitude the whole-souled hospitality with which they were greeted and entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Stupplebeen, whose latch-string was always out. Mr. Stupplebeen was a hard and energetic worker. Through industry and good management and the assistance of his capable wife he succeeded in the development of a valuable and well improved farm, on which he continued operations until his death, January 14, 1916. He was accounted one of the reliable citizens of his community, and was a man who commanded respect by reason of his strict integrity and personal probity. He was a Democrat in politics, but public

life did not appeal to him. Following the demise of her husband, Mrs. Stupplebeen moved to Callaway, and here she resides in a comfortable, modern home, and is surrounded by many loyal friends.

Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Stupplebeen: Jennie E. is the wife of Clyde Wall, a farmer of Wallace, Nebraska, and they have two children; Raymond H., who is engaged in farming on Cliff Table, twelve miles northeast of Arnold, married Hazel Wardrobe, daughter of William Wardrobe, and they have one son; Elva F. is the wife of James C. Crowder, a farmer of Eight Point, Montana, and they have one daughter and one son; and Miss Stella M. remains with her mother, at Callaway.

JOHN J. KULHANEK, who is a prosperous general farmer residing near Ansley, Custer county, was born in 1864, in Austria. He carries on a general line of farming and also pays attention to stock-raising, keeping a good grade only. His property is well improved and evidences of thrift and good management may be observed on every side.

Mr. Kulhanek has a fine family. He married Miss Enkellia Matejka, who was born in Saunders county, Nebraska, in 1874. Her parents were John and Anna (Bartosch) Matejka, both of whom were born in Austria: they came to the United States and spent all their after life on their farm in Saunders county, Nebraska, where both died, the father when aged sixty-five years. Mr. and Mrs. Kulhanek have four children, namely: Rudolph, who is a farmer on Deer creek; Adolph, who is also a farmer; Anna, who lives with her parents; and Alvin, who is a farmer on Deer creek. The family belongs to the Roman Catholic church. Mr. Kulhanek is an American citizen and he gives his political support to the Republican party. The family is well known in the county and is held in deserved esteem.

GEORGE W. ANKNEY, a resident of Custer county since 1882, has been variously identified with the interests of this region since the time of his arrival, and, principally as an agriculturist, has accumulated a competence that permits him to pass the evening of life in comfortable circumstances, at his pleasant home at Sargent. He is a native of Coshocton, Ohio, and was born September 10, 1850, being a son of Joseph and Abbie (Brown) Ankney.

Joseph Ankney was born in Pennsylvania,

but in young manhood pushed toward the west, locating first in Ohio, where he met and married Miss Abbie Brown, a native of that state, and where he was engaged in farming, in Coshocton county, until 1851. In that year he removed to Jones county, Iowa, which was his home for many years, and thence he went to Mitchell county, Kansas, which was his place of residence for five years. In 1888 he came to Nebraska, and from that time until his death, at the age of eighty-two years, he made his home among his children. He was an industrious man, always alive to opportunity and able to make the most of his chances. He succeeded as an agriculturist, and as a public-spirited and useful citizen of the various communities in which he resided, he was always held in high esteem by his associates. He was a staunch and unwavering Democrat in politics, and he and Mrs. Ankney were faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church. They were the parents of ten children, of whom three survive: Joseph, who married Susan Vananberg, is a retired farmer of Scottsbluff, Nebraska; George W. is the subject of this sketch; and Edward, who married Eliza Pierce, is a retired farmer of Grand Island, Nebraska.

The common schools of Jones county, Iowa, furnished George W. Ankney with his educational training, and his boyhood was passed on his father's farm, where, under the elder man's direction, he was taught all the arts and methods pertaining to the vocation of agriculture. At Taylor, Nebraska, he was united in marriage, July 5, 1886, to Mrs. Harriet (Northey) Cummings, widow of James Cummings and daughter of Robert and Ruth (Hall) Northey, natives of Vermont. Mrs. Ankney's parents were farming people who came to Nebraska in 1879 and took up a homestead at Cummings Park, at a time when there were but five families in the vicinity, the nearest postoffice being at Loup City, about forty-five miles away. There Miss Northey met and married James Cummings, a well-to-do young farmer, and he met his death by a fall into a well, this being the only well for miles around.

Mr. Ankney had come to Custer county in 1882 and settled at Cummings Park, where he took up a homestead and where he resided until 1893. At that time, because of failing health, he moved to Burwell, which continued to be his home for thirteen years, removal being made to Sargent in 1906. He is accounted one of the well-to-do and substantial men of his locality, a reliable, dependable citizen who always supports beneficial movements with



MR. AND MRS. GEORGE W. ANKNEY



MRS. ALBERT Y. SUTTON



ALBERT Y. SUTTON

his influence, means, and energies. He has not cared for public life and is not actively concerned in politics. While still a resident of Vermont, Mrs. Ankney adopted a child of three years, Idella Cummings, whom she reared to young womanhood. This foster daughter then married and moved to Maine. Mr. and Mrs. Ankney adopted a nephew, James Ankney, who was five years old, and reared him until he was sixteen, when he left their home to work for himself: at the time of this writing James Ankney is a member of the national army and is stationed in New Mexico.

CHARLES FORTIK, who is a prominent man in his township in Custer county, carries on general farming and is meeting with the success that his industry and excellent methods deserve. He is a native of Nebraska, born in Buffalo county, in 1886. His parents were Joseph and Anna (Kine) Fortik, both of whom were born in Austria. When they came to America and settled in Nebraska, the father here homesteaded and became the owner of a quarter section. During his lifetime he made many improvements. Both he and wife died on their farm in Custer county. They were members of the Roman Catholic church.

Charles Fortik accompanied his parents when they moved from Buffalo county to Custer county. Farming has been his business all his life and he is now very successfully operating 240 acres, eighty acres being his own property, on which he has placed substantial improvements. He gives some attention to stock-raising. He cultivates his land according to modern methods and owns first-class farm machinery.

In 1916 Mr. Fortik was united in marriage to Miss Lila Holland, who was born in 1898, near Wiessert, Custer county, and is a daughter of John and Kate (Spencer) Holland, who are farming people living near Ansley, Nebraska. Mr. Fortik belongs to the order of Modern Woodmen, and that he is a man of foresight and prudence is shown in the fact that he carries an accident-insurance policy. He is a Democrat and takes considerable interest in politics. He has served very acceptably in the office of road overseer.

ALBERT Y. SUTTON.—After a long life of industry and usefulness, the worthy citizen of Broken Bow whose name constitutes the caption of this sketch is now spending his declining years in comfortable and contented retirement. Mr. Sutton was born in Peoria county, Illinois, June 17, 1841, and has been

a resident of Custer county for twenty-eight years, during which time he has been successful in the accumulation of considerable farming and realty holdings.

William Sutton, the father of Albert Y. Sutton, was born at Parsonsfield, York county, Maine, where he passed his early life in agricultural pursuits, removing from there to Peoria county, Illinois, where he married and reared his children, later moving to Hooper, Dodge county, Nebraska, where he died and was buried, as was also his wife, Mary J. He was a member of the Republican party and belonged to the Baptist church, as did also Mrs. Sutton, who bore the maiden name of Mary Young and who was the daughter of Levi Young. They were the parents of five children, of whom three are living: Albert Y. is the subject of this sketch; William, who is a mechanic and school-teacher in Arkansas, a Republican and a member of the Baptist church, married Eva Hickok, daughter of William H. Hickok; and Fannie E. is the wife of Joseph Wrigley, a retired farmer at Peoria, Illinois, a veteran of the Civil war, member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and a Republican.

Albert Y. Sutton well remembers the first dollar which he ever earned and the circumstances of securing it. It was a gold piece and was earned when he took the place of a sick uncle in work on the farm, and its reception gave more pleasure to him than any he has earned since. This gold piece he gave to the foreign mission. He went to the country schools and assisted his father on the farm, and in 1861 commenced a college course at Shurtleff College, Upper Alton, Illinois, which old and honored institution he attended one and one-half years. His career, however, like those of other youths of his day, was interrupted by the Civil war, and in October, 1862, he laid aside his books and studies to don his country's uniform, shoulder a rifle, and become a member of Company E, Seventy-seventh Regiment of Illinois Volunteer Infantry. With that organization he served until the close of the war, and during his service he participated in some heavy fighting, including Vicksburg, the Red River expedition under General Banks, Mobile, Spanish Fort, and Fort Blakeley. When peace was declared, he was honorably discharged, with a splendid record, and returned to his home, where for about a year he operated a farm.

August 26, 1866, in Peoria county, Illinois, Mr. Sutton married Miss Abbie Donnell, a daughter of Captain Thomas and Ruth (Curtis) Donnell, natives of Plymouth county,

Massachusetts, her father having been a sea captain, and both he and his wife having been members of the Episcopal church. Miss Donnell came from Massachusetts to Illinois to teach school, and she taught about two years before her marriage to Mr. Sutton, the young soldier. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Sutton settled down for a short time to agricultural pursuits, but in 1867 they came to Dodge county, Nebraska, where he followed farming and the real-estate business until 1890. Then he came to Broken Bow, where he has since been splendidly successful in accumulating holdings in farming property and other real estate. He is accounted one of the well-to-do men of his community, and is living in quiet retirement, surrounded by all the comforts of life.

Of the five children born to Mr. and Mrs. Sutton there are two living: Jennie E. and Herbert O. Jennie E. married Hon. J. R. Dean, one of the foremost lawyers of the state and now a judge of the Nebraska supreme court, with residence at Lincoln. Judge and Mrs. Dean are members of the Presbyterian church, he is a Democrat in politics and fraternally he is affiliated with the Masons, Odd Fellows, and Workmen. A biography of Judge Dean will be found elsewhere in this work. He and Mrs. Dean have two children: Paul H. and Dorothy S. Herbert O. Sutton is a graduate of the Nebraska State University and has always been in educational work, having charge at present of the physical-science department at the State Normal School at Kearney. He is a Republican in politics, and he and his wife hold membership in the Presbyterian church. Mr. Sutton wedded Miss Harriet Tripp and they have an adopted child, Evan M.

REINHART WANKE.—The modest operations of Reinhart Wanke are so common to Custer county that they attract small attention from those who do not know him intimately. The neighbors, however, appreciate the work of this frugal, industrious pioneer who has lived quietly, who has reared his children to manhood and womanhood, and who well deserves a place in the Custer roll of honor on which are inscribed the names of the successful farmers and responsible citizens.

Reinhart Wanke was born in Germany, in 1847, and comes of a strong German family noted for frugality and thrift. The father's name was Reinhart and the family name of the mother was Ludmille. Years ago the parents moved to the United States and settled in

Platte county, Nebraska, where they spent the remainder of their lives.

Reinhart Wanke, Jr., came to Nebraska in 1878, and is accordingly a pioneer of forty years standing. The first eight years of his life in Nebraska were spent in Butler county. Thirty-two years ago last March (1918) he moved to Custer county and selected a homestead, and since that time he has been identified with agricultural pursuits and the general development of the country.

Mrs. Wanke was formerly Miss Mary Turck, a native of Austria, where her parents lived and died. Mr. and Mrs. Reinhart became the parents of six children: Reinhart lives in California; Mary lives in Nevada; Englebert lives in Idaho; Ernest lives in Nevada; Robert died in 1887; Ernestine died two years ago, she having been the wife of William Binder.

The Wanke farm residence, which contains the well deserved home comforts, is located on a splendid quarter-section of land, well improved, and rendered unusually profitable by good cultivation. All to be seen on the premises, which represents the life accumulations of Mr. Wanke, is the result of his own toil and industry. Mr. and Mrs. Wanke are well respected and locally prominent. They are faithful members of the Catholic church and in their advanced years are provided with home comforts, while they are happy in the realization that their children are representative men and women of whom they have reason to be proud.

JOSEPH C. HEMPSTEAD is one of the venerable and honored citizens of Broken Bow, has been a resident of Custer county since 1902, and during the greater part of the intervening years he has here lived virtually retired from active business affairs. He is a scion of a prominent and influential family that was founded in Missouri in the very early period of the history of that commonwealth, and the name which he bears has been identified with American annals since the colonial era.

Joseph Conway Hempstead was born in St. Louis county, Missouri, on the 14th of March, 1848, and is a son of John and Lucinda (Conway) Hempstead, the former of whom was born in the vicinity of Hartford, Connecticut, and the latter of whom was born in St. Louis county, Missouri, where her parents were pioneer settlers—at a time when that section of the Union was on the very frontier of civilization. John Hempstead was reared and educated in New England and in his youth he

named Childs, a family that was distinguished in military life. Mr. Newman's great-grandfather Childs fought as a soldier in the Revolutionary war; his grandfather, Charles Childs, took part in the War of 1812, while three uncles of his mother, Samuel, Nelson, and Seth Childs, were Union soldiers during the Civil war. The mother of Mr. Newman was born in New York, July 16, 1826, and died February 14, 1890. Mr. Newman had one full sister, Clarissa, who died at the age of nine years. His father, Darius Newman, was born near Geneva, New York, and was reared on a farm. After marriage he came to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1848, and settled in Brown county in 1849, buying a half-section of land from the Fox Improvement Company. In May, 1855, he left his family to go on a prospecting tour to Minnesota. The country was practically a wilderness at that time and the fate of Mr. Newman can only be conjectured, as he was never afterward heard from. He had been a man of some importance and was very active in the Whig party. Through the mother's second marriage, Mr. Newman had one half-sister and two half-brothers, namely: Bessie, who died at Menasha, Wisconsin; Charles Gear, who is a farmer on the old homestead in Brown county; and William, who operates a milk route at Menasha. The mother was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

In March, 1879, Henry C. Newman came to Nebraska and filed on a claim on Elk creek, South Loup township, Custer county, and also proved up on a tree claim. From 1880 until 1884 he had charge of F. C. Dodge's cattle interests on Elk creek, then carried on farming on his own claim until 1888, when he sold his land and moved to within six miles of Mason City, where he bought a half-section, subsequently expended much money in improving it and still owns the property. After retiring from the active work of the farm he moved into Mason City and for two years afterward managed the Farmers Co-operative store there.

Mr. Newman was united in marriage to Barbara Illingworth, who was born in 1856, near Liverpool, England. Her parents were Rhodes and Ann (Minikin) Illingworth, the former of whom was born in England in 1826 and died in Kansas, in July, 1884. The latter was born in England, February 4, 1830, and died in May, 1903. The father of Mrs. Newman was a carpenter by trade. In 1870 he came to the United States with his family, and after working at his trade for a time in the city of Chicago, he went to Wisconsin and from there to Kansas. Both he and wife

were members of the Episcopal church. Mrs. Newman was the third born of their children, the others being as follows: Polly, who is the wife of Stephen Evans, a gardner at Los Angeles, California; Benjamin, who lives at Chicago, follows his father's trade; and Ada, who is the wife of Herman Riese, a Canadian farmer. Mr. and Mrs. Newman have had children as follows: Rhodes Ollie, who was born in 1888, is a farmer in Custer county; John Darius, who was born September 14, 1889, entered military service in the United States May 29, 1918, had training at Camp Dodge and Fort Snelling, then detailed to duty at Cicero, Illinois, contracted the influenza and died October 21, 1918, a brave soldier, just the same as if on the field of battle; Hugh Charles, who was born June 6, 1891, is farming the home place; Ada Ann, who was born August 4, 1892, spent three years in the Wesleyan University at Lincoln, taught school four years and is now a trained nurse in the Ford Hospital at Omaha; and Sybil Catherine, who was born February 10, 1893, died December 8, 1894. In 1891 Mr. and Mrs. Newman united with the Evangelical church but transferred to the Methodist Episcopal church, as more in accord with their religious belief and practice, when they moved to Mason City, and are active in its many avenues of Christian benevolence. Politically Mr. Newman is a Republican, with independent tendencies. He takes no very active part in political affairs at present, but during his many years on the farm was foremost in public movements and served in numerous official capacities. From 1887 until 1888 he was a member of the county board of supervisors; from 1885 to 1886 was township supervisor; for thirteen years was school director of School District 19, and of District 146 for nine consecutive years. He is a member of the fraternal order of Modern Woodmen. Perhaps in no section of Custer county is his name unknown and it is always mentioned with respect.

JOB P. WARD, who came to Custer county in 1882 and has since been successfully advancing his interests and position as a farmer and grower of live stock, is a Pennsylvanian by birth, but to all intents and purposes is a son of the sturdy west. While the state of his nativity could offer him nothing that promised success, he has found in Nebraska the opportunity to work out a satisfying career of achievement, and to-day he is accounted a leading and substantial citizen, thoroughly representative of the community of his adoption.

Mr. Ward was born in Pennsylvania, March



JOB P. WARD AND FAMILY

6, 1854, a son of George Samuel Ward and Hannah (Spendlove) Ward, natives of England. Hannah Spendlove Ward and the late President William McKinley were first cousins. George Samuel Ward, who was a maker of tortoise-shell combs in England, came to the United States in the '40s and here he settled on a farm, agricultural pursuits being his vocation up to the time of his death, in 1878. Mrs. Ward survived him until 1903, and both died in the faith of the Wesleyan Methodist church. He was a Republican in politics and was accounted one of the well-to-do men of his locality. Of the eleven children in the family, Job P. is the only survivor.

After attending the common schools of his native state, Job P. Ward learned the trade of blacksmith, a vocation which he followed for several years, also doing some farming. At the time of his father's death, in 1878, he came to Nebraska, first settling in Polk county, where he resided one year. In 1879 he removed to Buffalo county, where he resided in a sod house while trying his hand at farming, but in 1882 he disposed of his interests there and came to Custer county, where he secured a homestead and a tree claim. He still owns his homestead, and is now residing on the tree claim, to which he has added by purchase until he is the owner of a section of land. During the early days Mr. Ward experienced all the hardships of the pioneer settler, and at times found it hard to make both ends meet. He was frequently compelled to turn his hand to other employments in order that he and his family might secure the bare necessities of life, and during early times often hauled wood to Kearney, where he accepted whatever small amounts he could secure for it. In his wife he had a faithful companion during these hard times and sod-house days, their marriage having been solemnized in 1878. Mrs. Ward, whose maiden name was Sarah Jones, was likewise born in Pennsylvania. They became the parents of eight children: Loretta is the wife of Mahlon Kelley and they reside at Bellingham, Washington; Ida, a graduate of the State Normal School, is now teacher of English in the school at David City, Nebraska; James, at home, is his father's assistant in the management and operation of the farm; Harry, who rents land near the home estate, is engaged in farming; Emma is the wife of Bruce Williams, of McPherson, Kansas, a preacher of the Dunkard faith; Mary Rosella is the wife of John Mitchell, also a Dunkard preacher, and they are living in Indiana; and Galen and Philip are at the parental home. Mr. and Mrs. Ward and their children are

members of the Dunkard church. In politics Mr. Ward is a Republican. He is a public-spirited citizen, and for a quarter of a century served as a member of the school board.

Mr. Ward does general farming, and from a start of absolutely nothing has risen to be one of the successful men of the county. He also does a large business in growing stock, and in the summer of 1918 he disposed of seven thousand dollars' worth of live stock, including cattle, horses, mules, and hogs, the hogs being of the full-blooded Duroc breed. In April, 1918, he sold two old sows and nine young pigs that averaged 365 pounds. In business circles his reputation is an excellent one, his associates having every reason to have confidence in his integrity and fidelity.

WILLIAM STRUEMPLER, who is well and favorably known in Custer county, owns a large body of land here and has one of the most highly cultivated farms in this whole section. He is a man of great industry, and his good judgment has been shown in his adoption of the best of farm methods, with the result that he has accomplished more in eleven years than have many men who have been in the county twice as long.

William Struempfer was born in Germany, June 3, 1866, a son of Christian Struempfer. He attended school through his boyhood and was variously engaged in his own country until 1885, when he accompanied his brother, Herman Struempfer, to the United States.

William Struempfer was married at St. Paul, Nebraska, January 18, 1894, to Miss Johanna Tiede, a daughter of Carl Tiede, and they have twelve children, namely: Carl C., William F., Lydia L., Henry H., Emil E., Theodore J., Magdalena J., Alma M., Frederick G., Albert M., Martin A., and Dorothy C.

In the spring of 1907 Mr. Struempfer settled on Buffalo creek, in Custer county, and he resides in section 33, township 13, range 22. He owns 480 acres of excellent land and has 200 acres under a high state of cultivation. All of his land is fenced and cross-fenced. He has accomplished wonders here, for when he settled, this was raw prairie land, and within eleven years he has so developed and improved it that he could easily sell it for \$25,000. In addition to general farming he raises cattle and other live stock, and his wife, not to be outdone in thrift, manages a large flock of poultry and looks after the making of butter. All of these industries are carried on with the practical methods that make a well regulated farm a profitable investment. The children of the



WILLIAM STRUEMPLER AND FAMILY

family are being taught habits of industry and economy and are being impressed with the value of individual integrity and honesty, Mr. Struempfer not only setting them an example, but also taking pride in the fact that his given word is as good as if it were his signed note.

EBENEZER NICHELSON.— The story of Ebenezer Nicholson, a plain, unassuming farmer in the Callaway region, is easily told. He was born in Indiana, October 6, 1854. His father, James Nicholson, was a native of Maryland and a blacksmith by trade and occupation. The mother's maiden name was Susan Higdon. In the family of James and Susan Nicholson, father and mother of the subject of this sketch, were eight children, four of whom are still living. The surviving ones are William Nicholson, Isaac Nicholson, Ebenezer Nicholson (whose story we are telling), and James H. Nicholson. In 1862 James Nicholson moved to Champaign county, Illinois, where he worked at his trade, more or less, until his death, which occurred four years later. When but five years of age young Eben, as he was called, was left motherless. Thus, at twelve years of age, he was bereft of both parents, and very early in life thrown entirely upon his own resources. He was an industrious lad of frugal habits, and found work enough to keep him busy. He worked constantly, regardless of the small pay by which labor was remunerated in those days.

On March 4, 1883, before leaving Champaign county, Illinois, Mr. Nicholson was married to Miss Hanna B. Hayes. Mrs. Nicholson was born and married in the same house in Champaign county, Illinois. Her parents were natives of Ohio. Her father, Thompson P. Hayes, was a prominent citizen of Greenville, in the Buckeye state. Her mother's maiden name was Sarah A. Dunn. Mrs. Nicholson has four brothers and one sister. They are: David, Asa, Joseph M., and John W. Hayes, Jeanetta (Hayes) Haines, and Benjamin F. Hayes. The Hayes family were affiliated with the United Brethren church.

Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson came to Custer county in the fall of 1883 and located on a pre-emption claim five miles southwest of Callaway, where they still reside. They have made good in Custer county and are now the possessors of 200 acres of fertile land, on which they have a beautiful home and are in very comfortable circumstances. Mr. Nicholson is prominent in fraternal circles, being both an Odd Fellow and a Mason.

It causes Mr. Nicholson some amusement when he contrasts the opportunities and remunerations of the present day with those that obtained when he was a boy. The first dollar he earned was paid him by a neighbor for plowing corn with one horse and the old-fashioned double-shovel plow—a mode of cultivation that wouldn't get very far in these days of the double and triple rowed machinery.

Mr. Nicholson is to-day one of the substantial men and progressive spirits of Custer county. His development of his early pre-emption claim and the general improvements which he has added to the assets of the commonwealth, make the county indebted to him. He and his wife are highly respected and have a host of friends who delight to see them so comfortably fixed and pleasantly surrounded.

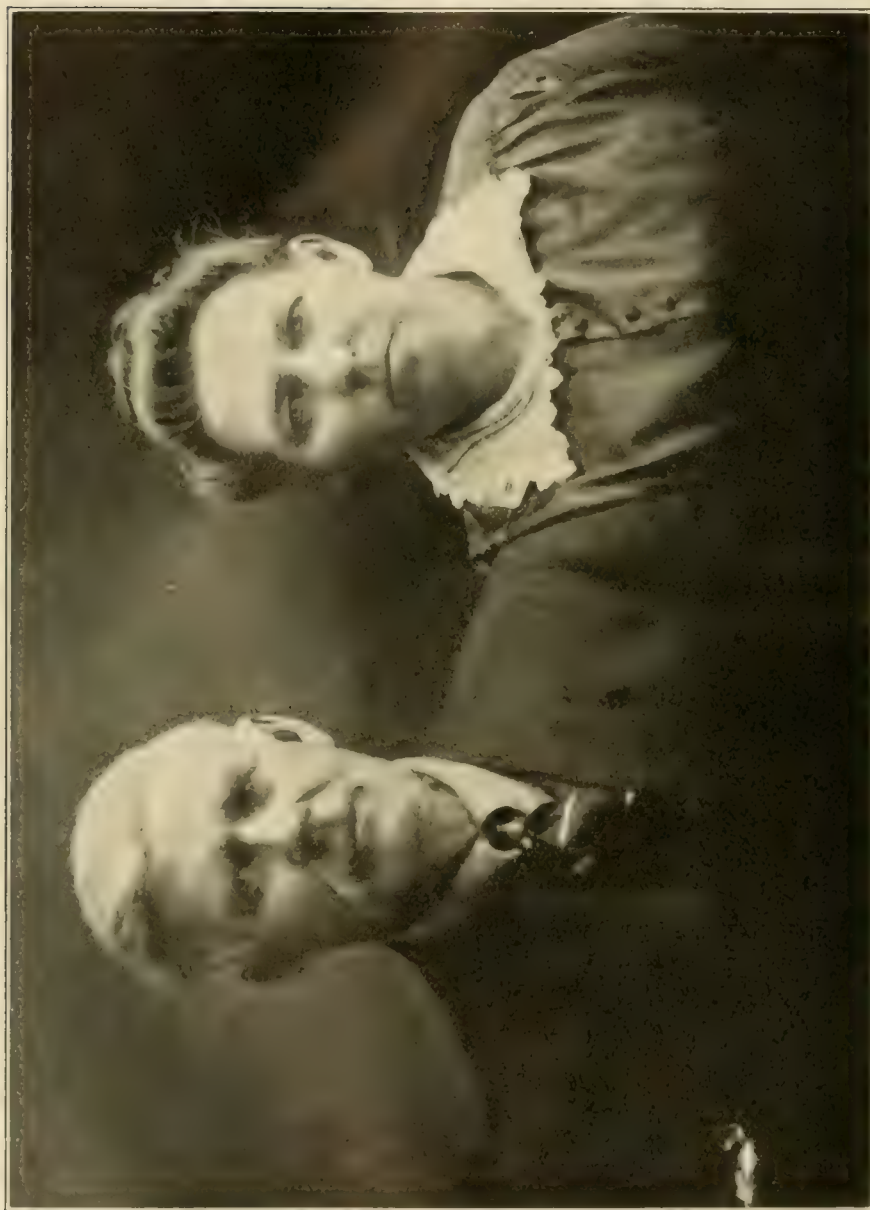
WILLIAM H. WATTS.— In the person of Mr. Watts, Iowa made a contribution which Custer county is in a position to appreciate. He came into the county in an early day, and in the most trying time of its entire history. By exceptional pluck and tireless energy he has succeeded in materially contributing to the present-day wealth and resources of this favored section of Nebraska.

Mr. Watts was born in Iowa on the 19th of February, 1870, and is a son of John and Julia (O'Daniel) Watts, in whose family were three children: Mary Alice is the wife of John Cherry and they reside in this good county; Jennie is deceased; and William H., the subject of this sketch, is to-day rendering a good account of himself.

Mr. Watts' arrival in Custer county dates from the dry year of 1894, at which time his father located here. The first purchase of land for the Watts farm was a tract of 200 acres, which was diligently tilled and improved, and to which successive additions were made until the landed holdings are now 600 acres, which trebles the original purchase. Mr. Watts began with nothing and has worked hard for every dollar of his accumulation.

In 1902 Mr. Watts married Elizabeth Cherry, who has been a faithful and companionable home-maker, and they are the parents of four children—Clifford, Clarence, Elmer, and Charles—all bright, sturdy lads who are living at home and pursuing their education in the community school.

In connection with agriculture, stock-raising is a prominent feature of the farm enterprise of Mr. Watts. A fine herd of cattle, and yards filled with splendid hogs, add to the thrifty appearance of his fine farm. The buildings are



MR. AND MRS. EBENEZER NICHOLSON



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM H. WATTS

good, the other improvements are adequate, and peace and prosperity are domiciled with the family.

Independent in politics, Mr. Watts cares little for party or name. He makes his own selection of candidates for whom he votes. The family are Presbyterians.

SILAS C. WALDRON, one of the substantial ranchmen living in the Callaway vicinity, had more than the usual pioneer experiences, and, surviving the early days, he is rated as one of the heavy land-owners and food producers of Custer county at the present time.

Silas C. Waldron is a native of Wisconsin, in which state he was born May 24, 1860. He is a son of Arbitha and Emily (Chapin) Waldron, the former a native of Canada and the latter of Massachusetts. The subject of this sketch is the only survivor in a family of four children.

Mr. Waldron's early life was spent at the parental farm home, where he was a valuable assistant, and incidentally he ran the gamut of the country school, obtaining a fundamental education that has served him well in an official and business capacity throughout the eventful years of his life. In addition to attending the district school he worked at home and took a course in the high school.

In 1884 he made his advent into Custer county, coming with Charles and Frank Redfern, for whom the Redfern Table was named. His own land and early home is located on the Waldron Table, ten miles south of Callaway. He commenced his improvements in the days when water had to be hauled ten miles. All kind of means were resorted to for obtaining water for stock and house purposes; the lagoons were scooped out, cisterns were dug, snow melted, and all this helped to supply water. Young Silas worked for stockmen and did everything he could to hold and improve his claim.

Mr. Waldron was united in marriage December 12, 1894, in Elim township, this county, to Miss Edna E. Twist, a daughter of Salem and Awilda (Albright) Twist. After their marriage Silas Waldron and his wife established their home, and began their operations as Custer county farmers and homemakers. They have two children: Mrs. Fay Westman is the wife of a farmer near Callaway, and she has no children; the second child, Edna M., is making her home with her grandmother, at Vaneta, Oregon. Mrs. Waldron died at the time of Edna's birth, and this

daughter is a very popular young lady, a graduate of the high school.

Mr. Waldron contracted a second marriage July 16, 1904, at Broken Bow, when he wedded Sopha Gustus, a lady from Illinois, she being a daughter of John and Matilda (VanGreen) Gustus, both natives of Sweden. Mr. and Mrs. Waldron have seven children — Charles T., Harry A., John A., Eva E., Esther M., Sidney C., and Anna R.

Mr. Waldron has taken more or less active part in public affairs. In 1886 he was appointed deputy sheriff, under Charles Penn, who was one of the most celebrated sheriffs Custer county ever elected. In the capacity of deputy sheriff Mr. Waldron served two years, and he had many exciting experiences in effecting arrests of outlaws and thieves, who were far more numerous in the early days than now. He was rated as one of Custer county's most efficient officers, one who was always ready, day or night, for any trip or any service required. He also served as town clerk of his precinct, and he represented Grant township on the board of supervisors during the hard year of 1894. He served until the board of supervisors was reduced from twenty-four to seven members. He has also been justice of the peace in his locality.

Successful as a ranchman and stock-raiser, Mr. Waldron's accumulations and property place him in good circumstances. He owns 2,000 acres of land, and aims to handle from 200 to 250 cattle, and from 100 to 150 head of hogs on the place at all times. Of his land 450 acres are in cultivation, and he superintends the operations himself.

In looking back upon those early days and the experiences through which he has passed, Mr. Waldron feels that he has contributed his bit to the development of the county. He is entitled to this opinion. His contribution has certainly been no small one. He recalls that when he was a boy his first money was received as pay for trapping pocket-gophers, a bounty for which was offered by Cass county, where his first individual enterprises were staged.

The Waldrons rate well in the community, financially, socially, and in every way. Mr. Waldron is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is Republican in his political affiliation.

HARVEY J. WHITEMAN. — Though he is still a young man in years, it may consistently be said that Harvey J. Whiteman is not lacking in maturity of experience. His



MR. AND MRS. SILAS C. WALDRON

career has covered a period in which he has been graduated from the school of hard work, made for himself a position in the business world, and settled himself permanently as a sound and reliable citizen of Broken Bow, where he is proprietor of the business conducted under the title of the Community Sales Company, this concern being recognized as one of the city's essential and well ordered commercial adjuncts.

Mr. Whiteman claims the Sunflower state as the place of his nativity, and thus he is naturally imbued with the progressive spirit Cowley county, Kansas, September 5, 1887, of the west. He was born on a farm in and is the second eldest of seven children born to Albert L. and Alvira (Tomlin) Whiteman. Of the other children brief record may consistently be entered at this juncture: Dennis and Effie are deceased; Malissa A. is the wife of Fred E. Dye, of Mulvane, Kansas; Albert L., who is a graduate, with a life certificate, from the Ray Automobile School, Kansas City, and who is now a mechanic at Pittsburg, Kansas, married Gladys Oxford, a daughter of Robert Oxford; Olive May is the wife of Stephen Johnson and they reside in the state of Colorado; and Russell W. resides with his father, near Cambridge, Kansas.

A public-school education started Harvey J. Whiteman upon his way in the world, and this training came from the schools of Jasper county, Missouri, where his parents established their home when he was six years of age. He was able to attend school during the winter terms only, as he was expected to contribute to the family support by such service as he could give during the summer seasons. A loving influence passed from his life when he was but twelve years old, when his mother died, the family having been at that time residents of Atlanta, Kansas. Shortly after the death of his devoted mother the self-reliant lad left the paternal home, and incidentally he felt himself competent to cope with any emergency that might come. He had already earned his first money, by riding one of the horses of a binder team, on the neighboring domain of a farmer named Buck, in the Missouri community, and after initiating his independent career his energy and self-confidence gained him employment in various positions, in each of which he proved reliable, trustworthy, and ambitious. Naturally his promotions came with regularity and he was finally able to feel that the time would come when he would be the owner of a business of his own. During his working years he was employed, among others,

by S. A. Schooley and J. A. Rudolph, ranchmen in Cowley county, Kansas, and he remained with these gentlemen, as foreman of their ranch, until the partnership was dissolved. Following this, Mr. Whiteman was for four years foreman of the Kinkaid interests in Brown county, Nebraska, and in 1912 he came to Broken Bow and established himself in business as proprietor of the enterprise conducted under the title of the Community Sales Company. In the conducting of well equipped feed yards, sales stables, and general operations in the buying and selling of horses, mules, and other live stock, this concern has a secure place of leadership, as is evident when it is stated that its business in 1918 attained to an aggregate of fully \$400,000.

Mr. Whiteman is a Custer county young man who has made good. It has been in his case merely a question of relying upon his own initiative and his own resources. He has not asked for extraneous assistance in any way. In his forward march toward material success he has shown the true western spirit, and if what he has already achieved is to be viewed as a criterion, he should feel assured of still greater success with the passing years.

In politics Mr. Whiteman is found arrayed as a staunch supporter of the cause of the Republican party, and in a fraternal way he is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. He has had no ambition for public office, but has proved loyal and progressive as a citizen and given his influence and support in assisting civic movements advanced for the general good of the community.

September 23, 1907, recorded the marriage of Mr. Whiteman to Miss Nellie B. Simons, a daughter of Adam B. and Hannah E. (Dawson) Simons, who reside on their fine farm estate near Burden, Kansas, Mr. Simons having been born in White county, Indiana, and his wife at Galesburg, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Simons are members of the Evangelical church and he is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. Of their nine children seven are living, namely: George R., Benjamin F., Nellie B., Mary G., Elsie F., Hattie E., and Margaret V. Mr. and Mrs. Whiteman became the parents of four children: Navilla Bernice, who is ten years of age at the time of this writing, in the spring of 1919; Harold Ross, who died at the age of four years; Adam Albert, who died at the age of nine months; and Elsie Blanche, who is two years of age.



HARVEY J. WHITEMAN



NELS WESTMAN AND FAMILY

NELS WESTMAN. — Here is written the name of another man who hails from northern Europe and in whose veins the blood of Sweden has become a valuable asset to America. Just now in middle life, he has reached that place in his accumulations where he can afford surcease from strenuous effort and give opportunity to his children, who already have demonstrated that they are worthy of the name they bear.

Nels Westman was born September 3, 1868, in the frugal land of Sweden. He was the second child of Peter and Magdelian (Anderson) Westman, both Swedish by long lineage. His maternal grandsire was Andrew Anderson, one of the prominent characters of his native community. In the father's family were three children. Aside from Nels they are Anna Nelson, and Augusta Johnson. His father came to this country in 1869, and located in Galva, Illinois, where he worked on the railroad. In two years he accumulated enough money to send for his family and was joined by them and thus the first home young Nels had in America was established. The principles of industry and thrift, always so rigidly enforced in European countries, stood young Nels well in hand in the new world and have stimulated his efforts throughout his entire career. When a mere lad he gathered rags and iron and sold them for a few pennies. Later he began working for the neighbors. His first field work was dropping corn, and by this he earned money for his own clothes. Since thirteen years of age he has faced the world for himself, and his present holdings and surroundings attest that he "has made good."

The domestic career of Mr. Westman dates from November 7, 1889, when, in Minden, Nebraska, he was joined in wedlock to Anna Nelson, a native of Denmark, and a daughter of Peter and Mary (Christofersen) Nelson, both of whom were sturdy Danes by a long succession of ancestors. In the family of Mrs. Westman were the following: Mary Walberg; Anna Westman; Hanna Oman; Christine Rodine; and two half-brothers, Rasmus Larsen and James Larsen. In the home Mr. and Mrs. Westman established, comforts have predominated and thrift has supplied every need. They have three children. Edmund P. J. married Fay Waldron and is farming on his own land, near Callaway. He and his wife belong to the Evangelical church. Almer N., who also is farming his own land, near Callaway, married Alma Anderson, and they, too, belong to the Evangelical church. There is one boy in their family. Karine

married James Oral Henry, who is farming on his own land, in the Callaway section. They belong to the Evangelical church.

The Westmans came to Custer county in 1907. He had bought the land two years previously to that time. The location is ten miles southwest of Callaway, on the famous Stop Table. Many times this is mentioned in this volume. The Westmans have added to their original purchase until they now own 880 acres, 480 of which is called table land. Mr. Westman has his farm well improved and well stocked, and that portion devoted to agricultural purposes is in a high state of cultivation. By his diversified farming he deposits his eggs in several baskets, and he believes that if one crop fails it is better to have another to fall back upon. He attributes to hogs and cattle his greatest source of revenue. Mr. and Mrs. Westman were reared in the Swedish Lutheran church, are staunch supporters of all moral and uplifting movements, are patriotic Americans and are generally regarded as leading spirits in the community. At the present time they have retired from active labors but they still live on the home farm, overseeing the operations of those to whom it is leased.

FRANK KLINKMAN is a progressive, enterprising farmer and stockman who lives in the south part of the county, in a particularly productive locality, known as Sells valley. Mr. Klinkman came when pioneer days were over, but he has proved himself a valuable asset and is one worthy to be rated well as a Custer citizen.

Mr. Klinkman was born in St. Joseph county, Michigan, September 10, 1868. Both his father and mother were of staunch German lineage and both were born in Germany. The father was Fred Klinkman and the mother's maiden name was Freda Miller. In the family were the following children: Henry, Frank, Louis, Edith Holmes, and two half-sisters, Hannah Rubenstein and Caroline Perschal. Fred Klinkman came to the United States in 1855 and here he passed the remainder of his life. He died when his son Frank was seven years of age. The boy remained with his mother until he was ten years old, when his mother remarried, and he went to live with an elderly couple, for whom he worked for his board and clothes, the while he went to school in the winter time. This continued for two years, after which he went to Centerville, Michigan, and worked summers and attended school in the winter. In this way he earned about forty dollars a year more than his



FRANK KLINKMAN AND FAMILY

clothes, the most of which he gave to his mother. Afterward his mother made him a present of a five-dollar gold piece, which he highly prized because of the donor.

Two years before he reached his majority, Mr. Klinkman turned his face toward the west and came to Nebraska, where for two years he worked in Polk county, receiving from ten to fifteen dollars a month. He began his domestic life on the 3d day of May, 1890, at Osceola, where he led to the marriage altar Miss Caroline Timm, a lady of fine qualities, who came from Wisconsin. She is a daughter of Louis and Johanna (Persohn) Timm, both German people, born near Mecklenburg, Germany. In many ways Mrs. Klinkman's family were remarkable. The grandparents on her father's side died while crossing the ocean in a sailing vessel. They were sixteen weeks on the water. Louis Timm was then fourteen years of age. Three years later, when seventeen, he enlisted in the army and served three years.

The Klinkman home has always been comfortable in its appointments and ample in its provisions. As the years went by it became the home and shelter of a large family of children, all of whom do credit to their father and mother. The young Klinkmans are ten in number and bear the following names: Conrad A., who was in the draft but never served, is farming his own land, near Cozad; Edith E. was next in order of birth; Mattie E. is the wife of Dean Booker and they live on a farm near Cozad, their children being three in number; Lily L., Ruth H., Roy, Vida J., Vera I., Harold G., and Ivan L. are all at home. It should be noted that Ruth H. and Roy are twins, fourteen years of age, and that Vida I. and Vera I. also are twins, twelve years of age, at the opening of the year 1919.

Mr. Klinkman and his family located in Custer county in the year 1906 and bought 320 acres of good land, which they still own and occupy as a home. Farming and stock-raising have made all the money with which the place has been improved and which makes up the sum total of the Klinkman possessions. They have just built an elegant farm residence and are well fixed for the oncoming years. The family enjoy a splendid reputation and are devoted members of the Evangelical church. There is a local church, with commodious building, two miles from the farm. The political tendencies of Mr. Klinkman are Democratic.

CRANDALL, D. SAMSON. — Down near Oconto is a prosperous young farmer,

who has accumulated enough of this world's goods to provide for himself and family a very comfortable home and to enable him to take life easy. Crandall D. Samson is a native of Champaign county, Illinois, where he was born June 8, 1872. His father, James W. Samson, was a native of Marshall county, Indiana. His mother, Eliza E. (Watson) Samson, was a native of Ohio. James W. Samson was a frontiersman and had part in early western expeditions. In 1859 he left Leavenworth, Kansas, with an ox team and drove through to Pike's Peak. He accompanied a crowd of buffalo hunters, who were killing buffaloes for their hides. When he reached the Colorado gold-fields, he lost no time in commencing prospecting operations and finally he located a claim, which he worked for two years, when the outbreak of the war called for young men of Samson's caliber, and he enlisted in the First Colorado Cavalry, in which he served four years. Shortly after his enlistment he had an opportunity to sell his mining claim for \$10,000, but was unable to get a furlough long enough to close up the deal and consummate the transaction. Accordingly, the claim was "jumped" and became a total loss to him. The First Colorado Cavalry was assigned to scouting duty and Indian fighting during most of his term of service. After his discharge he returned to his Illinois home, and was married to Eliza E. Watson, a daughter of Jonathan Watson, a prominent citizen of the Buckeye state. Mrs. Samson's mother's maiden name was Delia Gregor. Crandall D. Samson is one of a family of eight children, all of whom are still living. The firstborn is Mrs. Margaret A. Hardyman; Crandall D. was the second in order of birth; the third is Mrs. Emma M. Street; the fourth is Watson R.; the fifth is Mrs. Blanch B. Winkleman; the sixth is David; the seventh is Mrs. Gloraetta Lowe; and the eighth is Guy.

Crandall D. Samson earned his first money by doing chores for his grandmother. She gave him a calf, which his father let him keep, and when it was grown it was sold and the money was invested in other calves. These early transactions started the youth in the direction of farming and stock-raising. He attended the public schools and received a good common-school education. His father's family was large, and as soon as he was able to work Crandall was thrown upon his own resources. Since that time he has made his own living and has gathered the competency he now possesses. His father and mother, with seven children, landed in Custer county in 1892, and located four miles west of Oconto.

Mr. Samson was married March 28, 1900,



CRANDALL D. SAMSON AND FAMILY

to Miss Minnie Carroll, who was a native of Bedford county, Pennsylvania. She was the daughter of H. Carroll and Ruth Carroll. From this union two children were born — R. Walter, and Gladys G. Walter graduated from the high school and at present is attending the State Agricultural School at Lincoln, Nebraska. Gladys G. is in attendance at the Western Union College, at LeMars, Iowa. Mrs. Samson, mother of the children, died May 12, 1903. Mr. Samson was again married March 28, 1912, when Miss Allie V. Stoughton became his wife, she being a representative of an old English family.

Mr. and Mrs. Samson own 320 acres of land, three and one-half miles northwest of Oconto, and by thrift and industry have accumulated a competency for old age. Both are members of the Evangelical church at Oconto. Mr. Samson is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a Republican in politics. He is always called in the community consultations of his neighbors, and he is one of the upright and valued men of his community.

GEORGE W. HAMMOND. — Among the farmers of recognized moral and material worth whose labors have largely helped to develop the interests of Custer county, is George W. Hammond. Mr. Hammond's success in life, which has not been inconsiderable, rests wholly with himself and his abilities, for his equipment at the outset of his career was of only an ordinary character, and he was compelled to rely solely upon his own resources.

Mr. Hammond was born in Harrison county, Indiana, August 5, 1860, a son of George and Rachel (Schwartz) Hammond. The parents were early settlers of Indiana and followed agriculture there in a small way until their migration, in 1884, to Custer county. Here they passed the remainder of their lives in the cultivation of the soil and the development of a home, and they here rounded out honorable and useful careers, leaving many to mourn their loss when they were called to their final rest. They were the parents of eight children, of whom three survive: Ab, who is engaged in farming on a property near Ansley; George W., whose name initiates this article; and Alexander, who follows farming in Kimball county, this state. George W. Hammond received only limited educational advantages, in Indiana, and his entire training during his youth was along agricultural lines. He reached his majority in Indiana, but continued

to be associated with his father, and with him, in 1884, he came to Nebraska. Upon his arrival he filed on a homestead, and this has continued to be his home to the present time, although it has greatly grown in size by reason of numerous purchases, and now, in acreage, comprises a half-section of land. All of this has been accumulated by Mr. Hammond through legitimate channels of business, and his reputation in the business world is one that will bear the closest scrutiny. He has devoted himself to general farming in all its departments, raises all kinds of live stock, and is known to be thoroughly familiar with the most approved methods and processes in farm industry, being, all in all, a thorough, systematic, and successful farmer who is typical of the most worthy and substantial agricultural element of the county.

January 30, 1882, Mr. Hammond married Miss Mary Hannell, who was born in Harrison county, Indiana, a daughter of Michael and Matilda (Brown) Hannell, the former a native of Germany, and the latter of Indiana. To Mr. and Mrs. Hammond there have been born twelve children, of whom eleven are living: Charity, who is the wife of Bert Jones, of Kimball county, Nebraska; Sam, who is engaged in farming in Custer county; May, who is the wife of Clarence Evans, a farmer twelve miles east of Broken Bow; Elsie, who is the wife of C. B. Edwards, of Yankee Hill, California; Bill, who farms in Kimball county, Nebraska, and is a homesteader of Wyoming; Joe, of Kimball county, who prepared himself to enter the United States military service; Pearl, who is the wife of George Miller, of Kimball county; Edith, who died at the age of twenty years; and Dewey, Mabel, Gladys, and Lloyd, who remain with their parents. Mrs. Hammond is a member of the Lutheran church. Mr. Hammond belongs to the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a Republican in politics, but his only public office has been that of school director, in which he rendered efficient and conscientious service, for eight years.

JOHN ROBERTSON. — This is the plain story of a plain man who has run the experiences common to Custer county settlers, one who has made here his farm home and here reared his family to creditable manhood and womanhood.

Mr. Robertson is a native of Kankakee county, Illinois, where he was born February 21, 1865. He is a son of Walter and Margaret (Johnson) Robertson, both of whom were

born in Scotland. The parents, a splendid Scotch couple, maintained, in strict conformity to Scottish customs, an ideal Scottish home, in which were born seven children—George, Gavin, Walter, Margaret Lang, John, Martha Williams, and William (deceased). The father's occupation in Scotland was that of a coal-miner. He married in Scotland but came to the United States in 1878, and settled at Clark City, Illinois, where he followed coal-mining as a business for nine years. He then quit the mines and came to Custer county, Nebraska, which in those days was a domain of almost endless opportunity. He located a claim on the Cottonwood, eight miles south of Callaway, and there established his home, and arranged for the maintenance of his family. It was here that the boyhood years of John Robertson were spent. It was here that he received the common education of the Custer county youths, and here that he learned by practical experience all details of practical farming and stock-raising.

After passing through the experiences common to youth, John Robertson married, June 28, 1911, Miss Sadie McGuigan. Mrs. Robertson, like her husband, is of Scotch extraction, and is a daughter of John and Mary (Armour) McGuigan, both of whom came from Scotland. The young couple established their own home and they now have two children—Georgia A., six years old, and Verla S., four years old (1918). Mr. and Mrs. Robertson are living on the home place of the former's father, but Mr. Robertson has just bought 240 acres adjoining on the east, and this property he expects to improve for a home of his own, in the very near future.

Mr. and Mrs. Robertson are both well and favorably known, and the neighbors predict that their energy and thrifty habits will provide amply for the years of their retirement. They bear a splendid name in the neighborhood and are known as obliging, desirable neighbors. Their religious affiliations are with the Catholic church.

Mr. Robertson's farming operations are of a mixed nature, large dependence being placed upon live stock, and cattle, hogs, and sheep have prominent place in his operations. Mr. Robertson says that his first dollar was earned when he was a mere lad, by herding cattle for Theodore Lang, but he does not remember now whether the money so earned went for candy or peanuts. He kept no book accounts in those days, and only one thing concerning his first financial exploit is fixed in his mind

and at the present time—and that is that the money is gone.

WILLIAM C. JOHNSTON was born October 26, 1855, in the county of Victoria, Province of Ontario, Canada. His father, William Johnston, was born January 6, 1819, in the parish of Inver, county of Donegal, Ireland. His mother's maiden name was Isabelle Cassidy, and she likewise was a native of Ireland. Mr. Johnston's parents were married in 1846, and in their family were eleven children, five of whom are still living—William C., James O., Margaret E. (wife of James K. Morrison), and Lucy (wife of Wood C. Gray).

William C. Johnston came to the United States in 1879 and located in Saginaw, Michigan. Thereafter he spent two years in Minnesota, and in 1882 he came to Nebraska and located one mile north of Lodi, Custer county, where he has resided ever since. After his arrival in the county he kept bachelor quarters for two years, at the expiration of which time his sister Margaret came from Canada and relieved him of household duties. Four years later she became the wife of James K. Morrison. This gave Mr. Johnston a hint that it might be in order for him to take unto himself a wife, and accordingly, July 24, 1889, he married Miss Louise Cornish, who was born in the state of New York, and was a daughter of Lyman C. Cornish, her father having become a well known citizen in Custer county, and her mother, Eunice A. (Lowe) Cornish, having been a New York woman.

During the married life of Mr. and Mrs. Johnston, six children came to bless their home, and four of the number are still living—Isabelle M., who is a graduate of the Grand Island Baptist Academy, fitted herself for teaching, but she now lives at home with her father; Louisa M., also a graduate of the same school, is a teacher and is at the paternal home; Algena M. is attending the Kearney Normal School; and Edwin C., of the home circle, is in the sixth grade of his school career.

The happiness of this home was overshadowed with a great sorrow on August 16, 1916, when the loved wife and mother was summoned to the life eternal, leaving her devoted family to mourn her loss.

Mr. Johnston owns 640 acres of land, which is well improved and makes a splendid home for his children. He says that when he landed in Custer county there were only two houses



WILLIAM C. JOHNSTON AND FAMILY



HENRY S. POSTON AND FAMILY

between his place and Oconto. He has about 275 acres of land in cultivation and in farming and stock-raising he has made the money which constitutes a modest Custer county fortune. When a boy he earned his first money by pulling the tops from carrots in a neighbor's garden.

The Johnstons are excellent people and rated in the community as fine neighbors. Religiously they are Baptists and faithful supporters of the little church at Lodi. In politics Mr. Johnston is independent.

HENRY S. POSTON, whose story is told here, is a native of the historic Old Dominion state. He was born at Fairfax Courthouse, Virginia, March 27, 1861. His parents, William and Susan (Hamilton) Poston, were likewise born in Virginia. In the family of William Poston were eleven children. Only three are living — Mrs. Susan Long, Mrs. Araminta Brigham, and Henry S., the subject of this sketch.

Mr. Poston's parents died when he was twelve years of age, and he then went to make his home with one of his sisters. He worked on the farm in the summer time and attended school in the winter. Recalling conditions under which Virginia farming was conducted, he says: "I remember working day after day hoeing corn and thinning out by hand, for fifty cents a day." In work of this kind young Henry did as much as any full-grown man could have done. When he was nineteen years of age he went to the city of Washington, where he worked with his brother at the carpenter's trade. After a few years, thinking that he liked farming better, and hearing the call of the west, he came out to Kansas, where he worked in Marshall county about four years. In 1887 he turned his face to the northwest and crossed the line into Custer county, Nebraska, where he located a pre-emption claim, five miles northwest of Callaway.

In November, 1889, at Broken Bow, Mr. Poston married Miss Clara Schreyer, a daughter of Frederic Schreyer, who was one of the first settlers on the South Loup river west of Callaway, and to whom was given the honor of naming Triumph Precinct. Frederic Schreyer was born in Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Poston are the parents of nine children: Mrs. Araminta Ridden; Mrs. Alice Olson; Mrs. Virginia Rookstool; Mrs. Lela Butler; Miss Maude Poston, who is a recent graduate of the high school in Gothenburg, and who still resides under the parental roof; Mrs. Opal Ridden; Frederic, who assists his

father on the farm and at present is a student in the Callaway high school; Albert; and last, but not least, Master Richard Poston, who has reached only his third year but is nevertheless the dictator of the entire situation. The Postons own 200 splendid acres in the North Loup valley and have now reached the place where they feel able to build a splendid farm home, which is in the course of construction at the time this article is written, and which is to be a model farm house. An elaborate water system, by which a hydraulic ram lifts water from a never-failing spring into the house, yards, and barns, is now being developed. Mr. Poston maintains an artificial pond, in which he is raising fish on a small scale, yet sufficient for home consumption.

Mr. Poston states that he earned his first money by turning a grindstone, and the memory of that old grindstone he claims gives him the backache still. For this service, on one occasion, he received ten cents in paper or script currency. It was more highly prized than any money he has received since. It was never destined, however, for profitable investment. He carried it around in the pocket of a pair of linen trousers, and one luckless day the trousers went into the washtub; money and all. And when they came out the ten cents in script had faded into a scrap of white paper.

Mr. Poston is a prominent member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He takes a lively interest in politics, generally affiliating with the Democratic party. He is progressive in spirit and stands for everything progressive, helpful, and honest. The family are attendants of the Evangelical church.

AUGUST W. F. ROHDE AND OTTO ROHDE. — It is ever and again the same old story. Old-country thrift, replanted on western soil, brings success and develops the competency that renders life independent. Both August and his brother Otto are German farmers, natives of Germany and representative of the frugal, thrifty German type. They came to this country in April, 1882, and in Nebraska they first came to Grand Island, Hall county. They have made Custer county the stage of their operations and they are numbered among the successful and substantial farmers of the community in which they reside.

For extended mention of their parents, reference may be made to the sketch of Albert Rohde, elsewhere in this volume. In 1884 they came into the Custer county south region, where they located a homestead, and they now

have the father's homestead and each owns three quarter-sections of good land. Otto owns one-quarter section in Custer county and two in the adjoining county of Buffalo, on the south. They are painstaking farmers and stockmen of a very practical type. They keep good horses, breed the best grade of cattle and hogs, and seem thoroughly convinced that it pays better to produce the blooded types than to waste feed and time on inferior breeds of scrub stock. They have their places well improved and are supplied with modern machinery and every kind of equipment required for modern, profitable farming. Farms well fenced and in a high state of cultivation, show that much work has been done, and the surroundings denote that the toil has been remunerated. Miller is their closest town, and there they are well known and enjoy the confidence of the business interests. They are Protestants in religious faith and are interested in every progressive enterprise that tends to better the community. They manifested in every possible way their loyalty to the government during the progress of the great world war, by assisting in every possible way and by contributing to all the war drives. They were liberal contributors to Red Cross and Young Men's Christian Association work and purchased bonds to the extent of their ability. The Rohde boys have a wide circle of friends and are held in goodly esteem by all who know them.

JOHN HELMUTH, who is one of Custer county's most respected citizens, is also one of its real pioneers and has the distinction of being the first man to locate on Red Fern Table — thirty-four years ago. He has witnessed wonderful changes during that long period and has seen men and whole families come and go, but never, even in the days of greatest hardship, has he entertained the idea of parting with his land and home. More than that, he has given encouragement to others and they, relying upon his practical judgment and good sense, have likewise weathered the storm and are safely in harbor. He has been active in promoting local enterprises that he deemed of general benefit to farmers and stockmen, and has always been foremost in maintaining schools and churches.

John Helmuth was born November 2, 1857, in Oberlauerengen, Bavaria, Germany. His parents, John and Mary N. (Benkert) Helmuth, were born in Germany, and they had four children: William E., John, Christ, and Caroline Mary, the last named being the wife

of George Mary, and having one son. By a second marriage, the mother had one son, August Wirsching. The father of Mr. Helmuth was a farmer and belonged to the Lutheran church.

In February, 1870, John Helmuth, the immediate subject of this sketch, came to the United States and located first in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, where he worked for five years on the farm of General John A. Logan, who was one of that state's distinguished military men and statesmen. Although he did well in Illinois, Mr. Helmuth wanted land and a home of his own, and that brought him to Custer county, Nebraska, in February, 1884, when he located on the southeast quarter of section 12, township 13, range 23, where he still lives. It was lonely at first, but Ernest Schneider came soon afterward, and before spring had passed Christ Helmuth, James Whitehead, John Muller, Chris and Henry Muller, Harvey Stockham, Otto Jester, William Greenfield, and Charles and Fred Drum had settled in the neighborhood. These settlers all suffered from lack of wells, and for five years they had to haul their water a considerable distance. Mr. Helmuth, always a leader in enterprise, was the first one to put down a well on the Table, finding water at a depth of 456 feet. This was in 1889, and since then he has put down three other wells. Almost every settler of the present day has a fine flowing well, and the lack of sufficient water is practically no more a matter for consideration. The early settlers made little pretension, all living at first in dugouts or sod houses. While these primitive domiciles were usually of rather small dimensions, they had the advantage of being warm in winter and cool in summer.

Mr. Helmuth was married June 8, 1884, at what is now the flourishing town of Lexington, Nebraska, to Miss Lillie Schneider, who was born in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, a daughter of Ernst and Johanna (Kaeb) Schneider, natives of Germany. The following named children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Helmuth: William C., who lives at home, is farming with his father on shares; Bertha D. is the widow of John McNulty, who died September 28, 1918, he having been a farmer near Oconto, and being survived by two daughters; Charles C. is at home and is helping his father operate the 800-acre farm, with 400 acres under cultivation, in corn and small grain; John G., who was in the training camp at Camp Dix, New Jersey, but since September 1st in France, is in the United States service as a member of the Three Hundred

and Thirty-fifth Field Artillery, Eighty-seventh Division, and he arrived with his command in France in the early part of September, 1918; and Emma C. and Lillie A. remain at the parental home.

Mr. Helmuth is a Democrat in politics. He has always taken much interest in the public schools and for many years has been a member of the school board of his district, which

was organized in Grant township in 1885. He belongs to the Oconto camp of the Modern Woodmen of America, and Mrs. Helmuth is a member of the Royal Neighbors. They are members of the Lutheran church. As a loyal and patriotic citizen of the United States, Mr. Helmuth has served as a committeeman in Grant township for the Council of Defense.

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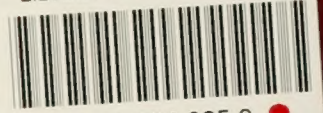
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